North-East-West Swim League

Articles and Bylaws

Revised 2-26-2024

Article I: Purpose and Objectives

Section 1:

The purpose of the North-East-West Swim League hereafter referred to as the NEW Swim League or the "League" is to provide a complete swimming program for age group swimmers by conducting annual competition through a series of dual meets to determine individual and team league champions. The NEW Swim League is a summer recreational league.

Section 2:

The primary objective of the League is to provide for the youth of the Columbus area who are oriented to aquatics the opportunity for growth through participation in healthy competitive experiences in swimming. This can only be accomplished if all coaches, officials and contestants display a high degree of sportsmanship and ethical principles.

Section 3:

The secondary objective is to give contestants a feeling of pride and accomplishment by providing a series of awards for those who have excelled in various competitions.

Article II: Organization

Section 1:

The League shall be organized and governed by a Board of Directors, hereafter referred to as the "Board". The Directors shall be the representatives of the individual clubs. It is the responsibility of the Directors to assist the commissioner in the administration of the league business and to act as a liaison between the league and the various pool management, parents and coaches. The directors will advise the commissioner in matters of the Legislation of Rules, their interpretation and enforcement and other business functions of the league.

Section 2:

Membership of the Board shall consist of one (1) director from each member club.

Section 3:

Each director will be delegated certain tasks to assist with the management and other operations of the league.

Section 4:

If an official director of any member club is chosen to be the League Commissioner, she or he automatically forfeits his or her director status. The affected club has the right to immediately select a representative to fill the vacancy. Directors chosen by the Board to serve in any other officer positions will retain all rights as Director of the member club they represent.

Article III: Board Meetings

Section 1:

Regular meetings of the Board will be held as necessary from January to July of each year. To conclude League business, a special meeting will be held after the League championship meet and prior to September 1. Regular meetings of the board, January through May are for organizational purposes. The May meeting requires coaches to be in attendance and is designed to finalize specific plans for the operation of the league for the upcoming season. Other meetings may be held at the call of the commissioner for settling protests or other important business that may arise.

Section 2:

Meetings of the board are open to the public. Board meetings may be held in-person or be virtual as determined by the Commissioner.

Article IV: Officers and duties

Section 1:

The officers of the league consist of a Commissioner, Vice Commissioner, Treasurer and Secretary.

Section 2:

Officers will normally be selected from the ranks of the current Directors. The Board may option to select an individual who is not currently a Director. However, the individual selected must be affiliated with a League club. All officers will serve one year terms, with the exception of the Vice Commissioner. The Vice Commissioner will serve a total of 2 years; one year as Vice Commissioner and one year as Commissioner. The following schedule is to be used in selecting officers:

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	Commissioner	Vice Commissioner	Treasurer	Secretary
2022	Dublin	Plain City	Lifetime	Marysville
2023	Dublin	Olentangy	Muirfins	Sycamore Hills
2024	Olentangy	Marysville	Sycamore Hills	Plain City
2025	Marysville	Plain City	Dublin	Lifetime
2026	Plain City	Muirfins	Olentangy	Sycamore Hills
2027	Muirfins	Sycamore Hills	Marysville	Dublin
2028	Sycamore Hills	Lifetime	Plain City	Muirfins
2029	Lifetime	Olentangy	Dublin	Marysville
2030	Olentangy	Dublin	Muirfins	Lifetime

Section 3:

Officers shall serve from January 1st until December 31st

Section 4:

The Commissioner shall:

- Be responsible for the overall operation of the league
- Promote the interests of the league within the community and the League clubs
- Responsible for the fair enforcement of the rules of the league
- Decide all questions of eligibility and interpretation of the rules
- Order penalties as appropriate and enforce them
- Prepare forms for League use, distribute reports and bulletins and arrange and ensure conducting of necessary clinics
- Oversee operation of the league championship
- Set agenda and conduct all applicable league meetings
- Ensure creation of annual League budget, including all operating costs for the upcoming season, assessments of member clubs
- Oversee creation of any pertinent legislation, by-law or article revisions as necessary
- · Assign and delegate necessary duties and responsibilities to the directors and officers
- Only vote on pertinent issues when a tie of the directors exist

Section 5:

The Vice Commissioner shall:

- Carry out responsibilities of the Commissioner in her/his absence
- Responsible for the overall planning and coordination of the league championships in coordination with the host team
- Monitor compliance to participation rules in regard to championship competition

Section 6:

The Treasurer shall:

- · Receive, hold, expend and account for all funds of the league
- Create, present and distribute reports as directed by the board
- Responsible for the inventory of the League
- · Advise and assist the commissioner on the creation of the annual budget
- Publish the audited financial report for the past Fiscal Year

Section 7:

The secretary shall:

- Keep an accurate written record of the proceedings of all meetings of the board or other meetings held to conduct league business
- Prepare and distribute minutes of the above meetings as appropriate
- Notify all members of the board of applicable meeting times and locations
- Read all motions to the board before a vote is taken, record the vote and announce the results

Article V: Voting Procedures

Section 1:

Each member of the board is permitted one (1) vote for deciding all questions and issues regarding official league business. Votes may be cast by any recognized director of alternate member clubs. All questions and issues must receive an affirmative vote in the majority to pass. A member club may not be denied its voting rights on any issue, but it may abstain from voting on any issue brought to a vote. In the case of any tie vote, the commissioner will cast the deciding vote.

Section 2:

Two-thirds (2/3) of the member clubs must be represented at any meeting of the board before official league business can be conducted. Member clubs can vote by proxy, but such votes must be in writing, signed by the Director, and delivered to the League Commissioner prior to the meeting start. The proxy is Appendix B.

Section 3:

Officers shall be selected from each affiliated team.

Article VI: Protests and Penalties

Section 1:

Protests arising from a decision or an interpretation of the swimming rules by an official during any meet other than the League Championships will not be considered. The official's decision and interpretations are final.

Section 2:

Any protest or dispute over the league rules or unusual circumstances must be presented by the protesting club in writing to the commissioner no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the alleged violation. The protest will be considered and ruled upon immediately by the Commissioner. The Commissioner may appoint a special protest committee to investigate the matter and report them in accordance with article VIII.

Section 3:

All penalties shall be assessed by the Commissioner with the approval of the Board. Penalties can vary from warning through probation, or to suspension from the league, based on the character of the violation.

Section 4:

Due to time limitations during the season, a complete non-championship meet may not be contested for any reason.

Article VII: Protest Committee

Section 1:

A three (3) person committee will be appointed to consider any protest that cannot be resolved by the Commissioner, or at the request of one of the two parties involved in the protest, if the party is not satisfied with the Commissioner's decision. Any such request for a Protest Committee must be in writing and signed by the director and coach of the requesting club.

Section 2:

The responsibility of the committee is limited to deciding:

- 1. If there was a violation of the league rules or an unusual situation has occurred.
- 2. Recommend any penalties, if the committee deems them necessary
- 3. Report its findings to the Commissioner

Section 3:

The committee shall have complete access to any and all materials and records of the league needed to reach a decision. It may request any relevant information from any person in order to reach a decision.

Section 4:

The final decisions and recommendations of the committee are the only information which must be announced.

Section 5:

If the committee is unable to reach a decision, the Commissioner shall call the entire board into special session to resolve the protest.

Article VIII: League Fees

Section 1:

Each member club shall be assessed the total amount as set by the Board to cover the operating costs of the current season. Checks are to be made payable to the NEW Swim League and submitted to the League Treasurer. Funds paid by the member clubs are established by equal distribution of total expenses as estimated in the annual league budget, and as approved by the Board.

Section 2:

All league fees must be paid to the treasurer no later than June 1 of the swim season. Clubs that have not paid their assessment by that date will be dropped from league competition.

Section 3:

Entry fees will not be returned to any club which drops from the league after the last organizational meeting in June of the current season.

Section 4:

League fees will be determined by a two-tier system. Teams less than 65 swimmers will pay 50% of the annual fee. Teams over and including 65 swimmers will pay the full amount. The annual fee will be determined during a regular board meeting prior to the start of the season and voted upon by the members.

Article IX: Club and Individual Eligibility

Section 1:

In order to participate in league competition, a swimmer must meet the age requirements of the Age-Grouping bylaw. An individual must also hold a valid membership to the club they represent, according to the individual member club's current operating policy. Should a team have a swimmer with special needs, the Executive Board will vote to allow exceptions if needed on a case-by-case basis.

Section 2:

Beyond club membership, each team may decide independently what is required of their swimmers, in terms of attending practice, to be eligible to swim in meets. The League is comprised of teams with different demographics, financial conditions, and levels of support. Therefore, the league will not attempt to craft a practice requirement but would encourage practice with their club coach as often as possible. Each club/team is encouraged to develop their own practice requirements which best fits their club/team.

Section 3:

An official list of team members including the following must be sent to the Commissioner or designee before the start of league competition:

- Name
- Address
- · Telephone Number
- · Email (if applicable)
- · Date of birth

Any swimmer found guilty of giving false or incorrect information will not be permitted to participate in league competition for the balance of the season. No additions will be permitted to be made to the club roster after the third week of the season.

Section 4:

An individual who established membership on a team must participate with the said team for the remainder of the season, unless they receive special approval of the Commissioner to change team affiliation. For the purposes of this article, an individual becomes a member of a team when the swimmer's name is placed on the official team roster as set forth in this article.

Section 5:

Individuals may move from the Central Ohio Swim Association (COSA) Developmental League to the NEW League at any time during the current season, subject only to the requirements of this article.

Section 6:

Since the League is a closed league, a swimmer who participates in league competition may not participate for any other swim organization during the outdoor season, except to participate for an open USA Swimming team, YMCA Swimming team, or in the COSA Development League. Participation in other sports leagues including diving is expressly permitted.

Article X: League Entrance Requirements

Section 1:

Any team desiring membership in the league must forward a letter requesting admission to the league commission or any director. The letter should express the desire of that team to join the league, as well as information about the club such as:

- Type of facilities
- · Pool dimensions
- Meet equipment available
- Location of the pool
- Type of ownership of the pool (private, city, board, etc.)
- · Length of time the pool has existed
- Examples of previous competition
- · Club membership size
- Membership boundaries

Section 2:

Application letters must be accompanied by a written statement from the pool management. Giving permission for the team from that club to participate in the league. The statement should also include a declaration of the pool's liability insurance policy.

Section 3:

Application letters shall be submitted for preliminary consideration to the board at the earliest meeting possible. Any member club presenting an application letter to the board will act as a sponsor of the club desiring admittance; the new club will be asked to attend the next regular meeting of the board where the members clubs may question the requesting club on issues not covered in the application letter, or other points of interest of the board. An official vote for admittance must be taken by the board within thirty (30) days.

Section 4:

Upon receiving official notice of admittance to the league, a new member club must immediately select a person to fill the required one (1) director role on the board from their club.

Article XI: Meet Scheduling and Postponements

Section 1:

Any changes to the established meet schedule, such as starting time or the rescheduling of any meet(s) must be agreed upon by the coaches and/or directors of the clubs involved. In all cases of postponement, the commissioner must be notified by the postponing club of the postponement and the date of the agreed upon rescheduled meet. All meets must be completed before the league championship meet.

Article XII: Rules and Regulations

Section 1:

Pool depth regulations for starts shall follow USA Swimming regulations. USA/S requires a "minimum depth for starts in completion to be 4 feet". The USA/S Rule further states that "local, state and municipal statutes, ordinances, rules and regulations may have depth limitations in conflict with this section, in which the more stringent rule applies."

Section 2:

Any rule question not covered in these articles or by-laws shall be decided by reference to current USA Swimming Regulations most recently approved by the board.

Article XIII: Amendment Procedures

Section 1

Amendments to these articles may be made only at the regular January through May board meetings, or at any special meeting held for that purpose.

Section 2

All amendments must be submitted to the board in writing at one of the meetings set forth in this article. Final consideration of a properly proposed amendment automatically becomes part of the agenda for the next official meeting of the board.

Section 3

The League secretary shall notify all member clubs who are absent at the time the amendment is proposed, of the general text of the proposal and the date of the final vote. Notification must be accomplished no later than ten (10) days after the proposal is presented to the board. It may be communicated by telephone, facsimile, written correspondence, including electronic mail. It is the responsibility of the clubs to obtain copies of the proposed amendment from the secretary.

Section 4

After an amendment has been properly presented to the member clubs as set forth in this article it must receive an affirmative vote from the majority of the member clubs for final approval.

Section 5:

Amendments to the attached bylaws must follow the procedures as outlined in this article.

Article XIV: Age grouping

Section 1

The eligibility of a participant to swim in a specific age group will be determined by that swimmer's age on June 1 of the current year.

Section 2

Swimmers must compete in their age groups with the following exception; Swimmers may participate above their age group in relays as long as one relay position is filled by a swimmer whose age falls into the relay age group. And no other eligible swimmers in that age group are in attendance at the meet to complete the relay. And all relays are maximized in the age groups of the swimmers swimming up. The 2 relays per swimmer maximum still applies.

Example 1: Team Blue has four female 15-18 swimmers eligible for the 200 free relay. Team Blue also has three female 13-14 swimmers who are eligible for the 200 relay. Team blue may not use the 13-14 swimmers for the 15-18 200 free relay as the relay spots can be filled by the 15-18 swimmers.

Example 2: Team Blue has one female 15-18 swimmer eligible for the 200 free relay. Team Blue has four female 13-14 swimmers who are eligible for the 13-14 200 free relay. Team blue may not use the 13-14 swimmers as the 13-14 relays must be filled first

Example 3: Team Blue has one female 15-18 swimmer eligible for the 200 free relay. Team Blue has three female 13-14 swimmers who are eligible for the 13-14 200 free relay, but they have already fielded the maximum of two 13-14 female 200 free relay teams. Team blue may use the 13-14 swimmers as the 13-14 relays were filled first

Example 4:Team Blue has two female 15-18 swimmers eligible for the 200 free relay. Team Blue has three female 13-14 swimmers who are eligible for the 13-14 200 free relay, but they can not field a 13-14 200 free relay as they only have 3 swimmers. Team blue may use two 13-14 swimmers for the 15-18 200 free relay as the 13-14 relays are considered maximized.

Section 3:

Age groups are as follows:

- 1. Girls and Boys 6 and Under
- 2. Girls and Boys 7-8
- 3. Girls and Boys 9-10
- 4. Girls and Boys 11-12
- 5. Girls and Boys 13-14
- 6. Girls and Boys 15-18

Article XV: Event participation

Section 1

Swimmers aged 14 and under may participate in a maximum of two (2) individual events and two (2) relay events, for a total of no more than four (4) events per meet.

Section 2

Swimmers aged 15-18 may participate in a maximum of three (3) individual events and two (2) relay events, for a total of no more than five (5) events per meet.

Article XVI: Regular season meet scoring

Section 1

In Dual and Tri Meets, all scoring shall be done using standard scoring in HYTEK meet manager software or equivalent based on the number of lanes and in accordance with USA Swimming Rules.

- 1. Individual:
 - a. Places: 1 16 b. Ribbons: 1 - 6
 - c. Points: 20, 17, 15, 14, 13, 12, 11, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1
- 2. Relays
 - a. Places: 1-7 b. Ribbons: 1-6
 - c. Points: 34, 30, 28, 26, 24, 22, 20
- 3. Exhibition events or swims are allowed upon agreement between the participating coaches and/or league officials

Article XVII: Number of contestants

Section 1

The number of contestants per events will be determined by the number of lanes in the host pool, as follows (unless mutually agreed upon by the coaches of each team)

For Odd Number of Lanes:

- 1. Five Lanes: 2 individual swimmers or relay teams
- 2. Seven Lanes: 3 Individual swimmers or relay teams
- 3. Nine Lanes: 4 individual swimmers or relay teams

For Even Number of Lanes:

- 1. Four Lanes: 2 individual swimmers or relay teams
- 2. Six Lanes: 3 Individual swimmers or relay teams
- 3. Eight Lanes: 4 individual swimmers or relay teams
- 4. Ten Lanes: 5 individual swimmers or relay teams

Article XVIII: Number of heats

Section 1

The maximum number of heats per event shall be as follows (unless mutually agreed upon by the coaches of each team)

Freestyle: 5 heats
Backstroke: 4 heats
Breaststroke: 3 heats
Butterfly: 3 heats
IM: 3 heats

Article XIX: Meet starting times

Section 1

Warm-ups and start time will be set by the NEW League Board. Standard warm-up times will be hosting team 5:00-5:25 pm followed by visiting team 5:25-5:50 pm. Exceptions can be made if deemed necessary due to weather by hosting team or if agreed upon in advance by all teams competing. A one-hour inclement weather delay should be allowed before postponement. Due to inclement weather and the meet having completed event 41, the meet is considered complete upon the agreement of both team's coaches and/or team directors. The Commissioner must be notified of any changes in meet times or dates in accordance with Article XIII.

Section 2

In the event that a meet must be held virtually, each team will set the warm-up and start time such that results will be available by the deadline agreed to by the league.

Article XX: Eligibility for League Championship Meet

Section 1

To be eligible for the championship meet a swimmer must have competed in no less than two (2) league meets. Exhibition performances are counted as participation, but the swimmer must be registered on the meet report sent to the Commissioner or designee. In the event of extenuating circumstances, such as a Pandemic, this may be waived by vote of the Board.

Article XXI: Reports

Section 1

Score sheets and event results for both teams will be sent to the Commissioner within 48 hours of the conclusion of the meet.

Article XXII: Stroke, Turns and Starts

Section 1

REFER TO STROKE and Turn Rules

Article XXII: Championship meet procedures

Section 1

- a. The maximum number of events each swimmer may have for the championship meet shall be 2 individual events and 2 relay events. Each team may have two relay teams per event. Only the fastest relay from each team can score. There will be no scratch meeting. If the team needs to replace a swimmer for a relay, please make the computer operator aware prior to the start of the event.
- b. Swimmers may swim up for relays in accordance with Article XIV section 2
- c. Times submitted for seeding championships must have been generated in a League or COSA competition, and therefore must appear on either score sheets previously submitted to the Commissioner or designee or be appropriately documented.
- d. All clubs can bring all swimmers to championships.
- e. The format of championships is a timed finals format for all swimmers.
- f. Prior to Championships each team will be given specific tasks to ensure the meet runs smoothly.
- g. At least three (3) weeks prior to Championships a meeting will take place to have final arrangements in place. (Start times, warm up schedules, etc.)
- h. The Commissioner or designee is responsible for making sure Championships are set to occur. i. All regular season stroke and turn judging shall be implemented during the championship meet. j. There will be no high point winners.

Article XXII: Championship Scoring

Section 1

The scoring will be as follows for league comprised of all teams:

- i. Individual
 - 1. Places: 1 16
 - 2. Medals: 1-3 Ribbons: 4-16
 - 3. Points: 20, 17, 15, 14, 13, 12, 11, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1
 - 4. Only top 3 places from a team score
- ii. Relays
 - 1. Places: 1-16
 - 2. Medals: 1-3 Ribbons: 4-8
 - 3. Points: 40, 34, 30, 28, 26, 24, 22, 18, 16, 14, 12, 10, 8,6,4,2
 - 4. Only the fastest relay from each team scores in events where a team has two relays entered

Section 2

Exhibition events or swims are allowed upon agreement between the participating coaches and/or league officials.

Article XXIII: Regular season meet organization

Section 1

a. In order to avoid confusion over the responsibility of both the home and visiting teams for the completion of dual meets, the following should be provided:

Position **Home Team Provides Visiting Team Provides** Referee 1 0 Starter 1 0 2 Stroke and Turn Judge 1 **Lane Timers** 1 per lane 1 per lane 0 2 Scorekeepers 1 0 Announcer **Bull Pen** 2 2

1

b. The referee, starter, scorekeeper, stroke and turn judges and announcer may hold more than one position.

2

c. A lifeguard is required to be on duty for the duration of the meet.

Ribbon Organizers

- d. The home club is responsible for ensuring at least two (2) working watches per lane. Meet results cannot be certified without meeting this requirement.
- e. Swimmer disqualification and reason will be noted on the time cards, be made by an appropriate official and communicated to the swimmer and/or coach in person prior to the start of the next heat/event.
- f. All officials (stroke/turn, referee) shall be familiar with the rules through review and/or encouraged to attend the annual stroke and turn training by the league.
- g. Deadlines for meet entries and results will be determined by the league on an
 - annual basis and communicated to the teams during a regular pre-season meeting.
- h. In the event of a pandemic or other circumstance which limits the number of people
 - on deck, these rules may be adjusted for a specific season by a vote of the league.

Article XXIV:Equipment Malfunction/Fairness

Section 1

In the event of an equipment malfunction or other situation where one or more lanes are placed at a competitive disadvantage, the rest of the lanes shall be made to be equal to produce a fair and competitive environment for all swimmers.

Article XXV: Code of Conduct

Section 1

All teams will adhere to the League Code of Conduct

APPENDIX B

NEW LEAGUE MEETING PROXY

NEW LEAGUE MEETING PROXY

Member Signature				
		Board of Direct	or	
Signed this day	of	month	year	
thereof, upon any matte	er coming before	e the meeting or	adjournment.	
meeting, to be held		or at any	adjournment	
revocation) to vote in r	ny stead and pl	ace at the Board	of Directors	
true and lawful substitu	te and proxy (w	vill full power of s	ubstitution and	
League., do hereby con	stitute and appo	oint	r	my
Ι,	, a member o	of the Board of Di	irectors of the N	1EM

Appendix E

Order of Events

Event Number	Age Group	<u>Gender</u>	<u>Event</u>
1	9-10	Female	100 IM
2	9-10	Male	100 IM
3	11-12	Female	100 IM
4	11-12	Male	100 IM
5	13-14	Female	100 IM
6	13-14	Male	100 IM
7	15-18	Female	100 IM
8	15-18	Male	100 IM
9	8 and Under	Female	100 Medley Relay
10	8 and Under	Male	100 Medley Relay
11	9-10	Female	100 Medley Relay
12	9-10	Male	100 Medley Relay
13	11-12	Female	200 Medley Relay
14	11-12	Male	200 Medley Relay
15	13-14	Female	200 Medley Relay
16	13-14	Male	200 Medley Relay
17	15-18	Female	200 Medley Relay
18	15-18	Male	200 Medley Relay
19	6 and Under	Female	25 Freestyle
20	6 and Under	Male	25 Freestyle
21	7-8	Female	25 Freestyle
22	7-8	Male	25 Freestyle
23	9-10	Female	25 Freestyle
24	9-10	Male	25 Freestyle
25	11-12	Female	50 Freestyle
26	11-12	Male	50 Freestyle
27	13-14	Female	50 Freestyle
28	13-14	Male	50 Freestyle
29	15-18	Female	50 Freestyle
30	15-18	Male	50 Freestyle
31	6 and Under	Female	25 Backstroke
32	6 and Under	Male	25 Backstroke
33	7-8	Female	25 Backstroke
34	7-8	Male	25 Backstroke
35	9-10	Female	25 Backstroke
36	9-10	Male	25 Backstroke

Event Number	Age Group	<u>Gender</u>	<u>Event</u>
37	11-12	Female	50 Backstroke
38	11-12	Male	50 Backstroke
39	13-14	Female	50 Backstroke
40	13-14	Male	50 Backstroke
41	15-18	Female	50 Backstroke
42	15-18	Male	50 Backstroke
43	8 and Under	Female	25 Breaststroke
44	8 and Under	Male	25 Breaststroke
45	9-10	Female	25 Breaststroke
46	9-10	Male	25 Breaststroke
47	11-12	Female	50 Breaststroke
48	11-12	Male	50 Breaststroke
49	13-14	Female	50 Breaststroke
50	13-14	Male	50 Breaststroke
51	15-18	Female	50 Breaststroke
52	15-18	Male	50 Breaststroke
53	8 and Under	Female	25 Butterfly
54	8 and Under	Male	25 Butterfly
55	9-10	Female	25 Butterfly
56	9-10	Male	25 Butterfly
57	11-12	Female	50 Butterfly
58	11-12	Male	50 Butterfly
59	13-14	Female	50 Butterfly
60	13-14	Male	50 Butterfly
61	15-18	Female	50 Butterfly
62	15-18	Male	50 Butterfly
63	8 and Under	Female	100 Free Relay
64	8 and Under	Male	100 Free Relay
65	9-10	Female	100 Free Relay
66	9-10	Male	100 Free Relay
67	11-12	Female	200 Free Relay
68	11-12	Male	200 Free Relay
69	13-14	Female	200 Free Relay
70	13-14	Male	200 Free Relay
71	15-18	Female	200 Free Relay
72	15-18	Male	200 Free Relay
73	Exhibition		