

Proposed VSI Policy and Procedure Changes

March 20, 2024

Key: Black font: current text; blue font: insertion of new text; ~~red and struck through~~: deletion of current text

Policy Change

20 SANCTION AND APPROVAL PROCESS

20.1 To obtain a sanction or approval for any level meet, a Virginia Swimming club must have achieved club-level Safe Sport recognition ~~or have a submitted and pending application for club-level Safe Sport recognition~~, and the end date of the recognition must run through the last day of the meet. If club-level Safe Sport recognition lapses and is not in effect for one or more days of the meet, the sanction or approval will be rescinded. **[Effective date: October 1, 2023]**

Policy Change

31 EASTERN ZONE AGE GROUP CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION

Virginia Swimming will annually field a team comprised of 9–14-year-old athletes for the Eastern Zone Long Course Age Group Championship meet. Virginia Swimming will follow the published Eastern Zone Long Course Age Group Championship meet manual for compliance regarding any ineligible athlete criteria for the meet and reserves the right to modify qualifying requirements to best suit the needs of the team.

~~The following is an excerpt from the Eastern Zone policy manual that outlines the procedures and rules that will be observed in order to participate in the Eastern Zone Championships:~~

~~31.1 — Athletes who have competed in USA Nationals, USA Juniors, U. S. Open, or a trials class meet in an individual event are not eligible to enter this meet.~~

~~31.2 — 13&O athletes who achieve the current USA Swimming Junior National qualifying standard prior to the entry deadline for the Eastern Zone championship meet, in any event, are ineligible to compete at the Eastern Zone championships in any individual or relay event.~~

~~31.3 — Athletes 12 years of age or younger who have achieved USA National, USA Juniors, U.S. Open, or trials class qualifying times in an individual event but who have not competed in an individual event at these meets may enter that event in this meet.~~

~~31.4 — Each swimmer is allowed to swim a maximum of 6 events in which he/she qualified. A swimmer is not allowed to compete in more than 3 events per day. Each~~

~~swimmer must compete in the events for which he/she is qualified. The only exception to this policy exists when a swimmer qualifies in more than 6 events. In that instance, the Zone Team Head coach, at his/her discretion, will determine which events shall be dropped.~~

~~31.5 Selection process:~~

~~A. Athletes must submit an application to be considered for inclusion on the Zones Team by a predetermined date.~~

~~B. Information will be posted on Virginia Swimming's Website as to the top 10 eligible swimmers to compete in the Eastern Zone Competition.~~

~~*Information Pertaining to Both the Short Course (winter) and Long Course (summer) Zone Competitions*~~

~~C. 15 and older swimmers~~

~~(1) The selection of the 15 and older zone team will take place at the Virginia Swimming Senior Championship Meet.~~

~~(2) The 2 fastest times achieved in SCY beginning 9/1 of the current year for short course zones, and beginning with the preceding long course zone meet for long course zones, will automatically qualify for Zone selection. Only times achieved in the course in which the Eastern Zone meet will be conducted will be accepted (i.e. SCY for winter zones, LCM for summer zones).~~

~~(3) All official verified times including lead-off splits, intermediate splits, and time trials from Short Course Senior Championships will be considered for qualification. Lead-off splits, intermediate splits, and time trials will not be considered as one of the two fastest times in the LSC.~~

~~(4) All meet results, including out of state meets, must be submitted to the Records Chair in order to be considered for inclusion on the Zone list. These must be submitted by the Tuesday immediately preceding the VSI Senior Championship Meet.~~

~~(5) All meet results, including out of state meets either submitted or achieved after the Tuesday immediately preceding the Short Course VSI Senior Championship Meet will not be included for consideration.~~

~~(6) Corrections to the Zone list will not be accepted after the Tuesday immediately preceding the Short Course VSI Senior Championship Meet and will not be included for consideration.~~

~~D. 9 to 14 year old swimmers~~

~~(1) The selection of the 9-14 zone team will take place at the Virginia Swimming Age Group Championship Meet.~~

~~(2) The fastest 3 times for 9 to 12 year old swimmers achieved in SCY beginning 9/1 of the current year for short course zones will automatically qualify for Zone selection.~~

- ~~(3) The fastest 2 times for 13 to 14 year old swimmers achieved in SCY beginning 9/1 of the current year for short course zones will automatically qualify for Zone selection.~~
- ~~(4) The fastest 2 times beginning with the preceding long course zone meet for long course zones will automatically qualify for Zone selection.~~
- ~~(5) Only times achieved in the course in which the Eastern Zone meet will be conducted will be accepted (i.e. SCY for winter zones, LCM for summer zones).~~
- ~~(6) All official verified times including lead-off splits, intermediate splits, and time trials from Short Course Age Group Championships will be considered for qualification. Lead-off splits, intermediate splits, and time trials will not be considered as one of the two fastest times in the LSC.~~
- ~~(7) All meet results, including out of state meets, must be submitted to the Records Chair in order to be considered for inclusion on the Zone list. These must be submitted by the Tuesday immediately preceding the VSI Age Group Championship Meet.~~
- ~~(8) All meet results, including out of state meets, either submitted or achieved after the Tuesday immediately preceding the Age Group Championship meet will not be included for consideration.~~
- ~~(9) Corrections to the Zone list will not be accepted after the Tuesday immediately preceding the VSI Age Group Championship meet and will not be included for consideration.~~

~~E. Relays will be selected only from those swimmers entered in individual events.~~

~~*Information Pertaining to ONLY the Long Course Eastern Zone meet*~~

~~F. This is not a select meet. This is a qualifying meet with predetermined time standards published annually.~~

~~G. Any swimmer who achieves 4 or more of these standards is eligible to attend this meet.~~

~~H. Relay lead-off splits from the appropriate Championship level meet (Senior champs for 15 and older swimmers, Age Group Champs for 14 and younger swimmers) will count toward the number of events for which the swimmer qualifies, but will not be considered one of the two fastest times achieved in the LSC.~~

~~I. In the event that Senior Championships occurs after Age Group Championships, individual event results and relay lead-off splits for 14 and younger swimmers may be used towards the number of events in which the swimmer qualifies.~~

~~J. All official verified times including lead-off splits, intermediate splits, and time trials will be considered for qualification. Lead-off splits, intermediate splits, and time trials will not be considered as one of the two fastest times in the LSC.~~

~~31.6 Transportation~~

- ~~A. All swimmers must agree to travel with the team to be considered in the selection process and must agree to remain with the team for the entire duration of the trip.~~
- ~~B. Swimmers may be released from the team after the completion of the entire competition, and prior to the return trip home. A Parent or legal guardian must complete and sign a release form. All swimmers that are being released must obtain permission from the zone team manager, or his/her designee, prior to leaving the competition site.~~

~~31.7 Lodging and Meals~~

- ~~A. Swimmers will be required to dine and lodge with the team for the duration of the meet. This includes all designated rest times.~~
- ~~B. Rooming assignments, including the number of occupants per room, is at the sole discretion of the Team Manager. Special requests will not be accepted. Roommate requests will be considered but not guaranteed. Special dietary needs should be addressed at the appropriate registration.~~

~~31.8 Cost~~

- ~~A. The cost per swimmer will be determined by the location, means of travel, length of meet, and the number of team members.~~
- ~~B. The approximate cost of the trip will be posted to Virginia Swimming's website as soon as it is available. That cost may be adjusted at the time of registration.~~
- ~~C. The VSI Board of Directors reserves the right to assess an additional fee should the actual costs of the team exceed projected revenues.~~
- ~~D. All fees must be paid in full at the time of registration. Only cash and checks made payable to "Virginia Swimming Inc." will be accepted.~~
- ~~E. Fees once paid are not eligible for refund. The Board of Directors of Virginia Swimming may, at its discretion, determine otherwise.~~

~~31.9 Uniforms~~

- ~~A. Families will be provided with the appropriate ordering information (including costs and vendor) and will be required to place the order themselves. Uniforms will be shipped to their homes.~~
- ~~B. The entire uniform is required.~~
- ~~C. Team apparel should not be traded until the final session of the meet.~~
- ~~D. Use of individual team apparel is discouraged.~~

~~31.10 Chaperones~~

~~A. Prospective chaperones will indicate their interest to the zone team manager at the appropriate level championship meet during zone registration.~~

~~B. Chaperones are selected according to the following priorities:~~

~~(1) Medical – 1 per departure location.~~

~~(2) Officials – USA stroke and turn certified. Preference will be given to USA National certified officials.~~

~~(3) A balance of males and females are needed across the age groups and departure points.~~

~~(4) 10-12 chaperones plus the Team Manager are required.~~

~~(5) Previous Zone chaperone experience may also be taken into consideration.~~

~~C. Cost~~

~~(1) The cost per chaperone will be determined by the location, means of travel, length of meet, and the number of team members.~~

~~(2) The approximate cost of the trip will be posted to Virginia Swimming's website as soon as it is available. That cost may be adjusted at the time of registration.~~

~~(3) All fees must be paid in full at the time of registration. Only cash and checks made payable to "Virginia Swimming Inc." will be accepted.~~

~~D. All chaperones share in timing at the meet, unless they are working as officials.~~

~~E. All chaperones must be members of USA Swimming. Registration may be done at the time of selection as a chaperone. The cost of this registration is the responsibility of the chaperone.~~

~~F. All chaperones must have satisfactorily passed a background check through USA Swimming's approved vendor prior to departure for the zone trip. The cost of this check is the responsibility of the chaperone.~~

31.11 Coaches

~~A. Zone team coach selection and the verification of all zone coaching credentials is the responsibility of the VSI Coaches' Representative.~~

~~B. 8 coaches are required including the Zone Team Head Coach.~~

~~C. The Zone Team Manager must be notified of the selected Zone Team coaching staff no later than February 15 for winter zones, and July 1 for summer zones.~~

Procedure Change

Approved by the BOD on March 1, 2024, pending HOD approval of policy section 31.

58 EASTERN ZONE AGE GROUP CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION

- 58.1 Athletes who have competed in a USA Swimming Nationals, Juniors, U. S. Open, or trials class meet in an individual event are not eligible to enter this meet.
- 58.2 13- and 14-year-old athletes who have achieved a current USA Swimming Junior Championships qualifying standard in any event prior to the entry deadline for the Eastern Zone championship meet are ineligible to compete at the Eastern Zone championships in any individual or relay event.
- 58.3 Athletes 12-years of age or younger who have achieved a USA Swimming Nationals, Juniors, U.S. Open, or trials class qualifying time in an individual event, but who have not competed in an individual event at these meets may enter that event in this meet.
- 58.4 The maximum number of individual events per day and per meet is determined by the Eastern Zone. Athletes must compete in all events they have qualified for. The only exception to this is when an athlete exceeds the maximum events per day or per meet as permitted by the Eastern Zone. In that instance, the Zone Team Head Coach, at his/her discretion, will determine which events shall be dropped.
- 58.5 Qualification and selection process.
- A. This is a qualifying meet with predetermined time standards published annually by the Eastern Zone. Virginia Swimming athletes who are 9-14 years of age as of the start date of the meet and have achieved the required number of qualifying times are eligible to be selected for the Zone Team.
 - B. The selection of the Zone Team will take place at the Virginia Swimming Long Course Age Group Championship Meet.
 - (1) In order to qualify for the team, athletes must submit an online application including deposit to be considered for inclusion on the Zone Team by the announced date.
 - (2) The athlete must have a minimum of three qualifying times to earn a place on the team, including lead-off splits as well as intermediate splits.
 - (3) All times including lead-off and intermediate splits must be in the national database (SWIMS) no later than the Wednesday prior to Virginia Swimming's Long Course Age Group Championship meet. The only exception to this is qualifying times achieved at VSI's Long Course Age Group Championships.
 - (4) The athlete must participate in at least one Virginia Swimming Long Course Championship meet during the current season, either Summer Awards or Age Group Championships.

- (5) In the event any given age group does not have enough participants to field relays, an athlete without the minimum number of qualifying times may be selected from the applicant pool. IMX score and power points will be used to identify the additional athlete(s) selected to complete the relay. Any athlete so selected to participate in this capacity will be allowed to swim any individual event for which he/she is qualified.

58.6 Cost

- A. The cost per swimmer will be based upon the location, means of travel, length of meet, and the number of team members.
- B. The approximate cost of the trip will be posted to Virginia Swimming's website when the team application period opens.
- C. The Virginia Swimming Board of Directors reserves the right to assess an additional fee should the actual costs of the team exceed projected revenues.
- D. All trip fees must be paid online no later than noon on the Monday directly after the Virginia Swimming Long Course Age Group Championship meet.
- E. Fees once paid are not refundable. The Virginia Swimming Board of Directors may, at its discretion, determine otherwise.

58.7 Uniforms

- A. When the application period begins, families will be provided with uniform information including mandatory and optional components, sizing charts, and costs.
- B. Apparel trading is not permitted until the last session of the meet on Saturday (finals for 11-14-year-olds and timed finals for 9-10-year-olds).
- C. Team members must wear their Zone Team uniform at all times. Club team apparel is not permitted.

58.8 Coaches

- A. Selection of Zone Team coaches is the responsibility of Virginia Swimming Coach Representatives.
 - (1) Individuals interested in serving as a Zone Team coach must submit an online application no later than June 21st of the current season.
 - (2) All applicants must be coach members of USA Swimming in good standing.
 - (3) Selection of Zone Team staff and notification to the Team Manager is to be completed no later than July 1.
- B. A coach for every age category and athlete gender will be selected, and one of those selected will be named as Zone Team Head Coach.

58.9 Means of Travel

- A. The Virginia Swimming Board of Directors in consultation with the Age Group Committee will determine and announce whether the team will be a team travel or family travel event by October 1 of the preceding year.

58.10 Family Travel

- A. When the meet is determined to be a family travel event, responsibilities and expectations will be located on the Virginia Swimming website in the team information packet.

58.11 Team Travel

A. Transportation

- (1) All swimmers must agree to travel with and remain with the team for the entire duration of the trip to be considered for selection of the team.
- (2) If the meet is held outside of the Virginia Swimming LSC, swimmers may be released from the team after the completion of the entire competition, and prior to the return trip home. A parent or legal guardian must complete and sign a release form. All swimmers who are being released must obtain permission from the Zone Team Manager, or his/her designee, prior to leaving the competition site.
- (3) If the meet is hosted within the Virginia Swimming LSC, all swimmers are expected to be picked up by a parent or legal guardian at the meet venue at the conclusion of the meet.

B. Lodging and Meals

- (1) Swimmers will be required to dine and lodge with the team for the duration of the meet.
- (2) Rooming assignments, including the number of occupants per room, are at the sole discretion of the Team Manager. Special requests will not be accepted. Roommate requests will not be considered. Athletes will be housed according to age group and gender. Coaches and chaperones will be housed separately from athletes.
- (3) All pertinent medical and dietary needs should be noted in the athlete's online application.

C. Chaperones

- (1) Individuals interested in chaperoning must submit an online application.
- (2) Chaperones are selected according to the following priorities:
 - (a) Medical professionals
 - (b) Officials - Certified at the LSC level as a stroke and turn judge. Preference will be given to officials who are USA Swimming nationally certified.

- (c) A balance of males and females is required.
 - (d) Previous Zone chaperone experience may also be taken into consideration.
- (3) All chaperones share in timing at the meet unless they are working as officials.
 - (4) All chaperones must be members of USA Swimming. Registration may be done at the time of selection as a chaperone. The cost of this registration is the responsibility of the chaperone.
 - (5) Prior to departure of the Zone trip, all chaperones must have satisfactorily completed the following through their online USA Swimming account.
 - (a) Satisfactorily passed the USA Swimming background check, the cost of which is the responsibility of the chaperone.
 - (b) Completed and passed USA Swimming's free online Athlete Protection Training.
 - (6) Cost - Transportation, accommodations, and specified team meals are included.