

## Rules for Competitions

1. General

- a. Except as modified by these rules, AAU rules will generally govern the conduct of meets. In the event there is a conflict between AAU rules and these rules, the latter will take precedence.
- b. All competitors shall report at the host pool not earlier than 30 minutes and not later than 20 minutes before the meet is scheduled to begin. They will report immediately to the Clerk of Course who will direct them to their assigned area. They may take a short warm-up swim not to exceed five minutes, after which they will return to their assigned places and hold themselves ready to report immediately to the Clerk of Course when their events are announced.
- c. Spectators will be strictly controlled and shall not be allowed to speak to the officials until the meet has ended. Official team representatives such as coaches and assistants may consult the referee if necessary.
- d. There shall be no coaching of competitors once they have reported to the starter.
- e. No event will be delayed pending the late arrival of a contestant.

2. Competitor Eligibility

- a. Each competitor must be a bona fide member of the pool he represents.
- b. Life guards will not be eligible to compete in meets.
- c. The eligibility of a competitor for a particular age group will be determined by his age on the first day of June. Each club will maintain an up-to-date list of their competitors with applicable birth dates for ready reference in case of eligibility disputes.
- d. In Team Meets, competitors may compete in their own and/or higher age group(s). Competitors 14 years and under may enter only one relay event. They may enter up to two individual events provided one of the events is freestyle and the other is backstroke. 15-17 year old competitors may enter the one individual event and the two relays in their age groups.
- e. In Individual Meets, competitors may swim only in their own age group. Except for competitors 8 years and under, competitors may enter up to three events.

3. Limitations on Entriesa. Team Meets

- (1) In Dual Meets each team may enter up to three competitors in each individual event. In meets involving more than two teams, each team may enter up to two competitors in each individual event.
- (2) Each team may enter only one relay team in each relay event.

b. Individual Meets

- (1) Teams may enter up to three competitors per event in Area Qualifying Meets.
- (2) Entries in League Championship Meets will be limited to competitors qualifying under the provisions of par 13 b (1) below.

4. Entry Lists

Firm entry lists will be exchanged by designated representatives of competing teams at a mutually agreeable time but not later than one day prior to the day of the meet. The lists will be exchanged at the pool site of the host team or any other mutually agreeable location. Entries may not be changed subsequent to this exchange of lists except as authorized by paragraphs 5 and 6 below.

5. Substitution

- a. Substitutions are not authorized in Championship Individual Meets. In other meets, substitutions may be made as follows:
  - (1) Substitutions in individual events due to sickness of competitors.
  - (2) Substitutions in relay events due to sickness of competitors and/or failure of competitors to show up for the meet.
- b. Authorized substitutions will be reported to the Clerk of Course as soon as possible, and in any event not later than before the start of the meet or before the second event preceding the event in which the substitution is to be made.

6. Scratch Entries

- a. Team representatives will advise the Clerk of Course of any entries to be scratched prior to the start of the meet, or as far in advance of the applicable meet events as possible.
- b. Competitors who are scratched after the start of a meet will be ineligible to compete in any individual events during the remainder of the meet.

7. Heats

- a. If heats are required no final will be held, and places shall be awarded on a time basis subject to the order of finish in each heat as decided by the judges.
- b. Competitors will be grouped into heats according to the fastest established times with the faster swimmers being placed in the same heat. This seeding will be accomplished by official team representatives at the time firm entry lists are exchanged.

8. Lanes

- a. Swimming lanes will have a minimum width of five feet of unobstructed water.
- b. Lanes will be assigned on a basis mutually agreeable to the official representatives of the competing teams. In the event of disagreement, lanes will be drawn for at the time firm entry lists are exchanged.

9. Events

a. Team Meets

- (1) Each Team Meet will have the following events which will be run in the order indicated:

<u>Boys Event No.</u>	<u>Age Group Events</u>	<u>Girls Event No.</u>
	<u>8 years &amp; under</u>	
1	1-lap freestyle	2
11	4-laps freestyle relay	12
	<u>9 &amp; 10 years</u>	
3	1-lap freestyle	4
13	4-laps freestyle relay	14
	<u>11 &amp; 12 years</u>	
5	1-lap backstroke	6
15	2-laps freestyle	16
21	4-laps freestyle relay	22

<u>13 &amp; 14 years</u>		
7	1-lap backstroke	8
17	2-laps freestyle	18
23	4-laps freestyle relay	24
<u>15, 16, 17 years</u>		
9	2-laps freestyle	10
19	4-laps freestyle relay	20
25	4-laps medley relay	26

b. Individual Meets

- (1) Each Individual Meet will have the following events which will be run in the order indicated:

<u>Boys Event No.</u>	<u>Age Group Events</u>	<u>Girls Event No.</u>
<u>8 years &amp; under</u>		
1	1-lap freestyle	2
<u>9 &amp; 10 years</u>		
3	1-lap freestyle	4
11	1-lap backstroke	12
19	1-lap breaststroke	20
<u>11 &amp; 12 years</u>		
5	2-laps freestyle	6
13	2-laps backstroke	14
21	2-laps breaststroke	22
<u>13 &amp; 14 years</u>		
7	2-laps freestyle	8
15	2-laps backstroke	16
23	2-laps breaststroke	24
<u>15, 16, &amp; 17 years</u>		
9	2-laps freestyle	10
17	2-laps backstroke	18
25	2-laps butterfly stroke	26

10. Officials

- a. The following officials represent minimum Dual Meet requirements:

Referee (one)	Announcer (one)
Starter (one)	Judges (three; see 10b below)
Clerk of Course (one)	Timers (one for each active lane; see 10c below)

- b. The number of judges must not be less than the number of places to be selected in the race or heat being judged.

- c. Although not absolutely essential in meets which do not require heats, stop watches should be used for all meets. Since swim-offs among heats are not authorized, stop watches must be used in conjunction with any events involving heats.
- d. The duties of the officials shall be as outlined in Rule III of the AAU Official Swimming Handbook. The referee and the judges should be especially familiar with the contents of this handbook. If practicable, the referee should be a person who is not associated with any of the competing teams.
- e. Approximately one week prior to the date of the meet, the representative of the home team will contact the representative of the visiting team(s) to work out the details for obtaining officials. Unless otherwise agreed to, each club will furnish its approximate prorata share of the officials. In Dual Meets, the home team should generally furnish the Referee, Clerk of Course, Scorer, Announcer and half of the required timers.

#### 11. Starting

- a. Starting procedures will be in accordance with Rule V of the AAU Official Swimming Handbook.
- b. Starts should be by gunfire. If a starting gun is not available, a voice start will generally be used, in which case the starter will be equipped with a whistle for signaling false starts. Should conditions be such that a voice signal cannot be clearly heard by the competitors and/or officials, starts will be by whistle.

#### 12. Disqualifications

- a. Disqualifications will be governed by Rule VIII of the AAU Official Swimming Handbook.
- b. In establishing the degree of strictness with which they interpret the rules in non-championship meets, referees should give full consideration to such factors as the age and experience of the swimmers and whether the incident in question worked to the advantage or detriment of any of the swimmers.
- c. The rules will be strictly enforced in all championship meets.

#### 13. Scoring

##### a. Team Meets

- (1) Individual events in dual meets will be scored: 5-3-1  
Relay events in dual meets will be scored: 5-0
- (2) Individual events in meets involving three teams will be scored: 5-3-2-1  
Relay events in meets involving three teams will be scored: 6-2-0
- (3) Individual events in meets involving four teams will be scored: 6-4-3-2-1  
Relay events in meets involving four teams will be scored: 8-4-2-0

##### b. Individual Meets

- (1) Points will not be awarded in Area Qualifying Meets. Competitors winning one of the first four places in events in Area Qualifying Meets will be eligible to compete in the corresponding events in the Championship Meet.
- (2) Events in the Championship Meet will be scored: 6-4-3-2-1

#### 14. Awards

##### a. Team Meets

1st, 2d, and 3d place trophies will be awarded to the teams finishing in that order in the Championship Meets.

b. Individual Meets

- (1) Medals will be awarded to the first five place winners in each event of the Championship Meet. Medals will be as follows; 1st place, gold; 2d place, silver; 3d, 4th, and 5th places, bronze.
- (2) A trophy will be awarded to each boy and each girl scoring the most points in Championship Meets.

15. Ties

a. Team Meets

- (1) Ties for Area Championships will be resolved by having the tied teams compete in an additional meet.
- (2) In the event of ties between members of competing teams the appropriate teams will be awarded their pro-rata share of the total points involved in the tie.
- (3) Where teams have identical point totals at the completion of the league Championship Meet their final standing will be determined by the number of 1st places which they have won; e.g., if two teams tied for second place the one with the most first places would be awarded the 2d place trophy. Should the teams have won the same number of 1st places the number of second places won will be the determining factor. If the teams are still tied, the tie will be resolved on the basis of the number of third, or if necessary, the number of fourth places won in the individual events. If this does not break the tie, the team representatives will draw to determine the final order of finish.

b. Individual Meets

- (1) If time permits, and if mutually agreeable to the tied competitors, ties which must be resolved to determine the winners of any of the first four places in Area Qualifying Meet events, or ties which must be broken to select the winners of 1st, 2d, or 5th places in League Championship Meet events will be decided by means of swim-offs. Otherwise the tied competitors will draw to determine the final order of finish.
- (2) Tied competitors will draw to determine the order of finish in ties which must be broken to determine the winner of 3d or 4th place in League Championship Meet events.
- (3) Ties for high point awards will be decided in favor of the competitor winning the greatest number of first places. If this does not break the tie, the trophy will go to the competitor winning the greatest number of second places. This method of tie breaking will be followed if necessary down to the including consideration of the number of fifth places won. Should the tie still exist, the competitors will draw to determine the award winner.