

# CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE GREATER COLUMBUS SWIM LEAGUE

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# **THE CONSTITUTION OF THE GREATER COLUMBUS SWIM LEAGUE**

## **ARTICLE I PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

### **Section 1**

The purpose of the Greater Columbus Swim League, hereinafter referred to as "GCSL", is to provide a complete swimming program for age group swimmers by conducting annual competition through a series of dual meets between the participating member Clubs and concluding with a League Championship Meet to determine individual and team league champions.

### **Section 2**

The primary objective of the GCSL is to provide for the youth of the Columbus Metropolitan area who are oriented to aquatics an opportunity for growth through participation in competitive swimming and/or diving. This can be accomplished only when all coaches, judges, and contestants display a very high degree of ethical conduct.

### **Section 3**

The secondary objective of the League is to give the contestants a feeling of pride and accomplishment by providing a series of awards and rewards for the winners of various competitions.

## **ARTICLE II ORGANIZATION**

### **Section 1**

The GCSL shall be organized and governed by a Board of Directors, hereinafter referred to as the "Board". Directors shall be representatives of the individual member clubs. It is the responsibility of the Directors to assist the League Commissioner in the administration of League business and to act as liaisons between the League and pool managers, parents, and coaches. The Directors will advise the League Commissioner in matters of legislation, interpretation, and enforcement of rules, and other action when needed.

### **Section 2**

The membership of the Board shall consist of two (2) Directors from each member club. A Director may be any person selected by the Club, its management, parent group, or any other group of persons associated with a particular Club and given that responsibility.

### **Section 3**

Each Director will be assigned to a committee to assist with the management of the League by purchasing awards, keeping records, and other operations required to keep the League functioning in an orderly manner.

### **Section 4**

If an official Director of any member club is chosen by the Board to serve as League Commissioner, Swimming Commissioner, or Diving Commissioner, he or she automatically forfeits his or her Director status and the affected Club has the right to immediately select a replacement to fill the vacancy. Directors chosen by the Board to serve in any other official positions will retain all rights as Directors for the member clubs they represent. AMENDED 1992

## **ARTICLE III BOARD MEETINGS**

### **Section 1**

Regular meetings of the Board will be held the first Thursday of the month from January through June of each year, with a minimum of three meetings. A special meeting will be held the day after the last League dual meet to set specifics for the League Championship Meet. AMENDED 1984

**Section 2**

Other meetings of the Board may be held at the call of the League Commissioner. These meetings may be called for the purpose of settling protests or for any other important business that may arise.

**Section 3**

Meetings of the Board are open only to the selected Directors or the designated alternates and coaches of each member club. AMENDED 1984

**ARTICLE IV OFFICERS**

**Section 1**

The officers of the League shall consist of a League Commissioner, Vice Commissioner, Swimming Commissioner, Diving Commissioner, Secretary, and Treasurer. AMENDED 1984, 1992

**Section 2**

Selection of the League Commissioner and Vice Commissioner will be based on the following rotation of clubs: Olympic, Northwest, Delaware, Worthington, Gahanna, Highlands, Westerville JC and Plain Township. ADDED 1992, AMENDED 2002, 2004, 2007, 2009

- a) The League Commissioner and Vice Commissioner will serve two-year terms of office. The Vice Commissioner at the end of his or her term will assume the role of League Commissioner.
- b) Nominating a candidate for Vice Commissioner is the responsibility of the Club currently at the top of the rotation. If the League Commissioner or Vice Commissioner is unable to finish his or her term of office, the Club currently at the top of the rotation will nominate a new candidate to finish the unexpired term. A Club unwilling or unable to fulfill its responsibility to nominate a League Commissioner or Vice Commissioner will not relinquish its position in the rotation, and will be required to accept it for the next term.
- c) Clubs may opt to nominate for League Commissioner or Vice Commissioner an individual who is not an official Director of the League. Individuals nominated to serve as League Commissioner or Vice Commissioner must receive the approval of the Board.

**Section 3**

All officers other than the League Commissioner and Vice Commissioner will be selected from the ranks of current Directors and will serve indefinite terms, subject to annual approval of the Board.

**ARTICLE V POWER AND DUTIES OF LEAGUE OFFICERS**

**Section 1-League Commissioner**

The League Commissioner shall serve as non-voting member (except to decide ties) of the Board and take the initiative in enforcing the rules and promoting the aims and interest of the organization. He or she shall decide all questions of eligibility and interpretation of rules, and shall impose and enforce penalties.

He or she shall set the agenda for and conduct all meetings of the Board of Directors. He or she shall prepare an annual budget to he include all operating costs for the upcoming season, which shall, in turn, determine the fee each Club shall be assessed for the year. He or she shall prepare necessary legislation and any Constitution and Bylaw revisions as needed, for presentation to the Board.

He or she shall provide the Board with any and all data pertinent to the operation of the League. He or she shall assign necessary duties and responsibilities to the Vice Commissioner, Swimming Commissioner, and

Diving Commissioner and assign Directors to the various committees as described in Article II, Section 3 of its Constitution. AMENDED 1992

**Section 2-Vice Commissioner**

The Vice Commissioner shall work closely with the League Commissioner to familiarize himself or herself with all aspects of the position of League Commissioner. He or she shall assume the duties of the League Commissioner in the event of sickness, injury or any other reason that leaves the League Commissioner unable to perform his or her duties. He or she shall assist the League Commissioner with administration of the League, attend all monthly Board meetings, and serve on necessary committees as assigned by the League Commissioner. AMENDED 1992

**Section 3-Diving Commissioner**

The Diving Commissioner shall serve as a non-voting member of the Board, assist the League Commissioner and Vice Commissioner with administration of the League, and serve as Championship Diving Meet Director. AMENDED 1992

**Section 4-Swimming Commissioner**

The Swimming Commissioner shall serve as a non-voting member of the Board, assist the League Commissioner and Vice Commissioner with administration of the League, and serve as Championship Swimming Meet Director. AMENDED 1992

**Section 5-Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall, under the direction of the Board, receive, hold, expend and account for all funds of the League and render reports required by the Board. He or she shall publish all Audited Financial Reports for the past fiscal year. AMENDED 1984

**Section 6-Secretary**

The Secretary shall keep an accurate written record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Board, and any other meetings held for the purpose of handling official League business. He or she shall prepare and distribute the minutes of these meetings to all members of the Board. He or she shall read all motions to the Board before a vote is taken, record the vote and announce the results. He or she shall include the results of all votes taken as part of the official minutes. AMENDED 1984

**ARTICLE VI VOTING PROCEDURES**

**Section 1**

Each member club is allowed only one (1) vote for deciding all questions on official League business. Any recognized Director or alternate of the member club may cast this vote. All questions must receive an affirmative vote from a majority of the clubs in order to pass.

A member club may not be denied its voting rights on any issue based on the premise that it is not involved in with the issue at question, but it may abstain from voting based only on the decision of that member club.

In case of a tie, the League Commissioner will cast the deciding vote.

**Section 2**

Two-thirds (2/3) of the member clubs must be represented by at least one (1) Director at any meeting before official business can be conducted. Member clubs may vote by proxy, but such vote must be in writing, signed by Director and delivered to the League Commissioner before meeting starts.

## **ARTICLE VII PROTESTS AND PENALTIES**

### **Section 1**

Protests arising from a decision on or an interpretation of the swimming and diving rules by an official during a dual meet will not be considered. The Referee's decision and interpretation is final.

### **Section 2**

Any protest or dispute over League Rules or unusual occurrences at a dual or championship meet must be presented by the protesting club in writing to the League Commissioner no later than 24 hours after the alleged violation. Any dispute over League Rules or unusual occurrences that come to the attention of a Director or League official after the season is over, or unrelated to a diving or swimming contest, should be presented in writing at the next Board meeting. AMENDED 1993

In either event, the protest, dispute or unusual occurrence will be considered and ruled upon immediately by the League Commissioner, or he or she may appoint a special Protest Committee to investigate the matter and report to him or her in accordance with Article VII, Section 3 and 4. AMENDED 1993

### **Section 3**

A three-person Protest Committee will be appointed in accordance with Article VII, Section 2, to consider any protest that cannot be quickly resolved by the League Commissioner, or at any request of one of the two parties involved in the protest, if that party is not satisfied with the Commissioner's decision. Any such request for a Protest Committee must be in writing and signed by both Directors of the requesting club.

### **Section 4**

Any protest Committee established must consist of three (3) non-involved League Directors.

### **Section 5**

All penalties shall be assessed by the Commissioner with the approval of the Board of Directors. Penalties can vary from warning, through probation, to suspension for the club from the League, depending upon the character of the violation.

### **Section 6**

Due to the time limitation during the season, a completed dual meet may not be re-swum for any reason.

## **ARTICLE VIII PROTEST COMMITTEE**

### **Section 1**

The responsibilities of the Protest Committee are limited to (1) deciding if, in fact, a violation of League Rules or any unusual situation has occurred; (2) recommend any penalties, if the Committee feels such are necessary; and (3) report its findings to the League Commissioner.

### **Section 2**

The Committee shall have complete access to any and all materials and records of the League needed to reach a decision. It may call upon any persons it wishes for the supplying of additional information needed for making a decision.

### **Section 3**

If the Committee is unable to reach a decision, the Commissioner shall call the entire Board of Directors into a special session to resolve the protest.

## **ARTICLE IX LEAGUE FEES**

### **Section 1**

Each member club shall be assessed the total amount, as set by the Board of Directors, to cover the cost of the annual entry fee for each season. Checks should be made payable to the League Treasurer. Entry fees provide the total income for the League, and thus are established by equal distribution of the total expected expenses as estimated in the annual League Budget, as approved by the Board of Directors. Funds collected through Entry Fees provide the money for general operational expenses and for awards that are given at the League Championship Meet and all Dual Meets.

### **Section 2**

All League fees must be paid to the League Treasurer no later than April 15<sup>th</sup> of the current year. Clubs that have not paid all League fees in full by that date may be dropped from League competition. AMENDED 1999

### **Section 3**

Entry fees will not be returned to any Club that drops from GCSL and the League Competition after the last organizational meeting in May of the current season.

## **ARTICLE X SWIMMER ELIGIBILITY**

### **Section 1**

In order to participate in League Competition, an individual must hold a valid club membership that involves a direct, voluntary payment of dues to the club he or she represents. That payment will not be incorporated into fees paid to or by an outside organization. The payment of dues must be consistent with payment made by all club members, regardless of being on the swimming or diving teams, with the exception of seasonal employees. He or she must meet the age requirements of Bylaw 1. AMENDED 1992

### **Section 2**

An official list of team members, including their names and dates of birth, must be submitted to the League Commissioner and the GCSL Registrar via electronic mail by 6:00 p.m. the night before the first dual meet of the year. Any swimmer or diver found guilty of giving an incorrect birth date will not be allowed to participate in League competition for the balance of the season. Additions may be made to the official list via electronic mail to the League Commissioner and the GCSL Registrar until 6:00 p.m. the night before the fourth meet of the season. Additions must be made in writing no later than 6:00 p.m. the night before the first meet in which the contestant is to participate. AMENDED 1988; 2009.

### **Section 3**

An individual who has established membership on a team must participate with said team for the remainder of the season, unless he or she has received special approval of the Board to change team affiliation. For the purpose of this Section, an individual becomes an established member of a team when his or her name is placed on the official team list as set forth in Section 2 of this Article.

### **Section 4**

Individuals may move from the COSA Developmental League to the GCSL at any time during the current season, subject only to the requirements of Section 2 of this Article.

### **Section 5**

A swimmer who participates in GCSL competition may not participate for any other swimming organization during that outdoor season, except to participate for an open USA swimming team. The penalty is the same as that in Section 2

## **Section 6**

Competition between GCSL clubs and non-GCSL clubs is prohibited except for participation in a “closed” USA Swimming meets.

## **ARTICLE XI LEAGUE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Section 1**

Any club desiring membership in the GCSL must forward a letter requesting consideration, to the League Commissioner. This letter should express the desire of that club to join the League, meet equipment available, location of the pool, type of ownership, length of time the club has existed, details of any previous competition, and club membership size and boundaries. All of this information must be presented to the League Commissioner no later than the regular April meeting of the Board. Applications received after that meeting will not be considered.

### **Section 2**

A written statement must accompany letters of application from the pool management (owner, member of the Board, or other person with such authority) giving permission for a team from that club to participate in League Competition.

### **Section 3**

Letters of application must be submitted for preliminary consideration to the League Board at the earliest meeting possible. If the response is favorable to admittance, the new club will be asked to attend the next regular meeting of the Board where members club may question the requesting club on points that may not have been covered in the letter of application or any other points of special interest to the Board. The Board then must take an official vote for admittance within thirty (30) days.

### **Section 4**

Upon receiving official notice of admittance to the league, a new member club must immediately select persons to fill the two (2) required Directors positions so that their Directors may attend the next regular meeting of the Board.

## **ARTICLE XII MEET SCHEDULING AND POSTPONEMENT**

### **Section 1**

Any changes to the established dual meet schedule, including the postponement of any dual meet(s), must be agreed upon by the coaches and/or Directors of all clubs involved. The Club requesting postponement has complete responsibility for rescheduling the meet at the original location, unless the clubs involved agree upon a change of location.

### **Section 2**

All postponed meets must be held within 48 hrs of the originally scheduled day and time, or the Board must meet and decide the matter. In all cases of postponement, the League Commissioner must be notified by the postponing Club of the purpose of the postponement and the date agreed upon for the rescheduled meet. Notification must take place within the 48 hours of the originally scheduled date and time and prior to the beginning of the rescheduled meet.

### **Section 3**

The coaches from both teams and the meet Referee will make the final decision to cancel the diving and/or swimming and try to reschedule the unfinished portion of the meet if environmental conditions are considered dangerous. The referee will ensure adherence to Red Cross guidelines that require the pool and pool deck to be cleared for 20 minutes from last thunder and/or lightning. ADDED 1993, AMENDED 2002

#### **Section 4**

A meet will be considered official after completion of the last breaststroke event. If a meet is postponed prior to the completion of the last breaststroke event, the two clubs should exhaust every possibility of rescheduling meet. There will be no penalty if the clubs cannot agree on a new date and time. Swim meets that are rescheduled will be resumed where they left off.

#### **Section 5**

Failure to meet all of the above requirements will cause an automatic forfeit to be charged to the Club requesting the postponement. All dual meets except those cancelled by weather must be completed before the League Championship Meet. AMENDED 1988

#### **Section 7**

Each dual meet will include both the Junior and Senior Division competitions and should be conducted at the same time and place, with separate scores being kept. The home team may hold separate Junior and Senior meets if such is agreeable to the opposing team. The home team can arrange for separate diving competition on a different day and location if the visiting team agrees. ADDED 1993

### **ARTICLE XIII TECHNICAL RULES**

#### **Section 1**

In accordance with the current swimming rules, the applicable referee (swimming and diving) shall have the final say on disputes occurring during any dual meet.

#### **Section 2**

All rules questions not covered in this Constitution and Bylaws shall be decided in reference to the current National Federation of State High School Associations Swimming and Diving Rules.

### **ARTICLE XIV AMENDMENT PROCEDURES**

#### **Section 1**

Amendments to this Constitution may be made only at the regular January through May Board Meetings or any Special Board Meeting held for that purpose January 1 through May 31 of the current season.

#### **Section 2**

All amendments must be submitted to the Board in writing at one of the meetings set forth in Section 1. Final consideration of a properly proposed amendment then automatically becomes part of the agenda for the next official meeting of the Board, which occurs at least 20 days after such an amendment has been presented.

#### **Section 3**

The League Secretary shall notify all member Clubs who are absent at the time an amendment is proposed of the general text of the proposal, and the date for the final vote. This notification may be made by telephone or by electronic mail, but must be accomplished no later than 10 days after the proposal is presented to the Board. It is then the responsibility of the Clubs so notified to pick up from the Secretary a written copy of the exact text. AMENDED 2009

#### **Section 4**

After an amendment has been properly presented to the member Clubs as set forth in Section 1 thru 3, it must receive an affirmative vote from a majority of member Clubs for final approval.

## **BYLAWS OF THE GREATER COLUMBUS SWIM LEAGUE**

### **BYLAW 1      AGE GROUPS**

A. Age groups are as follows:

1. Boys and Girls      6 and under
2. Boys and Girls      8 and under
3. Boys and Girls      10 and under
4. Boys and Girls      12 and under
5. Boys and Girls      14 and under
6. Boys and Girls      18 and under\*\*

The 6 and under, 8 and under, and 10 and under age groups will comprise the Junior Division. The 12 and under, 14 and under, and 18 and under age groups will comprise the Senior Division. AMENDED 2008

- B. The eligibility of a participant to swim in a specific age group will be determined by his or her age on June 15 of the current year. A contestant who is 19 on June 15 of the current year shall be allowed to compete in the 18 and under age group for the entire season, provided the contestant was enrolled in high school during the current calendar year.
- C. Swimmers and divers are encouraged, but not required, to compete in the youngest age group for which they are eligible.

### **BYLAW 2      PARTICIPATION LIMITS**

- A. A contestant may participate for points 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. For the purposes of this rule, diving is not to be considered as an individual event.
- B. An individual may participate in more than five (5) events, but only as an exhibition contestant in accordance with Bylaw 7.

### **BYLAW 3      DUAL MEET SCHEDULING**

- A. The League dual meet schedule will be set biannually, every even year. ADDED 2002
- B. For the purpose of designing the biannual dual meet schedule, the League will be divided into two divisions of four clubs each. The clubs with the highest combined junior and senior scores over the preceding two League Championships will comprise the first division and the remaining clubs will comprise the second division. ADDED 2002
- C. Each year, each club will swim three intra-division dual meets (at least one at home and one way) and two inter-division dual meets (exactly one at home and one way). Over the biennium, i) intra-division rivals will alternate home and away meets in successive years and ii) inter-divisional rivals will face each other exactly once. ADDED 2002

#### **BYLAW 4 DUAL MEET SCORING**

- A. All events will be scored in accordance with the National Federation of State High School Associations Swimming and Diving Rules. The swimmers' times obtained by stopwatch will determine the order of finish in each event. If three (3) stopwatch times are obtained for a swimmer in an event, then the official time shall be the middle time obtained. If only two (2) stopwatch times are obtained for a swimmer, then the official time shall be the average of the two times. If only one (1) stopwatch time is obtained for a swimmer, then that time will be the swimmer's official time. Each official time shall be entered into Meet Manager or onto the score sheet. AMENDED 1993; 2009
- B. Individual events are scored 6, 4, 3, 2, and 1, and relays are scored 8, 4, and 2 for six (6) and seven (7) lane pools. Individual events are scored 8, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1, and relays are scored 10, 5, and 3 for eight (8) lane pools. Only two relays teams may score for each team in each relay event.
- C. The home team must send the Meet Results Report with the name of the referee by electronic mail to the GCSL Registrar no later than 24 hours after the dual meet is completed. Failure to send the Meet Results Report will mean forfeiture of the meet by the home team. AMENDED 1993; 2009

#### **BYLAW 5 MEET ENTRIES**

- A. Prior to a dual meet, the visiting club shall send their meet line-ups to the host club by electronic mail no later than 6:00 p.m. of the night before the dual meet. The host club shall return the seeded meet file to the visiting club by 9:00 p.m. the same night. AMENDED 2009
- B. Coaches will follow National Federation of State High School Associations Swimming and Diving Rules as to the writing of entry cards during the meet.
- C. To facilitate filling out entry cards and other necessary dual meet paperwork, home teams will compete in the even numbered lanes and use white entry cards, and the visiting team will compete in the odd numbered lanes and use colored entry cards.

#### **BYLAW 6 FALSE START WAIVER**

For 8 and under events only, swimmers shall be allowed one false start without disqualification in any one race. The second false start for that swimmer in that event will result in disqualification. All other age groups will follow the false start rule from the National Federation Swimming and Diving Rules

#### **BYLAW 7 NUMBER OF CONTESTANTS**

- A. The maximum number of entries permitted per event per club in dual and championship meets will be two (2) in four- and five-lane pools, three (3) in six- and seven-lane pools, and four (4) in eight-lane pools.
- B. In pools with an odd number of lanes, the remaining lane can only be used upon mutual agreement of both coaches. The details of any such agreement must be reported to the Referee before the first swimming event begins. If an agreement cannot be reached before the first swimming event begins, the remaining lane will not be used.
- C. Exhibition Diving: At the request of either club prior to the beginning of diving competition, the meet referee will have the authority to allow athletes to participate as non scoring, exhibition divers, provided that, (a) in six lanes pools, only one exhibition diver per team will be permitted in each age and gender group and (b) the meet referee determines that the addition of exhibition divers will not

delay the start of swimming warm ups. Exhibition divers will be listed on the score sheet as “Exhibition,” and the individual point total will be listed on the scoresheet. In 8 lane pools, there will be no exhibition diving, as up to four competitors are permitted in each age and gender group. Diving coaches may conduct exhibition diving meets on another day. Competition in these exhibition meets will count toward a diver’s eligibility for the championship meet. (See Bylaw 11- Eligibility for League Championship Meet.) The league commissioner, the diving commissioner, and the GCSL Registrar must be notified in advance of these meets. The host club must notify all clubs in the league at least 14 days in advance to make them aware of the meet location, date and start time. All meets will be conducted following league rules and procedures. ADDED 2003; 2004

- D. Exhibition Swimming: At the request of either club prior to the beginning of swimming competition, the meet referee will have the authority to allow athletes to participate as non scoring, exhibition swimmers in heats provided that (a) the host club coach contacts the visiting team’s coach 24 hours prior to the meet to discuss the use of exhibition heats; and (b) both clubs agree regarding the number of exhibition swimmers or relays that will participate for each club in the exhibition heats; and (c) the meet referee determines that running the exhibition heats will not cause the meet to conclude under lighting conditions that might adversely affect swimming competition or jeopardize the safety of the swimmers. No more than SIX (6) exhibition heats will be allowed PER MEET. ADDED 2003; 2009

**BYLAW 8 SAFETY**

- A. Water must be a minimum of 4 feet deep at the wall to make a diving start. If the water depth is less than the required minimum, swimmers must start in the water. Anyone using a forward start in the water must have one hand in contact with the side at the start. There will be no flip turns in water less than 3’6”. AMENDED 2002
- B. The referee will ensure adherence to Red Cross guidelines that require the pool and pool deck to be cleared for 20 minutes from last thunder and/or lightning.

**BYLAW 9-A SUGGESTED OFFICIALS FOR DUAL MEETS SCORED MANUALLY**

<u>DIVING</u>	Home	Away	<u>SWIMMING</u>	Home	Away
Referee	2	1	Timers per lane	2	1
Judges	1	1	Referee	1	0
Scorer	2	1	Starter	1	0
Announcer	1	0	Stroke & Turn Judge (7 lanes or less)	2	1
Ribbons	1	0	Stroke & Turn Judge (8 lanes or more)	2	2
			Finish Judge	1	1
			Scorer	2	2
			Announcer	1	0
			Ribbons	1	1
			Runner	1	0
			Head Timer	1	1

The total number of stroke and turn finish judges shall not exceed the suggested number unless agreed upon by the coaches of both clubs. AMENDED 2008, 2009

**BYLAW 9-B SUGGESTED OFFICIALS FOR DUAL MEETS SCORED WITH MEET MANAGER**

<u>DIVING</u>	Home	Away	<u>SWIMMING</u>	Home	Away
Referee	2	1	Timers per lane	2	1
Judges	1	1	Referee	1	0
Scorer	1	1	Starter	1	0
Announcer	1	0	Stroke & Turn Judge (7 lanes or less)	2	1

Ribbons	1	0	Stroke & Turn Judge (8 lanes or more)	2	2
			Head Timer	1	1
			Computer scorer	1	1
			Announcer	1	0
			Ribbons	1	1
			Runner	1	0
			Head Timer	1	1

The total number of stroke and turn finish judges shall not exceed the suggested number unless agreed upon by the coaches of both clubs. AMENDED 2008, 2009

**BYLAW 10 MEET STARTING TIMES**

- A. Unless agreed upon in advance by both teams involved, diving shall start at 4:00 pm and swimming at 6:00pm unless weather conditions prohibit. The League Commissioner and the GCSL Registrar must be notified of any changes to meet times or dates in accordance with Article XIII of the Constitution. AMENDED 1990, 2002; 2008; 2009
- B. Failure of a team to appear for a meet within one hour of the official or mutually agreed upon starting time will result in automatic forfeiture by the delinquent team. The Meet Results Report for both Clubs must be submitted as usual with the official results and showing a win for the participating clubs unless extenuating circumstances exist. AMENDED 2009

**BYLAW 11 ELIGIBILITY FOR LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP MEET**

- A. To be eligible for the Championship Meet, a participant must compete in at least (3) League dual meets. Exhibition performances are counted as participation, but the swimmer must be registered as a participant on the Meet Results Report to the GCSL Registrar. AMENDED 1988; 2009
- B. For an incomplete or non-contested meet, swimmers listed on the Meet Results Report submitted to the GCSL Registrar shall fulfill the dual meet participation requirement for Championship meet eligibility. For an interrupted or a rescheduled meet, swimmers and divers listed on the original Meet Results Report and swimmers and divers substituted in the rescheduled portion of the Meet Results Report, both of which are to be submitted to the GCSL Registrar, shall fulfill the dual meet participation requirement for Championship meet eligibility. ADDED 1988, AMENDED 1990; 2009

**BYLAW 12 DIVING RULES**

- A. Dual Meet and Championship Meet Diving Competition will be held in five age groupings. Each age grouping will be divided into two (2) separate events, one for boys and one for girls, for a total of ten (10) events:

- Boys and Girls 8 and under
- Boys and Girls 10 and under
- Boys and Girls 12 and under
- Boys and Girls 14 and under
- Boys and Girls 18 and under AMENDED 2008

- B. Selection of Dual Meet Dives. AMENDED 1989; 2008

**8 and under** – Each Diver will perform two (2) dives: The required forward dive (101), followed by one (1) other dive representing (1) group.

**10 and under** – Each Diver will perform three (3) dives: The required forward dive (101), followed by two (2) other dives representing two (2) groups.

**12 and under** – Each Diver will perform four (4) dives: The required forward dive (101), followed by three (3) other dives representing two (2) groups.

**14 and under** – Each diver will perform four (4) dives: The required forward dive (101) followed by three (3) other dives representing three (3) groups.

**18 and under** – Each diver will perform five (5) dives: The required forward dive (101) followed by four (4) other dives representing three (3) groups.

C. Selection of Championship Dives AMENDED 1989; 2008

**10 and under** – Each Diver will perform four (4) dives: The required forward dive (101), followed by (3) other dives representing three (3) groups.

**12 and under** – Each Diver will perform five (5) dives: The required forward dive (101), followed by four (4) other dives representing three (3) groups.

**14 and under** – Each diver will perform five (5) dives: The required forward dive (101) followed by four (4) other dives representing four (4) groups.

**18 and under** – Each diver will perform six (6) dives: The required forward dive (101) followed by five (5) other dives representing four (4) groups.

- D. The number of divers in each age group at championships will be cut to 16 in an 8 lane pool and 12 in a 6 lane pool after the first three dives, at the discretion of the meet referee and Diving Commissioner ADDED 1993, AMENDED 2004
- E. The diving events for dual meet competition will be held at the option of the home team, subject to the current rules of competition. Federation rules will apply for the numbers of divers that may participate in dual meets. Failure to provide the Diving Event will mean forfeiture of points by the home team by the number of lanes available.
- F. An individual may not dive in more than one age group in any Dual Meet or the Championship Meet.
- G. Diving entries for the first four age groups must be given to the scoring table at least 30 minutes before the first event begins.
- H. The signature of the contestant must be on all diving entries when submitted to the diving referee. This is to assure the divers knowledge of the dives listed and the order in which they will be performed.

**BYLAW 13 CHAMPIONSHIP MEET PROCEDURES**

- A. In a Championship meet venue of seven lanes or less, each team will be entitled to enter a maximum of three (3) athletes per individual swimming and diving event and one (1) team per relay event.
- B. In a Championship meet venue of eight lanes or more, each team will be entitled to enter a maximum of four (4) athletes per individual swimming and diving event and relays. “A” relays will compete for places 1-8 and “B” relays will compete for places 9-16 in two heats. AMENDED 2002, 2004, 2009
- C. Times submitted for seeding Championship preliminaries must have been generated in League competition and therefore must appear on Meet Results Reports previously sent to the GCSL Registrar. Submitted times may be challenged officially, in writing, with signatures of coaches and/or Directors

for two separate Clubs. It is the responsibility of the accused coach to provide proof, from an official Meet Results Report, of the submitted time. Conversions must be exact and according to League Bylaw 13-D. ADDED 1988; AMENDED 2009

- D. For the purpose of official Championship entries, converting yard times to meter times and vice versa may be accomplished by (1) using conversion rulers supplied to each team by the League, or (2) using conversion sites on the World Wide Web approved by OHSAA, NISCA, FINA, ASCA, or USA Swimming. ADDED 1991, AMENDED 2004
- E. The mandatory penalty for inaccurate official time or times that cannot be officially supported is the loss of team points for each such entry. Other teams' points will not change or adjust to fill the void of penalized, non-scoring places. ADDED 1988
- F. Each club may submit four (4) contestants per relay team. Substitutions may be made using any swimmer already entered in the Championship meet. AMENDED 2009

G. Deck Officials

- 1. The Meet Director shall make the selection of Deck Officials. This selection will be made from a list supplied to the Commissioner no later than the Dual Meet two (2) weeks before the Championship Meet.
- 2. Coaches finding displeasure with any official must supply a letter with the reasons for the dissatisfaction to the Meet Director within three (3) days of the receipt of the list to the Meet Director (with the names of officials to replace the official in question)

Based upon the results of this policy, the meet Director may use his or her discretion in removing or adding to this list. The Meet Director may call the Board of Directors to assist in making the necessary addition or subtraction.

H. Scratches

- 1. A contestant may scratch from any single event or group of events without penalty
  - 2. A contestant may be replaced only when the original contestant is scratched from all championship events.
  - 3. If a contestant wishes to scratch from the finals, notification must be made at the Scratch Meeting before finals begin.
  - 4. Any contestant who fails to appear for a final event without proper notification is subject to the penalties as described in the current swimming rules.
  - 5. Relay scratches are also subject to H.4 above.
- I. All Championship meet entries shall be submitted by electronic mail to both the GCSL Registrar and the Championship Meet Entry Chairperson no later than 9:00 p.m. on the Thursday evening of the Championship Scratch Meeting. No individual event entry changes will be accepted thereafter. AMENDED 2009

J. Championship Scoring

- 1. The team points to be awarded at the Championship Meet for each place will vary with the maximum number of lanes established for use as determined by the League Commissioner prior to

the meet.

2. Team points will be awarded as follows:
    - a) 6 lanes: Relays 32-26-24-22-20-18-14-10-8-6-4-2; all other events 16-13-12-11-10-9-7-5-4-3-2-1.
    - b) 7 lanes: Relays 36-30-28-26-24-22-20-16-12-10-8-6-4-2; all other events 18-15-14-13-12-11-10-8-6-5-4-3-2-1.
    - c) 8 lanes: Relays 40-34-32-30-28-26-24-22-18-14-12-10-8-6-4-2; all other events 20-17-16-15-14-13-12-11-9-7-6-5-4-3-2-1.
  3. Diving events are scored as individual events. The number of places to awarded team points is determined by the maximum number of lanes established for use in the Meet.
  4. A relays will score and place 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>. B relays will score and place 9<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>. ADDED 2010
- K. Finish judging and timing at the GCSL Championship Meet will be conducted in accordance with USA Swimming Rules and Regulations Section 102.16. ADDED 2001
- L. Five (5) team championship and five (5) team runner up trophies will be awarded at championships: Senior Division Diving Champion and Runner-Up, Senior Division Swimming Champion and Runner-Up, Junior Division Diving Champion and Runner-Up, Junior Division Swimming Champion and Runner-Up, League Champions and Runner-Ups will be determined by adding swimming and diving points within each division. ADDED 2010

#### **BYLAW 14 SWIMMERS WITH DISABILITIES**

##### **GENERAL-**

1. **Authority** – The USA Swimming Rules & Regulations grant the Referee the authority to modify the rules for the swimmer with a disability. Disability is defined as a permanent physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. This section contains guidelines and suggestions for making such modifications.
2. **Responsibilities** –
  - A. Athlete – The athlete (or the athlete’s coach) is responsible for notifying the Referee, prior to the competition, of any disability of the athlete. The swimmer/coach shall provide any assistant(s) or equipment (tapers, deck mates, etc.) if required.
  - B. Referee – The Referee’s responsibilities include:
    - (1) Inquiring regarding the athlete’s need and determining what modifications will be required.
    - (2) Instructing the Starter and Stroke and Turn officials as to the accommodations to be made for that swimmer.
3. **Modifications** - Some of the modifications which the Referee may make to accommodate the athlete with a disability are:
  - (1) A change in starting position.
  - (2) Reassignment of lanes within a heat, e.g., exchanging Lanes 2 and 7.
  - (3) Allowing the athlete’s assistant(s) on the deck or in the water to assist with a start. Other allowable modifications are further described in this section under the type of disability.

4. **Use of ID Card for Swimmers with a Disability** – All swimmers with a disability, Who have an International Paralympics Committee authorized classification, will be issued an ID card listing their specific International Paralympics Committee swimming rule exceptions on the reverse of the card. Swimmers shall be judged under these specific exceptions.

**BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED –**

1. **Start** – With an audible starting system, no modification is usually required for a blind or visually-impaired swimmer. They may, however, require assistance getting to and on the block. Should they feel insecure starting from the block or deck, an in-the-water start may be allowed.
2. **Turns and Finishes** - A blind or visually-impaired swimmer is permitted to have a ‘tapper’, which is a pole with a soft-tipped end. The swimmer is tapped with the ‘tapper’ as notification of turns and the finish. Sound devices shall not be used. It is the swimmer’s responsibility to provide the tapper (s) and operator (s), who shall be positioned within the confines of the swimmer’s lane at the ends of the pool.
3. **Relay Take-Offs** – A physical touch may be required to signal the relay swimmer when his/her teammate has touched the wall. The specific method may be tailored to the swimmer’s preference so long as it does not aid the swimmer’s take-off or interfere with the timing.