

SECTION 5

SENIOR COMPETITION

C. Conduct of Meets

4. ~~Positive Check-In~~ **Scratching from Bonus and** Consolation Finals and Finals

- ~~a. Athletes may check in or declare their intent to compete in finals for that day at the beginning of competition for that day.~~ **Athletes may scratch or declare their intent to scratch a final event, or multiple final events at the beginning of competition for that day.**
- ~~b. Athletes shall check in or declare their intent to compete in consolation finals or finals within 30 minutes of the announcement of qualifiers. In the case where an athlete declares their intent to compete they shall declare their final intention within 30 minutes after the announcement of qualifiers for their last individual preliminary event. Athletes not returning to declare their intention shall be seeded into the event.~~ **Any athlete qualifying for any level of finals in an individual event who does not wish to compete shall scratch within 30 minutes after the announcement of qualifiers. During this period, qualifiers may also notify the referee that they may not intend to compete in consolation finals or finals. In this case, they shall declare their final intention within 30 minutes after the announcement of qualifiers following their last individual preliminary event.**
- ~~c. In the event of a withdrawal or barring of an athlete from competition, the referee shall fill the consolation final or final when possible with the next qualified athlete(s). First and second alternates shall be announced with the final qualifiers. Alternates shall not be penalized if they are unavailable to compete in the finals.~~ **In the event of a withdrawal or barring of an athlete from competition, the referee shall fill the bonus final, consolation final or final when possible with the next qualified athlete(s). First and second alternates shall be announced along with the final qualifiers. These alternates shall not be penalized if they are unavailable to compete in the finals.**
- d. Where bonus or consolation finals have not yet been swum and barring or withdrawal is known to the referee, the referee shall reseed the bonus final, consolation final and the final, if necessary, to insert the alternate(s) in the appropriate lane(s), filling all lanes in the final.**
- e. If a bonus and consolation final has already been contested, the Championship final shall be swum without reseeding for the empty lane(s).**
- ~~d.~~ **f. In a Preliminaries and Finals meet, for final heats where athletes are not provided any recognition other than an opportunity to compete, alternates may be inserted into empty lanes regardless of order that finals are swum. USA Swimming Rules and Regulations Article 102.5.6(B)**

1. Penalty for No-Show at Finals

- ~~a. In a positive check-in Preliminaries and Finals meet any athlete checking in~~ **Any athlete qualifying for a bonus final**, consolation final or final race in an individual event who fails to report to the blocks in said consolation final or final race prior to calling the alternate shall be barred from further competition for the remainder of the meet.
- b. If the No-Show occurs on the last day that the athlete is entered in an individual final event in the meet, and no other individual event penalty is applicable, the athlete shall be fined \$100.00. The fine shall be increased to \$150.00 if after 30 days of receiving the letter of notification the party has not made the payment.

2. Exceptions – No penalty shall apply for failure to withdraw or compete in an individual event if:
 - a. The referee is notified in the event of illness or injury and accepts the proof thereof.
 - b. It is determined by the referee that the No-Show is caused by circumstances beyond the control of the athlete.
 - c. The athlete is an alternate for any level of finals
3. Relay Scratch Rule – Any relay team entered in a relay event that fails to compete in or report for that event shall not be penalized.