

## Acceptance of Non-Conforming Times

### General

- A Non-conforming (NC) time is defined as an Entry Time recorded in a course venue other than the course in which the Meet being entered will be swum (i.e., a time recorded in a 25-yd pool used for entry into a Long Course Meet.)
- All entry times – whether Conforming or Non-conforming – must be achieved in a USA Swimming Sanctioned, Observed or Approved Meet, or a Middle Atlantic Accepted Meet. (See MA Policy Manual, Section 7 for definition of these types of Meets.)
- Except as noted below, Non-conforming times must be accepted for entry to all Middle Atlantic (MA) Sanctioned Meets – regardless of whether the Meet is an MA hosted Meet or is hosted by a MA Club.
  - Exception: MA may limit entry to MA hosted Championship Meets (i.e., MIDS, JOs, Elite) to entry times achieved in the current season Meet course – i.e., SCY and SCM for the Short-course Spring Meets, or LC only for the Long-course Summer Meets. See below for additional information.
- All Meet entries should be submitted using the actual time swum in the course in which the time was achieved. The Meet Host will convert all times, when necessary for seeding (see below.) When seeded together, either the submitted or converted time may be shown in the program; when seeded as ‘non-conforming’, the actual entry time should be shown in the program in the course in which it was swum.
- If it becomes necessary for Meet Management to limit the number of heats in any event, swimmers entered with conforming times should have preference over those entered with Non-conforming times.

### Meets with ‘A’ or better Qualifying Times (inc Championship Meets)

- The Meet Information for all Meets which have an ‘A’ or faster Qualifying Time (e.g., MIDS, JOs, etc.) must include an equivalent Qualifying Time for all three course venues (i.e., SCY, SCM, and LC).
  - When the Qualifying Time is equal to a USA Swimming Time Standard, the corresponding Time Standard for the other course venues should be used. When a Qualifying Time is other than a Time Standard, an equivalent time for the other courses should be calculated using appropriate conversion factors; these can be obtained from the MA Office.
  - The above provisions also apply to Individual Events with a Qualifying Time which are held as part of a Meet which otherwise has no Qualifying Times.
- For distance Freestyle events, the qualifying time should be provided for a comparable distance in the alternate venues – e.g., 400/500, 800/1000, or 1500/1650 m/yd, respectively. These events must always be seeded on a Non-conforming basis.
- A swimmer may enter an event using a time based on any course venue, but that time must be equal or faster than the Qualifying Time for that course.
- Entry times should NOT be converted by the sender.
- Middle Atlantic Championships – i.e., JOs, MIDS, Elite
  - Short Course
    - Long Course entry times will not be accepted, unless approved by MA as an exception. Such approval shall be given by the House of Delegates (preferred) or the Board of Directors.
    - SCY and SCM will be seeded together by Middle Atlantic - e.g., SCM entry times will be converted by the computer program and seeded with SCY entries.

- Long Course
  - Entry times will be accepted in LC, SCM or SCY.
  - SCM and SCY will be considered non-conforming and seeded according to USA Swimming procedures [Art 207.5.10B(1) and (2)].
- Club-hosted Meets
  - The Host Club may decide whether to accept LC entry times for a Short Course Meet.
  - Entries from all three course venues must be accepted for a Long Course Meet.
  - SCM entries must be accepted whenever SCY entries are allowed.
  - The Host Club may decide whether to seed entry times from alternate courses as non-conforming.
- Fall Classic (Middle Atlantic hosted)
  - Entry times from any course venue will be accepted.
  - All entries will be seeded as conforming.

#### A/BB/C, or Comparable Meets

- An entry time from any course venue must be accepted. A Swimmer may enter using their best time in the course venue of their choosing.
- Entry times from alternate course venues shall be converted by the Meet Host and seeded together. *Any exceptions to this practice must be approved by the Admin Committee/MA Office when the Meet Sanction is approved.* The conversion factors in the Hy-Tek Meet Manager program are acceptable for this conversion.
- A swimmer may not enter a meet with No-Time ('NT') if they have a time for the same event in a 'non-conforming' course. This includes corresponding distance Freestyle events.
- Awards
  - The Host Club may choose whether to give Awards based on the 'Entry' time or on the time 'Swum' at the Meet.
  - When Awards are based on the Entry Time, the Hy-Tek Meet Manager program will compare the converted entry time to the Time Standard basis in the course being swum and award places based on that converted time. Note that this could result in a swimmer who has an 'A' time in a non-conforming course being scored with 'B' swimmers if the conversion results in a 'B' time in the course being swum, or vice versa.
  - When Awards are based on the time Swum at the Meet, the Time Standard for the Meet course will be used.
  - Middle Atlantic recommends that Awards be based on the time 'Swum' at the Meet.
- Entries with 'NT' should be seeded in the first heats and awarded at the lowest time standard for the Meet.

#### Meets with Mixed Events Standards

- Meets with some events having Qualifying Times (e.g., a Senior 'A' Meet) and other events with no Qualifying Times (e.g., A/BB/C for lower age groups) should be seeded according to the above guidelines. Entries should be submitted in the course venue in which they were swum. Each session or event can be seeded appropriately by designating how 'non-conforming' times should be seeded.

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