

**MIDDLE ATLANTIC – SCRATCH RULES**  
(Adopted – May, '04)

**INDIVIDUAL SCRATCH RULE**

Pre-Seeded Events

a. Any swimmer not reporting for and/or competing in an individual pre-seeded Timed Final event or pre-seeded Preliminary event (when Finals are scheduled) shall not be penalized.

Deck-seeded Events

a. Swimmers entered in an individual event that is deck-seeded, in whole or in part, must check-in for that event in order to be seeded. Deck-seeded events shall normally close for seeding no earlier than thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled start of the event, unless noted differently in the Meet Information.

b. Any swimmer who has positively checked in for a deck-seeded individual event and then does not swim that event will be barred from the next individual event in which the swimmer is entered, whether on the same or later meet day, unless the swimmer has notified the Referee or Clerk of Course prior to the closing of the event that the swimmer wishes not to be seeded.

c. A swimmer who is entered in a deck-seeded event but who has neither positively checked-in nor scratched from the event may still swim the event by reporting to the Referee before the start of the first heat of the event. Such swimmer(s) shall be placed in an open lane in the slowest heat. Each meet host shall have the option as to whether additional heats will be created, if necessary to accommodate such swimmer(s); such notice shall be included in the Meet Information. At MA-hosted or MA Championship meets, swimmers who would be seeded in the fastest heat (by virtue of the psych listing) when such heat is scheduled to swim at a Finals session do not have the option 'not to be seeded' and then elect to swim in a slower heat.

Scratching from Finals

a. Any swimmer qualifying for a Finals heat (C-, B- or A-Finals) in an individual event who then fails to compete in Finals shall be barred from further competition in the Meet, including Relays, except as noted below. (Such swimmers may compete in Time Trials associated with the Meet.)

b. In the event of withdrawal or barring of a swimmer from competition, the Referee shall fill the Finals heats, when possible, with the next qualified swimmer(s). When the Finals heats have not been contested, the heats shall be re-seeded (if appropriate) unless reseeding will result in unnecessary delays in the meet.

c. First and second alternates shall be announced with the Finals qualifiers. These alternates shall not be penalized if unavailable or if they choose not to compete in the Finals.

d. When the C- and/or B-Finals have already been contested, the remaining Finals heats shall be swum with empty lanes (as appropriate) and without reseeding for the empty lane(s).

Exceptions for Failure to Compete – no penalty shall be applied for failure to withdraw or compete in an individual event if:

- (1) a swimmer qualifying for a Finals heat notifies the Referee or Clerk of Course within thirty (30) minutes after announcement of the Finals qualifiers for that event that the swimmer (a) wishes to scratch, or (b) may intend to scratch and further confirms their intention to scratch within thirty (30) minutes after the announcement of the results of that swimmer's last event in the Preliminary session. Failure to confirm such intention will result in the swimmer being seeded into the Finals of the event.
- (2) the Referee is notified in the event of illness or injury and accepts the proof thereof.
- (3) it is determined by the Referee that failure to compete was caused by circumstances beyond the control of the swimmer.

Declared False Start

a. A swimmer may take a Declared False Start in an individual Preliminary or Timed Final event by reporting to the Referee prior to the start of the race. Such declaration shall be treated as a Disqualification.

b. At Finals, a Declared False Start or deliberate Delay of Meet False Start (or other action perceived to be an intentional non-compete) is not permitted and will be regarded as a failure to compete and subject to the penalties stated in the previous section.

### Non-compete on Final Night of Meet

a. A \$50 fine will be imposed on any MA swimmer in a MA-hosted or MA Championship Meet who qualifies for Finals in a Prelims/Finals event on the final night of the Meet (or on the last day that such swimmer is entered in the Meet) and then does not compete in such event, unless such swimmer has legitimately scratched from said event or is otherwise subject to the above 'Exceptions for Failure to Compete'. Swimmers originally announced as Alternates in an event are not subject to such fine.

b. A \$50 fine will be imposed on any MA swimmer in a MA-hosted or MA Championship Meet that has positively checked-in and been seeded into the final heat of a deck-seeded event scheduled to swim at a Finals session, and then does not compete in such event. This fine is only applicable to swimmers that would be seeded into the final heat were all eligible swimmers for that heat to have positively checked-in for the event (i.e., the fastest eight swimmers on the psych listing when eight swimmers are scheduled for the final heat.)

c. Any MA swimmer fined under sections a. or b. herein will be suspended from further competition in MA-hosted or MA Championship Meets until the fine is paid. All fines will be imposed via the swimmer's affiliated Club, unless such swimmer is Unattached. There will be no penalty on the Club other than the suspension of the swimmer.

### **RELAY SCRATCH RULE**

#### Pre-seeded Events

a. Any relay team entered in a pre-seeded relay event that fails to compete in or report for that event shall not be penalized.

#### Relays Seeded at the Meet, and Finals when Preliminaries have been swum

a. Any relay team entered in a relay event that is seeded at the Meet, in whole or in part, that has been checked in and the swimmers' names declared for that event, or has qualified for the Finals as a result of Preliminaries competition, must swim the event unless the Referee or Clerk of Course is notified before the seeding of that event that the relay team wishes to scratch.

b. A relay team member failing to appear ready to swim for such relay event shall be barred from that relay team member's next individual event in which they are entered. Relay team members who do appear ready to swim shall not be penalized.

c. Exceptions – relay teams or team members who give acceptable notification to the Referee of illness or injury, or that failure to compete was caused by circumstances beyond the control of the swimmer, shall not be penalized.

Adopted by MA House of Delegates - May 10, 2004.