

Private Pool Swim League Rules

May, 2013

PRIVATE POOL SWIM LEAGUE RULES

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PRIVATE POOL SWIM LEAGUE RULES

I. GENERAL RULES AND ORGANIZATION

A. Purpose and Organization

The Private Pool Swim League (PPSL) of Cincinnati is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of competitive swimming and diving, the encouragement of participation in team activities, and the teaching of good sportsmanship. The League exists for the benefit and enjoyment of swimmers and divers of all skill levels who are members of the Clubs affiliated with the League.

B. Club Membership

The League is composed of Member Clubs, not to exceed fifteen (15) in number. Any swim pool or club in Greater Cincinnati which sponsors a swim and dive team for its membership shall be eligible for membership in the PPSL if it meets all of the following requirements:

- a. Membership in the pool or club is restricted to a paid membership payable annually or by the season, guest memberships are not included; and
- b. The pool or club employs a summer coach or manager-coach; and
- c. The pool or club agrees to pay the appropriate dues and be governed by these PPSL Rules; and
- d. The pool or club submits a formal written petition to join; and
- e. The pool or club has not been terminated from the PPSL within the past one year; and
- f. The pool or club cannot have access to an indoor facility that has a competition pool and/or houses or is affiliated with a USS, YMCA, or other year-round competitive swim program.

The PPSL Board of Delegates shall review and discuss the candidate club's written petition before submitting it for a vote. If the candidate club's membership is approved by a majority vote of the PPSL Board of Delegates it shall become a "Member" effective upon payment of the upcoming season's dues.

C. Club Delegates

Each Member Club shall be represented on the Board of Delegates by a single delegate appointed by that Club. Only the appointed delegate or his/her designated proxy shall have the right to vote, such that every Club shall have one vote on the Board. Any member of the Member Club may attend regular meetings of the Board .

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D. League Dues

Dues shall be determined by the Board of Delegates on an annual basis and will be payable as determined by the Board. Member Clubs who are delinquent in the payment of their dues shall lose all rights and privileges, including any active voting rights, until such time as the dues have been remitted and accepted by the Board. If dues are not paid in full by the first official PPSL Meet, the Club shall not participate in the League Championship series.

E. Termination of Club Membership

The PPSL Board of Delegates may remove any Member Club from the League by a two-thirds vote of the Delegates for willful violation of the PPSL Rules governing competition and overall sportsmanship, for non-payment of dues, or for other infractions or reasons. However, the President of the PPSL Board of Delegates must send a letter to the Member Club and identify the violations. The Member Club must be given an opportunity to respond to the allegations in the letter and meet and review them with the Board of Delegates prior to the Board voting to terminate the Club's membership. A former Member Club may reapply in the future to become a Member of the PPSL.

F. Officers

The Board shall elect officers to organize and execute the affairs of the League. Officers may consist of a President, Past-President, Vice-President, Diving Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary. While the Board may elect fewer officers and the duties of these positions may be combined, no one person shall serve simultaneously as President and Treasurer.

Officers shall be elected at regular Board of Delegates meetings. Each Officer, unless removed by the Board, may hold office indefinitely and until his/her successor shall have been duly elected and qualified. Upon an affirmative vote of a majority of Delegates, any Officer may be removed from office either with or without cause and his/her successor elected at any regular meeting of the Board or at a special meeting called with notice for such purpose. Officers shall not have voting rights on the Board unless they also serve as the appointed Delegate of their Member Club, except that the President shall have the power to vote in the event of a tie on any issue.

- a. President: The President shall act as the Chief Executive of the League and shall generally supervise, direct and control the League's business affairs. The President shall prepare agendas and preside at all meetings of the Delegates and shall direct the activities of any appointed committees. The President shall appoint (or may serve as) the Meet Director for the A Swim Championship competitions and may structure those competitions by setting participation and admissions fees. The President may also assign Finals meet responsibilities to member clubs and contract for rents, goods and services on behalf of the League. The President shall have the authority to levy fines (not to exceed 50% of annual League dues) on member clubs for failure to fulfill Finals responsibilities or for major infractions of League rules. During recess of the Board, the President may interpret League rules and when necessary due to time constraints make temporary rulings on issues where League rules are silent.

- c. Vice President: The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in absence of the President. The Vice President shall perform such duties from time-to-time that may be assigned to him/her by the President or the Board.
- d. Diving Chair: The diving chairperson shall appoint (or may serve as) the Meet Director for the A Dive Championship competitions and may structure those competitions by setting participation and admissions fees. During recess of the Board, the Diving Chair may interpret League diving rules and when necessary due to time constraints make temporary rulings on diving issues where League rules are silent.
- d. Secretary: The Secretary shall keep minutes of the meetings of the Board, issue notices of all meetings of the Board, keep a complete record of all competition records of the League, and keep a register of the contact information of each Delegate.
- e. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall have custody of all funds of the League and shall keep full and accurate account of all receipts and disbursements. He/she shall maintain records and books belonging to the League and shall deposit all monies in the name of, and to the credit of, the League. He/she shall disburse the funds of the League as may be directed by the President after receipt of proper receipts for such disbursements. He/she shall purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any Officer or Delegate of the League against any liability arising from activities conducted in good faith on behalf of the League. He/she shall render to the Board annually an account of all of the League's transactions, the financial condition of the League, and shall perform all duties incident to such office and such other duties as may from time-to-time be required by the Delegates.
- f. Past President: The Past President shall provide advice and counsel to the President, and perform such duties from time-to-time that may be assigned to him/her by the President or the Board.

G. Board Meetings

Regular meetings of the Delegates and Officers shall be held on dates and at a place determined by the President. There shall be at least two regular meetings per year including an annual meeting in mid-winter to manage League business and an organizational meeting in spring to coordinate regular season and finals meets. Special meetings of the Delegates may also be called by the President or the Board of Delegates. Notice stating the date, place, and time of any meeting of the Delegates shall be made to the Delegates at least 7 days before the date of such meeting via e-mail, phone, or in person. For any votes to be binding, a quorum consisting of two-thirds of the voting Delegates is necessary at Board meetings. The Board may also vote on issues via e-mail between regular meetings. If e-mail voting is used, Delegates must be given at least 72 hours to respond, and the two-thirds quorum requirement applies.

H. League Divisional Structure

I.

The PPSL shall be divided into three divisions-Gold, Silver and Bronze-that are based on the "A" Championship combined swimming and diving final standings from the preceding season. The Gold division will include clubs that finished in the top third, the Silver division will include those clubs that finished in the middle third, and the Bronze division will include those clubs that finished in the bottom third of the League standings.

I. Non-League Meets

PPSL member clubs may schedule other meets and/or make-up meets in the League at their discretion, as long as those meets do not interfere with the League schedule.

J. Basis for Competition Technical Rules:

1. For swimming - All USA Swimming Rules are to be followed, unless modified by PPSL rules. Judges should give special consideration to younger and inexperienced swimmers (see Appendix 3).
2. According to USA Rules:
 - a. Smoking is not permitted on the pool deck.
 - b. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in any area accessible to swimmers.
3. Swimsuits worn for all PPSL competition shall not cover the neck, extend past the shoulder, nor past the knee.
4. For diving - See separate materials from PPSL Diving Chairman.

K. Athlete Eligibility

1. During the season, athletes may not compete in any age group other than their age as of June 1st. Once an athlete has attended college, he or she is ineligible to compete regardless of age. The competition Age Groups shall be: 8 & under, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14, **15-18**.
2. Participants shall be permitted to swim a maximum of two individual events and two relay events (this includes Exhibition) at each meet. Swim participants shall also be allowed to participate in diving.
3. To be eligible for Championship competition, athletes shall participate in at least two dual/tri meets over the course of the summer season. Each head coach is responsible for retaining a copy of the official results of each dual meet and must be able to prove eligibility requirements for the team's Championship entries. If a meet is canceled or postponed, athletes may receive participation credit for the meet if they were scheduled to participate and had been seeded into events prior to the cancellation. Athletes may receive participation for only one cancelled/postponed meet per season. If any club within the league does not field a diving team, then the visiting teams are permitted to hold an intra-squad meet at their facility on the day they were scheduled to compete. This intra-squad meet must be recorded in the same manner as a dual meet and the official results of this meet must be retained by the coach. If properly recorded, this meet will count as a dual meet in meeting championship eligibility requirements.
5. No one shall be permitted to participate in league events representing a PPSL Club unless he or she is a member in good standing of that club. Good standing means that the athlete's family has full annual membership rights and privileges in their club. Notwithstanding the above, children of the following full-time club staff members-Pool

Managers, Assistant Managers, and Head Swim Coaches-shall be permitted to participate in league events.

5. While they are coaching, assistant swim and dive coaches may compete for their home club, providing their family is a member in good standing and they have not attended college. Head coaches may not compete in league events.

L. Ethics Committee

Each season, the League President will appoint an Ethics Committee. The Ethics Committee is charged with enforcing league rules and imposing penalties, if necessary. It shall consist of the following:

- a. Chairperson (League President)
- b. One Coach
- c. One Official
- d. Two PPSL Club Delegates

- M. Definitions: Whenever shall is used in this text, it is mandatory. Within this document, PPSL always refers to the Private Pool Swim League; USS always refers to United States Swimming.

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II. CONDUCT OF REGULAR SEASON MEETS

A. Recommended Equipment for Dual/Tri Meets

1. Five sets of diving flashcards (two from visitors)
2. Regulation diving scoring sheets
3. Starter's gun and blanks or electronic starting system
4. Whistles
5. False start rope
6. Lane lines and floats
7. Public address system
8. 18 stopwatches (10 home club, 8 visiting club)
9. Bullhorn
10. DQ slips and score sheets (provided by home club)
11. Place Judge slips and Lane slips provided by each club
12. Scorer table
13. Awards (Ribbons): Competition 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place; Exhibition 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place only. The home club will provide Competition and Exhibition ribbons. Other ribbons-such as "Best Effort," "Super Swimmer," etc.-may be provided by any club for their own swimmers. Each team shall supply its own ribbon writers.
14. Starting platforms shall be anchored to the deck. No starting platforms shall be used if the pool depth is less than 4 feet of water.
15. Current USS Rule Book

B. Recommended Officials for Dual Meets

1. Meet Director
2. Diving Referee
3. Referee
4. Starter
5. Clerk of Course (each club provides their own)
6. Timers - two for each lane (one shall be from each club); the Head Timer should be from home club and equipped with two extra watches for back-up timing.
7. Judges
 - a. Four 'Certified' Stroke & Turn Judges (two from each club, see Appendix 3)
 - b. Two Place Judges and Two Recorders (one each from each club)
 - c. Five Diving Judges (3 from the home club, 2 from the visiting club; 1 Judge to be designated as Head Judge)
8. Announcer
9. Scorekeepers and Assistants (at least one scorekeeper and one assistant shall be from the visiting club)
10. Three Awards Clerks (at least one Awards Clerk shall be from the visiting club)
11. Two Runners (home club)

C. Recommended Officials for Tri-Meets

1. Meet Director
2. Diving Referee
3. Referee
4. Starter

- 3.
5. Clerk of Course (Each Club provides their own)
6. Timers - two for each lane, plus a head timer. (One per lane from the home club, each visiting team should provide half the remainder.) The two lane timers for each lane shall be from different clubs. The Head Timer should be from the home club and operate two extra watches.
7. Judges
 - a. Six 'Certified' Stroke & Turn judges (two from each club, see Appendix 3)
 - b. Two Place Judges (one from each visitor) and Two Recorders (one from each visitor)
 - c. Five Diving Judges (3 home, 1 each visitor club; One Judge designated as Head Judge)
8. Announcer
9. Scorekeepers: one scorekeeper shall be from each team.
10. Three or more Awards Clerks (at least one shall be from each team)
11. Two Runners, to be provided by the home club

D. Meet Details and Logistics

1. Warm up and start times:
 - a. The Home team has first warm-ups. Diving warm-ups start at 3:00 p.m. Visitors' diving warm-ups start at 3:30 for dual meets, and 3:20 and 3:40 for tri-meets.
 - b. Diving competitions begin at 4:00 p.m.
 - c. Swimming warm-ups start at 6:00 or immediately following the end of diving, if later. Visitors' swim warm ups start at 6:30 for dual meets, and 6:20 and 6:40 for tri-meets
 - d. The attached swim warm-up procedure is required for the safety of swimmers (see Appendix 1)
 - e. Swim competitions begin at 7:00 p.m.
2. Before the start of the meet, coaches should discuss the events and the number of exhibition heats. The home team coach is responsible for presenting the list of events (including exhibition heats) in writing to the Starter before the officials' meeting. Coaches shall make very effort to combine events when possible. Coaches must remember that each swimmer may swim only two individual events, regardless of whether those events are competition or exhibition.
3. The attached program of events shall be used for all dual & tri meets and 'B' Championship Meets except where the PPSL Representatives agree on specific changes in the program (see Appendix 2).
4. Lane assignments:
 - a. For competition heats in dual meets: in a 6-lane pool, the home team shall swim in lanes 1,3 & 5 and the visiting team shall swim in lanes 2, 4 & 6. In an 8-lane pool, the home team shall swim in lanes 1,3,5 & 7 and the visiting team shall swim in lanes 2, 4, 6 & 8.
 - b. For competition heats in tri-meets: in a 6-lane pool, the home team shall swim in lanes 1 & 4, the first visitor team (the team listed first on the schedule) shall swim in lanes 2 & 5, and the second visitor team shall swim in lanes 3 & 6. In an 8-lane pool, the home team shall swim in lanes 2 & 5, the first visiting team shall swim in lanes 3 & 6, the second visiting team shall swim in lanes 4 & 7, and lanes 1 & 8 shall be empty. For exhibition heats, the two largest teams, as arranged by the coaches, should use lanes 1 & 8.

5. In league dual meets, a club may enter as many as three relay teams. In league tri-meets, a club may enter up to two relay teams.
6. In league dual meets, a club may enter as many as three swimmers per individual competition event, but only two swimmers per team shall be entered in tri-meet competition heats.
7. For 25M events, all timers, place judges, and recorders shall move to the shallow end of the pool so all starts are at the platform (deep) end. All shallow end starts during relays shall be in-water starts.
8. Host clubs, with the consent of the Meet Referee and visiting team(s) PPSL Representative(s), may modify the time schedule or recommended lane assignments depending on pool configuration, number of swimmers, or other considerations. Any such changes shall be announced and/or posted prominently in the pool area.
9. The home team uses white lane slips and the visiting team uses blue lane slips for competition heats. All exhibition swimmers use green lane slips.
10. The home team is responsible for the recorded result of the meet, providing copies for each team.

E. Regular Meet Awards

1. In all individual events, ribbons for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.
1. In all relay events, ribbons for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.
2. Teams may "sweep" an event.

F. Regular Meet Scoring

Dual Meet		
Competition Heat		
Place	Ind.	Relay
155		
2	3	3
3	1	1
4	0	0
5	0	0
6	0	0

Tri-Meet		
Competition Heat		
Place	Ind.	Relay
1	6	6
2	4	4
3	3	3
4	2	2
5	1	1
6	0	0

1. If (one of) the visiting team(s) has eliminated diving from its program, the home team (and the other visiting team in a tri-meet) may hold a dive competition, places shall be awarded to the competitors and their points shall be included in the total team score(s).
2. If the host team will conduct a swim meet without diving and the visiting team has a dive team, the visiting team may hold an inter-squad meet (per I.K.3), record the scores, and take them to their away meet. The meet score shall include those points which would have been earned by the visiting team should the host club conducted a

dive meet.

3. If the host team will conduct a swim meet but not a diving meet and a tri-meet is scheduled, if both visiting clubs have dive teams, the two visiting clubs may hold a dive meet at a mutually agreed location and properly score that meet. Those points shall then be added to the swimming score to determine the meet score. If only one visiting club has a dive team, they may follow F.2 above to have their intra-squad meet points added to the meet total.

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III. LEAGUE "A" SWIM CHAMPIONSHIPS

A. General Information

1. Championship Workers. A list of workers for semis and finals is required from all clubs in order for their team to participate in the "A" Championships. Responsibilities will be assigned via the meet packet.
2. Program of Events. The attached program of events will be used for the "A" Championship Meet (see Appendix 2). The order of events will be established in the meet packet.

B. Eligibility & Entries

1. Entries for finals are to be submitted to the Entry Chairperson on the date specified in the meet packet. Once the entry deadline has passed, changes will not be accepted.
2. There will be no substitution of swimmers at finals once entries have been turned into the Entry Chair.
3. A swimmer may swim in either the "A" Swim Championship or the "B" Swim Championship, but shall not swim in both. Similarly, a diver may compete in either the "A" Diving or "B" Diving Championship, but shall not dive in both.
4. An athlete may participate in both Swim and Dive Championships.
5. Only two swimmers per team, per individual event, shall be entered in the "A" Championship meet.

C. Relays

1. Only one relay entry per team, per event, shall be permitted in "A" Championship meets.
1. In "A" Championships, relays will not be timed finals, but will qualify relay teams swimming in the preliminaries for the finals the next day. The top eight (8) qualifying relay teams in each event will swim in the finals. Places 9-15 will be awarded as a result of times in the qualifying heats.
3. Relay team entries for the "A" Championship preliminaries may include the names of four alternate swimmers. When completing relay cards at the "A" preliminaries, the head coach shall reduce the number of swimmers to the four designated to swim the preliminary event plus one alternate.
4. Relay teams qualifying for the finals shall swim the same four persons who competed in the preliminary heat unless:
 - i. One of the four relay swimmers who qualified for finals suffers an illness or injury which prevents that swimmer from swimming the event at finals; and
 11. Prior to the race in question, the head coach of the affected relay contacts the Meet Referee and receives authorization to substitute his one alternate.
5. If a swimmer is absent from a relay at "A" finals, that swimmer is ineligible for further competition.
6. Dual confirmation of early take-offs is required for disqualification of relay teams at PPSL "A" Championships.

4.

D. Scoring of Results

, A' Final Meet				A ' F i n a l M e e t				
Championship Heat				C o n s o l a t i o n H e a t				
	Place	Ind.	Relay	Place	Ind.	Relay		
	1	20	40	9	9	18		
	2	17	34	10	7	14		
	3	16	32	11	6	12		
	4	15	30	12	5	10		
	5	14	28	13	4	8		
	6	13	26	14	3	6		
	7	12	24	15	2	4		
	8	11	22	16	1	2		

E. Awards

1. Swimming: Permanent plaques for 1st place in each of the three divisions-Gold, Silver, and Bronze.
2. Diving: Permanent plaques for 1st place in each of the three divisions-Gold, Silver, and

Bronze.

3. Permanent plaques for Most Improved Swimming, Most Improved Diving, and Most Team Spirit will be awarded.
4. In all diving and swimming events, individual Gold, Silver and Bronze medals will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places.
5. In all events, championship ribbons will be awarded for 4th through 16th place.

IV. LEAGUE RECORDS

1. Each team will be provided with an official list of League records listed in the "A" championship results.
1. New league swim records shall not be accepted unless there are three watch times obtained while breaking the current record, or official times are recorded using electronic timing at the Championships. At dual/tri meets, coaches should be sure that the referee and starter are aware of potential record-breakers, and the starter should confirm that there are three watches to time the swimmer. The lane slip containing the three watch times shall be signed by the three timers, the Meet Referee, and the Meet Director prior to submission to the League.
2. Whenever a swimmer establishes a new League record, it is the responsibility of the coach to make application for the record. Application must list name of swimmer(s), date, event and the signed lane slip showing the times of the three watches. This application must be submitted to the League President.

APPENDIX 3: PPSL SWIM OFFICIATING

A. INSTRUCTIONS FOR PPSL SWIM OFFICIALS

1. These instructions should be used for all PPSL regular season and finals meets. If home and visiting teams agree to be lenient with enforcement of the rules, be assured that at "A" Finals we will not be lenient. PPSL uses current USS rules; except as noted below. Officials shall be USS certified, YMCA certified, or have attended the PPSL Officials' Clinic for that season.
2. Make sure you are in an appropriate position when you make a call. If you are not, do not make the call. Be confident of your call. Officials shall make calls only in jurisdictions assigned to them.
3. If you are not sure there has been a violation, give the swimmer the benefit of the doubt.
4. When stroke judging; only walk the side of the pool as far as the stroke judge on the opposite side of the pool can walk to ensure equity to all swimmers.
5. If you have a DQ, raise your hand immediately; keep it in the air for several seconds, then fill out a DQ slip.
6. In freestyle events, stroke and turn judges need to watch for touches at turns, pushing/walking on the bottom, and pulling on lane lines.
7. If a swimmer is DQ-d, make every effort to tell the swimmer or their coach. If you have agreed to be lenient in a dual meet, you should still inform coaches of violations.
8. If a coach approaches you to challenge your call, tell them to please discuss the call with the Meet Referee. This means that at dual meets you should establish a head official/Referee.
9. These points are not meant to take the place of good judgment. We must remember that we are conducting these meets for our children and the development of good sportsmanship. Enjoy yourself and create an environment that is enjoyable for participants and spectators.

B. OFFICIALS' GUIDE TO PPSL EXCEPTIONS TO USS TECHNICAL RULES

1. Starts
 - a. Traditional voice command starts shall be used
 - b. At "A" Finals, no-recall starting shall be used. At dual/tri-meets, recalling of heats is at the Referee's discretion.
2. In the butterfly events, after the first stroke at the start and each turn, any forward motion of the arms must be above the surface of the water. In the 25M butterfly events (8&U and 9-10 age groups), the swimmer shall make an attempt to clear their arms over the surface of the water.
3. During the turn in backstroke events, after rotating from back to breast, once the swimmer's hand has completed their stroke (one single or one simultaneous double arm pull), the swimmer may not take any additional arm strokes; however, kicking and/or gliding into the wall is permitted (a continuous turning action is not required).
4. For relay takeoffs, dual confirmation is required at "A" Championships. At dual/tri-meets, the Referee shall determine how to judge relay takeoffs.
5. At "A" Swim Championships, the composition of a relay team may not be changed between preliminaries and finals, unless approved in advance by the Meet Referee.

WEATHER!

1. In cases of inclement weather, it is the responsibility of the PPSL Representative and the Pool Manager to decide if the swim meet takes place. *The coaches do not make the decision.*

2. Every avenue shall be investigated before cancellation. The Weather Channel should be watched. The host club Manager should be involved in the decision. It is a very good idea to involve the local police agency. Remember, if you decide to go ahead with the meet and there is a weather related accident, you can be held responsible.

3. The meets can be rescheduled at the convenience of both clubs. Rescheduling is not mandatory.

4. Remember, there is a 30-minute wait after seeing lightning or hearing thunder. Every time there is lightning or thunder, the 30-minute count starts over.