

GREATER CHARLOTTE SWIM LEAGUE BYLAWS

2010 Season

Revised October, 2009

The purpose of the Greater Charlotte Swim League is to provide an opportunity for all eligible children of club members to participate in competitive swimming in a friendly, nurturing, recreational environment. To this end, it is the responsibility of each Team Representative to set the example and enforce the highest standards of good sportsmanship and hospitality for the clubs. In support of the GCSL guiding principal “**let the kids swim**”, each Team Representative is expected to know and understand the current GCSL bylaws and rules, and to ensure these bylaws and rules are communicated and understood by the coaches, parents and swimmers on their team. In addition, Team Representatives will exercise a positive flexibility and cooperative spirit in resolving inadvertent administrative mistakes and issues which may arise during the season. The success of these efforts will be the expansion of friendship and goodwill within the entire Greater Charlotte Swim League community, as well as some fun swim time for the kids.

I. LEAGUE STRUCTURE

A. Teams and Divisions

The league will be limited to a maximum of forty-nine teams, subdivided into seven divisions. Each division will have a minimum of five teams and maximum of eight teams. Teams will be assigned to a division based on their competitiveness and size,, with the more competitive teams assigned to the lower divisions (i.e. Division I = most competitive division/teams).

With concern for the traveling time to away swim meets, admittance into the league of teams outside of the general geographic area of the current teams will be considered on a case by case basis by the league board.

B. Division and Team Adjustments

Team assignment to divisions will be adjusted after the conclusion of the prior season and prior to the start of the current season. Reassignments for the current season will be based on the previous season’s dual meet results as follows: the first place teams of each division will move to the next higher division (Division I excluded); the last place team in each division will move to the next lower division (Division VII excluded). In the event of a tie in dual meet results from the previous season, the previous season “head-to-head” meet between the two teams will be used as the tie-breaker. Total dual meet points for the previous season may be considered. The GCSL Executive Board reserves the right to move teams as it deems necessary for administrative reasons or to keep the divisions competitive.

II. LEAGUE ADMINISTRATION

A. Executive Board (Officers) and Board

The GCSL Executive Board shall consist of the following Officer Positions: President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Past-President, and all shall serve for one-season terms in these positions. Terms shall commence at the end of the season (after the completion of the final Division All-Star Meet) and terminate at the end of the next season. All member-teams in the GCSL shall provide representatives to serve on the GCSL Executive Board on a rotating basis. The assignments to the GCSL Executive Board for the upcoming seasons are as follows:

OFFICER	2007	2008	2009	2010
<i>President</i>	Somerset	Olde Providence	Hunter Oaks	Firethorne
<i>President-Elect</i>	Olde Providence	Hunter Oaks	Firethorne	Hembstead
<i>Secretary</i>	Charlotte Christian	Beverly Crest	Sardis Swim	Raeburn
<i>Treasurer</i>	Weddington Swim	Foxcroft East	Foxcroft East	Candlewyck
<i>Past-President</i>	Raintree	Somerset	Olde Providence	Hunter Oaks

The GCSL Executive Board shall meet as frequently as deemed necessary by the officers to conduct league business. The GCSL Executive Board shall be responsible for planning, organizing and executing all GCSL activities each season within the guidelines of the GCSL Bylaws using the officers' collective best judgment. Some of the GCSL Executive Board's duties will include: assignment of teams and divisions, scheduling dual meets, scheduling and organizing the Division All-Star meets, collection of and accounting for annual membership fees, evaluating new teams for membership, procurement and distribution of needed supplies, disbursement of GCSL funds for expenses incurred, evaluating and amending the GCSL Bylaws as needed, and scheduling, organizing and leading the annual Team Representative Meetings.

- **The GCSL Board shall be made up of the GCSL Executive Board as defined above, plus one Team Representative from each division to be called the Division Representative. The Division Representative will be agreed upon by the teams in the respective division, or appointed by the Executive Board if necessary, and will be responsible for representing their division on the GCSL Board when needed, especially with regard to evaluating decisions which the GCSL Executive Board shall make concerning rules, policies, procedures and activities of the GCSL. The Division Representatives shall also be responsible for assisting with league activities including but not limited to the following: acting as liaison between the Executive Board and the Team Representatives for a designated division, attending GCSL Board Meetings, arranging and maintaining contact with Team Representatives within the division, sending additional reminder notices and gathering RSVP for Spring and Fall GCSL League Meetings, collecting additional team contact information for additional meet administrative duties (names, emails, phone numbers, etc., which will serve to improve meet administration with regard to meet entries, volunteers, special need issues and so on), collecting and offering feedback on problems or concerns to be presented at GCSL Board Meetings, helping to distribute ribbons prior to season's start, collecting remaining ribbons at season's end, and helping with or providing a contact for software questions or problems.**

B. Team Representatives

Each member-team in the GCSL will assign a ***Team Representative*** as their liaison with the league. The league representative is defined as a parent volunteer - not a coach or paid employee of the swim team. Each Team Representative shall be ultimately responsible for their team's compliance with the GCSL bylaws, rules and procedures in a timely and cooperative fashion throughout the season. The Team Representative is expected to know and understand the current GCSL bylaws and rules, and to ensure these bylaws and rules are communicated and understood and abided by the coaches, swimmers, workers and parents on their team. In addition, Team Representatives will exercise a positive flexibility and cooperative spirit in resolving inadvertent administrative mistakes and issues which may arise during the season. Mutual agreement between Team Representatives in a positive manner will be the primary and preferred method for resolving issues and/or disagreements which may arise during the course of the season. To this end, each Team Representative must be present at all meets. Team Representatives are responsible for making sure the meets run smoothly, and shall be available to resolve disputes. To this end it is recommended that Team Representatives not have specific assignments during meets that might limit their availability.

One of the primary duties of the Team Representative will be to communicate, and to receive communications and disburse them, so assigned Team Representatives must have regular access to e-mail since e-mail will be the primary method of communication for the GCSL.

Some of the Team Representative's duties will include: representation of their club and club members to the GCSL Executive Board (including suggestions for changes and improvements), attendance at the GCSL Team Representative Meetings, communication to the league as required (i.e. team rosters, insurance certificates, dual meet results, etc.), disbursement of league communications to coaches, workers, swimmers and parents, dual meet preparations in a timely fashion including paperwork and volunteer worker assignments, Division All-Star Meet preparations in a timely fashion including paperwork and volunteer worker assignments.

C. League Meetings

Normally there will be three GCSL Team Representative Meetings each season. The Fall GCSL Team Representative Meeting shall be held to finalize team/division assignments, meet schedules and rule changes for the current (upcoming) season. A Spring GCSL Team Representative Meeting shall be held to distribute ribbons, forms, supplies, etc., for the current season. A second Spring GCSL Team Representative Meeting will be held to provide a stroke clinic for Stroke & Turn Judges as well as Team Representatives. Additional meetings may be scheduled as needed.

D. Dues

Dues for each season are **\$525.00** per club. This is subject to change. The league dues are used for the dual meet ribbons and league meet expenses such as the rent for the All-Star Meet facility, trophies, ribbons, forms and any miscellaneous expenses deemed by the GCSL Executive Board to be necessary. Annual dues are payable by January 31. They are non-refundable to a club leaving the league. If any club desires to leave or join the Greater Charlotte Swim League, they must do so, in writing to the League President, by January 15. If the league is dissolved by mutual consent, all clubs will divide treasury monies equally.

E. Insurance

Each club is responsible for providing the GCSL Secretary a current Certificate of Liability Insurance prior to the first meet. The Certificate must name the All-Star Meet Facility as a Certificate Holder, and must continue in effect through the date of the last Division All-Star Meet. Any club not providing this information will not be able to participate in the Division all-star Meet. **NOTE: Each rep must check with the insurance agent to make certain that sporting events are included in their liability coverage!**

III. GENERAL

A. Alcohol

No alcoholic beverages shall be present in any of the swimming meet venues during the swimming meets. It shall be the responsibility of the Home Team Representative to ensure compliance by his/her members, within the parameters of the Home Club's Bylaws and Rules. It shall be the responsibility of the Visiting Team Representative to ensure compliance by his/her members.

IV. SWIMMER ELIGIBILITY AND AGE GROUPS

A. Age

To be eligible for the current season, swimmers must be 18 years or younger on the May 31 that falls during, or immediately prior to the start of, the current season.

An exception shall be permitted for a swimmer who is 19 years old on the May 31 that falls during, or immediately prior to the start of the current season, if the swimmer is a high school student.

B. Club Membership

Swimmers must be in good standing with their member clubs. This includes full paying annual membership families or in some cases, full paying summer membership families. It is the decision of the club to allow out-of-town swimmers staying with a family in that club to be a member of the team. There will be no guards or coaches swimming on the team who have received a free membership as part of his/her employment. No bonus shall be given to any swimmer or family to offset the cost of dues. Memberships under any circumstances other than those described above must be reviewed by the GCSL Executive Board prior to the start of the season (first meet) to confirm swimmer eligibility.

Swimmers may not swim for more than one club in the Greater Charlotte Swim League in a given season.

Combining of teams is not allowed unless express approval is granted by the GCSL Board. This will be ruled on a case by case basis.

C. Age Groups

The age level of each swimmer for the current season shall be determined by the swimmer's age on or before the May 31 that falls either during, or immediately prior to the start of, the current season. Each swimmer shall swim in his/her age level for the entire season. However, a swimmer may elect to swim in the next higher age group for the entire season. This choice must be made before the start of the season (first meet), must be indicated on the roster, and once made, may not be reversed at a later date.

Eligible 6 & Under swimmers may swim in 8 & Under events other than the 8 & Under 25M Freestyle without aging up for the season.

For GCSL competition events, age groups are defined as follows:

<i>AGE GROUP</i>	<i>DEFINITION</i>
6 & Under	Eligible swimmers who are six years old, or any age less than six years old, on the May 31 that falls during, or immediately prior to the start of, the current season.
8 & Under	Eligible swimmers who are eight years old, or any age less than eight years old, on the May 31 that falls during, or immediately prior to the start of, the current season.
10 & Under	Eligible swimmers who are ten years old, or any age less than ten years old, on the May 31 that falls during, or immediately prior to the start of, the current season.
9-10	Eligible swimmers who are nine years old or ten years old on the May 31 that falls during, or immediately prior to the start of, the current season.
11-12	Eligible swimmers who are eleven years old or twelve years old on the May 31 that falls during, or immediately prior to the start of, the current season.
13-14	Eligible swimmers who are thirteen years old or fourteen years old on the May 31 that falls during, or immediately prior to the start of, the current season.
15-18	Eligible swimmers who are fifteen years old, sixteen years old, seventeen years old, or eighteen years old on the May 31 that falls during, or immediately prior to the start of, the current season, or eligible swimmers who are more than eighteen years old and are either high school students, or high school graduates who have graduated from high school either during, or immediately prior to the start of the current season.

It is the responsibility of each team to understand the Event List and Event Names (Section V-A), and these Age Group Definitions to ensure swimmers are entered in events appropriately.

D. Team Rosters

Each team must submit a complete team roster listing all swimmers, with birth dates and age group for each swimmer, to the GCSL President by June 1st or prior to the first meet (which ever occurs first) in the required format using Hy-tek Software. Any changes to the team roster must be e-mailed to the GCSL President. Additions to the team roster must be e-mailed to the GCSL President prior to the participation of the added swimmer in any meets.

E. All-Star Meet Eligibility

For a swimmer to be eligible to swim in the Division All-Star Meet at the end of the current season (Section VIII), that swimmer must have competed in at least *two (2)* dual meets during the current season. There are no events for 6 & Under swimmers in the All-Star meet, however, 6 & Under swimmers shall be eligible to swim 8 & Under events in the All-Star Meet, including the 8 & Under 25M Freestyle event without aging up for the entire season.

F. Event Eligibility

For a given swim meet (including a dual meet or an All-Star meet), each eligible swimmer may enter a maximum of three individual events in his/her age group and a maximum of two relays in his/her age group. Listing a swimmer as an alternate in an event shall count as an entry in the event for the swimmer.

Entries of swimmers in meets must also comply with the rules for “Swimmer Entries” (Section VII-F and VIII-F).

V. COMPETITION EVENTS

A. Events (Event Names) and Order of Events

A) 6 & Under Girls 25M Freestyle						
B) 6 & Under Boys 25M Freestyle						
1) 8 & Under Girls 100M Medley Relay	11) 8 & Under Girls 25M Freestyle	21) 8 & Under Girls 25M Backstroke		39) 8 & Under Girls 25M Breaststroke	49) 8 & Under Girls 25M Butterfly	59) 8 & Under Girls 100M Freestyle Relay
2) 8 & Under Boys 100M Medley Relay	12) 8 & Under Boys 25M Freestyle	22) 8 & Under Boys 25M Backstroke		40) 8 & Under Boys 25M Breaststroke	50) 8 & Under Boys 25M Butterfly	60) 8 & Under Boys 100M Freestyle Relay
3) 9-10 Girls 100M Medley Relay	13) 9-10 Girls 25M Freestyle	23) 9-10 Girls 25M Backstroke	31) 10 & U Girls 100M Individual Medley	41) 9-10 Girls 25M Breaststroke	51) 9-10 Girls 25M Butterfly	61) 9-10 Girls 100M Freestyle Relay
4) 9-10 Boys 100M Medley Relay	14) 9-10 Boys 25M Freestyle	24) 9-10 Boys 25M Backstroke	32) 10 & U Boys 100M Individual Medley	42) 9-10 Boys 25M Breaststroke	52) 9-10 Boys 25M Butterfly	62) 9-10 Boys 100M Freestyle Relay
5) 11-12 Girls 200M Medley Relay	15) 11-12 Girls 50M Freestyle	25) 11-12 Girls 50M Backstroke	33) 11-12 Girls 100M Individual Medley	43) 11-12 Girls 50M Breaststroke	53) 11-12 Girls 50M Butterfly	63) 11-12 Girls 200M Freestyle Relay
6) 11-12 Boys 200M Medley Relay	16) 11-12 Boys 50M Freestyle	26) 11-12 Boys 50M Backstroke	34) 11-12 Boys 100M Individual Medley	44) 11-12 Boys 50M Breaststroke	54) 11-12 Boys 50M Butterfly	64) 11-12 Boys 200M Freestyle Relay
7) 13-14 Girls 200M Medley Relay	17) 13-14 Girls 50M Freestyle	27) 13-14 Girls 50M Backstroke	35) 13-14 Girls 100M Individual Medley	45) 13-14 Girls 50M Breaststroke	55) 13-14 Girls 50M Butterfly	65) 13-14 Girls 200M Freestyle Relay
8) 13-14 Boys 200M Medley Relay	18) 13-14 Boys 50M Freestyle	28) 13-14 Boys 50M Backstroke	36) 13-14 Boys 100M Individual Medley	46) 13-14 Boys 50M Breaststroke	56) 13-14 Boys 50M Butterfly	66) 13-14 Boys 200M Freestyle Relay
9) 15-18 Womens 200M Medley Relay	19) 15-18 Womens 50M Freestyle	29) 15-18 Womens 50M Backstroke	37) 15-18 Womens 100M Individual Medley	47) 15-18 Womens 50M Breaststroke	57) 15-18 Womens 50M Butterfly	67) 15-18 Womens 200M Freestyle Relay
10) 15-18 Mens 200M Medley Relay	20) 15-18 Mens 50M Freestyle	30) 15-18 Mens 50M Backstroke	38) 15-18 Mens 100M Individual Medley	48) 15-18 Mens 50M Breaststroke	58) 15-18 Mens 50M Butterfly	68) 15-18 Mens 200M Freestyle Relay

The following pools are measured in yards, and the event distances stated in meters above shall be swum in yards during all meets held at these pools: Providence Plantation, Ballantyne, Rama, Siskey YMCA, and Fairmeadows.

VI. RULES OF COMPETITION

A. Governing Rules

The Greater Charlotte Swim League generally uses *U.S. Swimming Rules* as guidelines to govern starts, strokes, kicks, turns and finishes, unless otherwise defined.

B. Meet Officials

Directives to, judgments of and disqualifications of swimmers relating to starts, strokes, kicks, turns and finishes are the responsibility of the Meet Starter and the Meet Stroke & Turn Judges.

C. Starter

The Starter shall be responsible for governing the start of all races in the meet. See also section VI-E for specific and additional definitions of Starter responsibilities.

D. Stroke & Turn Judge(s)

Stroke & Turn Judges shall work in pairs (one Stroke & Turn Judge from each team, per pair) and shall disqualify swimmers when they see infractions to the rules relating to relay take-offs, strokes, kicks, turns and finishes. During dual meets one pair of Stroke & Turn Judges shall be stationed at each end of the pool, in a location with visibility of the pool and swimmers mutually agreed to by the pair, and they shall be responsible for relay take-offs, strokes, kicks, turns and finishes across the pool as far down the pool as they can see. Both Stroke & Turn Judges in the pair must see an infraction and must agree on the infraction. If both Stroke & Turn Judges in the pair do not see the infraction, or do not agree on the infraction, then there is no disqualification. During All-Star Meets there shall be four pairs of Stroke & Turn Judges, with one pair stationed at each corner, and they shall be responsible for relay take-offs, strokes, kicks, turns and finishes as far across and down the pool as they can see. See also section VI-E for specific and additional definitions of Stroke & Turn Judge Responsibilities.

Stroke & Turn Judges must complete a GCSL DQ Slip for any swimmer disqualification relating to relay take-off starts, strokes, kicks, turns and finishes. The DQ Slip must be signed by the Stroke & Turn Judges and must be legible in order to be valid. Stroke & Turn Judges may not inform swimmers directly of DQ.

Any questionable swimmer disqualifications should be appealed to, and resolved by the Team Representatives. If agreement cannot be reached, the disqualification will stand as written.

E. Greater Charlotte Swim League Specific Rules of Competition

The following are rules which shall apply in GCSL competition, which may override or may be in addition to *U.S. Swimming Rules*:

RULE	DEFINITION	OFFICIAL (ACTION)
False Starts (Race Start)	No movement. Each Individual swimmer will be allowed one false start, but will be disqualified for a second false start in the same event.	Starter (Warn for first - DQ for second)
False Starts (Relay Take-Offs)	Feet/toes remain in contact with starting block until finishing swimmer touches wall.	Stroke & Turn Judges (DQ)
Backstroke Race Starts and Turns	Following U. S. Swimming Rules	Starter, Stroke & Turn Judges (DQ)
Butterfly Race Starts and Turns	After the race start or a turn, swimmer may kick under water before surfacing, so long as the swimmer surfaces prior to reaching the approximate midpoint of the pool.	Stroke & Turn Judges (DQ)
“Shrimp” Assistance	No one other than the swimmers in a heat shall be in the water with the swimmers during the race. An exception will be made for the 6 & Under Freestyle event during the first and second dual meets. Prior to the first meet, each division will determine whether assistance in the 6 & under division may be continued after the second meet. NO CHILD USING ANY ASSISTANCE WILL RECEIVE PLACE RIBBONS.	Starter (Compliance prior to race start)/ Stroke & Turn Judges (DQ violations after race start)
Swim Caps/ Swim Suits	No caps or suits visibly representing year-round or school swimming programs shall be worn while competing in GCSL meets. Caps should be plain or GCSL team.	Starter (Compliance prior to race start)

F. 8 & Under Exception

8 & Under swimmers will only be disqualified for stroke infractions during dual meets if those infractions are **BLATANT**. **BLATANT** is defined as an obvious infraction in which a swimmer gains an advantage. However, it is the responsibility of the coaches to observe their swimmers’ strokes, and to correct and teach their swimmers to swim the strokes correctly. Normally swimmers will be held to a higher standard in the All Star Meet.

G. Special Exceptions

It is the coach’s responsibility to notify the opposing Team Representative prior to the meet of any swimmer who may be swimming with a disability that would otherwise cause that swimmer to be disqualified in an event.

VII. DUAL MEETS

A. Schedule

Each team will swim every other team in their division. Every effort will be made to schedule the same number of dual meets for all teams in the GCSL regardless of division. Every effort will be made to schedule the same number of home meets for each team in the GCSL, and to schedule alternate home and away meets between teams from one season to the next. The GCSL Executive Board reserves the right to make exceptions to the preceding when scheduling as it deems necessary for administrative reasons. See attached "GCSL Meet Schedule" for current season schedule.

B. Start Times

Evening meets shall start promptly at 6:00 p.m. with every reasonable effort being made to complete all meets within three (3) hours. Morning meets shall start promptly at 8:30 a.m. with every reasonable effort being made to complete all meets within three (3) hours. Warm-ups will begin one-half hour prior to the scheduled meet time. Each team will get a fifteen (15) minute warm-up with the home team warming up first. The GCSL Executive Board may approve a different start time for an individual meet if the facility requests such a change, and it is acceptable to both team's representatives.

C. Facilities

Club pools for dual meets shall have six lanes for competition. The Home Team entries shall be in the odd number lanes, the Away Team entries shall be in the even number lanes. In certain cases an exception will be made in five-lane pools. When swimming in a five-lane pool, heat sheets are to be prepared with only five swimmers in each heat. In this situation, Home Team entries shall be in the three odd number lanes and Away Team entries shall be in the two even number lanes. There may be two heats of the Individual Medley events in five-lane pools (Section VII-F).

All starts shall be at the deep end of the pool. Any pool that does not have a minimum water depth of 3.5 feet at each end of the pool must utilize in-pool starts and/or open turns at the end(s) of the pool where the water depth is less than 3.5 feet. It will be the decision of each individual host team whether or not to use starting blocks.

Pools shall have backstroke flags which must be fifteen (15) feet from each end of the pool.

Pool equipment such as lifeguard stands, diving areas and separate pools will be off limits to all swimmers during meets for safety purposes.

The home team shall designate areas for each team and for spectators. Coaches, swimmers and spectators shall not interfere with the meet officials and meet workers, nor the running of the meet.

D. Meet Materials

It is the ultimate responsibility of each Team Representative to ensure that all materials required for the meet are provided in a timely fashion. See separate “GCSL Dual Meet Organization” document for guidelines.

E. Meet Documentation

It is the ultimate responsibility of each Team Representative to ensure that all meet documents are completed correctly in a timely fashion as communicated here and requested by the GCSL. Original heat sheets shall be prepared and delivered electronically to the home team's designated computer operator by the visiting team no later than 24 hours prior to the start of the meet. The home team will then add their swimmers to the entries and will provide four copies of the heat sheets to the visiting team. See separate “GCSL Dual Meet Organization” document for guidelines.

Any changes to the entries should be made prior to the start of the meet. Changes made after the starting time of the meet should be limited and approved by both team representatives. The Clerk of Course may make changes to the heat sheets so swimmers do not have to swim alone, or may combine heats so the meet runs faster.

The home team shall retain all meet documents for dual meets for a period of thirty days after the completion of the Division All-Star Meet, and shall make requested documents available to the opposing team or the GCSL in a timely fashion. **DUAL MEET RESULT SHEETS FOR THE ENTIRE SEASON SHOULD BE SUBMITTED, IN TOTAL, TO SPECIFIED GCSL BOARD MEMBER PRIOR TO THE FIRST ALL-STAR MEET.**

F. Swimmer Entries

Teams are not limited in the number of eligible swimmers they may enter in each individual event, except the Individual Medley events, which are limited to one heat per event (five-lane pools may swim two heats of the Individual Medley events). No exhibition swimmers shall be allowed to swim in individual events. There will be no aging up of swimmers in individual events, unless the swimmer has been “permanently” aged up for the entire season.

Teams may enter only one relay team (“A” team) in each relay event. Upon agreement between Team Representatives, exhibition relays (“B” and/or “C” relays) may be entered in relay events. *Swimming exhibition relays is encouraged even though they do not score points.*

Two eligible Alternate Swimmers are allowed for each relay event, however, the eligible Alternate Swimmers must be listed as such on the heat sheets to be eligible to swim in the relay event. Listing a swimmer as an alternate for a relay counts as an entry (as defined in Section IV-F) for that swimmer.

If a team does not have four eligible swimmers in the designated age group to make a relay, that team may age up one or two younger, eligible swimmer(s) to make a relay under the following conditions:

- At least two of the relay swimmers are eligible swimmers in the designated age group.
- There are no other eligible swimmers in the designated age group (other than those entered in the relay) available to swim during the entirety of the meet.
- The eligible swimmer(s) who age up for a relay event are from the next lower age group.

Aging up a swimmer in these conditions to swim a relay shall not count as an entry (as defined in Section IV-F) for the aged up swimmer.

Swimmer entries must also comply with the rules for swimmer eligibility in Section IV.

G. Meet Officials and Workers

It is the ultimate responsibility of each Team Representative to ensure that all volunteers for Meet Officials and Meet Workers required from his or her team are scheduled, assigned and present for the meet. All Meet Officials and Workers should meet ten minutes prior to the starting time of the meet. See separate "GCSL Dual Meet Organization" document for guidelines.

H. Scoring

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS: First Place – 5 points, Second Place – 3 points, *Third Place – 2 points, Fourth Place – 1 point.*

RELAY EVENTS: First Place – 10 points, Second Place – 6 points

No points will be scored for the 6 & Under Freestyle Events.

If there is a tie for first place in an individual event, both swimmers receive four (4) points and there will be no 2nd place. If there is a tie for second place, both swimmers receive two and one-half (2.5) points and there will be no third place. If there is a tie for third place, both swimmers receive one and one-half (1.5) points. If there is a tie for fourth place, both swimmers will receive one-half (.5) point. (Total points for each individual event cannot exceed eleven (11) points). If there is a tie for first place in a relay event, both teams receive eight (8) points and there will be no 2nd place. (Total points for each relay event cannot exceed sixteen (16) points). In individual events, a swimmer may place from any heat. In timing all events, record times to the 100th's - do not round off (i.e. 18.68).

I. Awards

DUAL MEET RIBBONS: Ribbons shall be awarded in all individual events, including 6 & Under Freestyle, to the First Place through Fourth Place finishers. Ribbons shall be awarded in all relay events to the First Place finishers and the Second Place finishers. Additional ribbons shall be awarded as follows:

- Heat ribbons shall be awarded to all heat winners in 6 & Under individual events, 8 & Under individual events, and 9-10 individual events.
- Participation ribbons shall be awarded to all 6 & Under Freestyle swimmers upon completion of their race.

DUAL MEET CHAMPIONS: A Dual Meet Champion trophy for each division shall rotate to the Dual Meet Champion of each division at the end of each season based on each team's dual meet record. In the event of a tie in dual meet results, the season "head-to-head" meet between the two teams will be used as the tie-breaker. As a last resort, total dual meet points for the previous season may be considered. The Dual Meet Champion trophy shall be presented to the current season Dual Meet Champion at the conclusion the Division All-Star Meet, and shall remain with the Dual Meet Champion until the following season Division All-Star Meet. To this end, previous season Dual Meet Champions shall bring the rotating trophy to the Division All-Star Meet so it may be presented to the current season Dual Meet Champion.

A plaque will be awarded to the First Place Dual Meet finisher in each division. This plaque is a permanent award specific to the current season and will stay with the awarded team.

J. Postponed Meets

All teams shall report for scheduled meets regardless of the weather. Normally, only thunder will cause the delay or postponement of a meet (rain alone is not sufficient cause to delay or postpone a meet), unless conditions are deemed unsafe. A meet delayed prior to the start due to weather shall be delayed for a *minimum of 30 minutes and a maximum of 45 minutes* prior to being called. The team representatives, with the assistance of the coaches, shall determine when the meet is to be rescheduled. Dual meets must be completed prior to the All-Star Meet. If a mutual date to make up the meet cannot be agreed to, the League President shall be called to make the decision. When a meet is postponed prior to the start, new heat sheets may be prepared for the rescheduled meet. It is the responsibility of the home team league representative to give all original heat sheets to the visiting team representative in the preparation of new heat sheets for the postponed meet.

If a meet has already begun and is interrupted by weather conditions, a maximum 30 minute delay is allowed before the meet is called. The team representatives, with the assistance of the coaches, shall determine if the meet is to be postponed to a later date, or called complete at the point of delay. If all events/heats through the IM have been completed prior to the delay, the meet shall be considered complete and it will not be scheduled for later completion. In this situation, the team with the most points at the time of delay shall be the winning team. Also, if either team elects to concede a meet in the case of a weather delay at any point in the meet, it may be considered completed and will not be rescheduled. However, one team must concede the meet (there must be a winning team and a losing team), and points must be submitted.

Any meets, which are started and then subsequently postponed due to weather, must be completed by the All-Star Meet on a date mutually agreed to by both Team Representatives. If a mutual date to complete the meet cannot be agreed to, the League President shall be called to make the decision. If a meet is postponed to a later date, it will be resumed at the later time at the point in the meet where the postponement took place. Events already completed will stand. New heat sheets may be prepared for the remaining events. It is the responsibility of the home team league representative to give all original heat sheets to the visiting team representative in the preparation of new heat sheets for the remainder of the rescheduled meet.

K. Disputed Meets

The Team Representatives should work out any disputes at the time of the dispute. If they are unable to resolve the issue(s), either or both Team Representative(s) may request a special meeting of the GCSL Executive Board to review "written protests" of any disputed matters. The written protests should be sent to the GCSL President.

VIII. ALL-STAR CHAMPIONSHIP MEETS

A. Schedule

Each team will swim in a Division All-Star Championship Meet against all other teams in their division. The All-Star Championship Meet will be held after the completion of the dual meets. The Division All-Star Meets shall be scheduled by the GCSL Executive Board (See attached GCSL Meet Schedule for current season meet schedule).

B. Facilities

The All-Star Championship Meets will be held at a suitable facility as selected by the GCSL Executive Board.

Areas shall be designated for each team, as well as, for spectators. Coaches, swimmers and spectators shall not interfere with the meet officials and meet workers, nor the running of the meet.

C. Meet Materials

It is the ultimate responsibility of each Team Representative to ensure that all All-Star Meet materials are provided in a timely fashion as communicated here and requested by the GCSL. See separate "GCSL All-Star Meet Organization" document for additional details.

D. Meet Documentation

It is the ultimate responsibility of each Team Representative to ensure that all All-Star Meet documents are completed correctly in a timely fashion as communicated here and requested by the GCSL. See separate "GCSL All-Star Meet Organization" document for additional details.

Changes to All-Star Meet entries should be kept to a minimum, and made at least one-half hour prior to the start of the All-Star Meet.

The Clerk of Course may make changes to the heat sheets during the meet.

E. Swimmer Eligibility

See Section IV.

F. Swimmer Entries

In the Division All-Star Meets, each team is limited to two eligible swimmers in each individual event and one eligible relay team in each relay event.

Two eligible Alternate Swimmers are allowed for each event, however, the eligible Alternate Swimmers must be listed as such on the *general entry sheets* to be eligible to swim in *any* event. Listing a swimmer as an alternate for an event counts as an entry (as defined in Section IV-F) in that event for that swimmer.

There will be no aging up of swimmers in individual events, unless the swimmer has been “permanently” aged up for the entire season. If a team does not have four eligible swimmers in the designated age group to make a relay, that team may age up one or two younger, eligible swimmer(s) to make a relay under the following conditions:

- At least two of the relay swimmers are eligible swimmers in the designated age group.
- There are no other eligible swimmers in the designated age group (other than those entered in the relay) available to swim during the entirety of the meet.
- The eligible swimmer(s) who age up for a relay event are from the next lower age group, **and have not aged up for any other relay event during the meet.**

Aging up a swimmer in these conditions to swim a relay shall not count as an entry (as defined in Section IV-F) in that event for the aged up swimmer.

Swimmer entries must also comply with the rules for swimmer eligibility in Section IV.

G. Meet Officials and Workers

It is the ultimate responsibility of each Team Representative to ensure that all volunteers for Meet Officials and Meet Workers required from his or her team are scheduled, assigned and present for the meet. All Meet Officials and Workers should meet one-half hour prior to the starting time of the meet. See separate “GCSL All-Star Meet Organization” document for additional details.

H. Scoring

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS (First Place through Fourteenth Place): 17:15:14:12:11:10:9:8:7:6:5:4:3:2

RELAY EVENTS (First Place through Seventh Place): 34:30:28:24:22:20:18

If there is a tie, the tying teams will share the total points for the tied place, plus the points for the next place, equally, and no team will finish in the next place (i.e. a tie for first place in an individual event will result in both tying swimmers finishing first, and each swimmer shall receive $(17 + 15)/2$ points = 16 points for each swimmer, and there will be no second place finisher in the event.

I. Awards

ALL-STAR MEET MEDALS AND RIBBONS: Medals shall be awarded in all individual events to the First Place through Third Place finishers. Ribbons shall be awarded in all individual events to the Fourth Place through Eighth Place finishers. Medals shall be awarded in all relay events to the First Place through Third Place finishers. Ribbons shall be awarded in all relay events to the Fourth Place through Eighth Place finishers.

ALL-STAR MEET CHAMPIONS: An All-Star Meet Champion trophy for each division shall rotate to the All-Star Meet Champion of each division. The All-Star Meet Champion trophy shall be presented to the current season All-Star Meet Champion at the conclusion the Division All-Star Meet, and shall remain with the All-Star Meet Champion until the following season Division All-Star Meet. To this end, previous season All-Star Meet Champions shall bring the rotating trophy to the Division All-Star Meet so it may be presented to the current season All-Star Meet Champion.

A plaque will be awarded to the First Place All-Star Meet finisher in each division. This plaque is a permanent award specific to the current season All-Star Meet results and will stay with the awarded team.

A Sportsmanship Award shall be given in each division. *Sportsmanship shall be defined as treating opponents with fairness, generosity, courtesy, dignity, and so on. Those who can take loss or defeat without complaint, or victory without gloating are demonstrating sportsmanlike qualities.* This award for each division shall be voted on by the Team Representatives in that division, and shall be awarded at the conclusion of their All-Star Meet.

J. Disputes

The Team Representatives should work out any disputes during the All-Star Meet at the time of the dispute. If they are unable to resolve the issue(s), any Team Representative(s) of an affected team(s) may request a special meeting between the President and the affected Team Representative(s) to resolve the dispute during the All-Star Meet. Should any disputes pertaining to the All-Star Meet arise after the completion of the All-Star Meet, any affected Team Representative(s) may request a special meeting of the GCSL Executive Board to resolve "written protests" of the disputed matter. The written protest(s) should be sent to the GCSL President within 48 hours of the conclusion of the All-Star Meet.

K. Swimsuits

Performance enhancing or High-tech swimsuits are no longer permitted for use at any GCSL competition, i.e. dual meet or All-Star Meet. Swimmers shall be limited to one suit, which shall be constructed of a woven/knit textile material, permeable to water and air, constructed so as not to aid in buoyancy, and shall not contain zippers or other fastening systems. Male suits shall not extend above the waist or below the knees. Female suits shall not extend beyond the shoulders or below the knees.