

Proposed change is to Article 305.3

Submitted by Jim Wargo, Jon Hulbert and Dave Hedden from Condors Swim Club (Non-Athlete Members)

~~305.3 In timed finals events or preliminaries of a trials and finals event, N~~ no penalty shall apply for failure to withdraw or compete in an individual event. The missed event will still count against the athlete's event limit for the day and for the meet. if:

~~.1 The Referee is notified in the event of illness or injury and accepts the proof thereof.~~

~~.2 It is determined by the Referee that failure to compete is caused by circumstances beyond the control of the swimmer. [USA 207.7.6E]~~

Reasoning:

Missing one event at a championship meet is enough of a penalty, and the experience and emotion in that moment is enough to teach a lesson. Further penalizing a swimmer for making a mistake feels excessive, and only ends up discouraging young swimmers and families who are excelling in our sport. The USA rule that is referenced does not exist anymore, but is likely referring to 207.11.6E which is guidelines for USA National and Open Water Championships. Removing this policy from our LSC rule book would not be in conflict with any USA Swimming policies.

Proposed change is to Article 305.6

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~~305.6 Any relay team entered in a relay event and not properly scratched must swim the event. Failure to do so will result in each member of the relay team being barred from the next relay event in which they may otherwise be eligible to compete. A relay team member failing to appear ready to swim for a relay event will be barred from his/her next individual event. Relay members who do appear ready to swim shall not be penalized.~~

Reasoning:

Missing one event at a championship meet is enough of a penalty, and the experience and emotion in that moment is enough to teach a lesson especially when it impacts other teammates. Further penalizing a swimmer for making a mistake feels excessive, and only ends up discouraging young swimmers and families who are excelling in our sport. Furthermore, this adds undue burden on administrative staff to enforce, and the rule puts the officials in a position to enforce a rule with a lot of subjective language.