

SWIM ALBERTA SCRATCH RULE

Background and Link to Swimming Rules

The Swimming Rules of Swimming Canada state that the following needs to be considered:

3.6 SCRATCHES, SUBSTITUTIONS, & DECK ENTRIES (applies to local Provincial Meets)

CSW 3.6.1 Once entered in an event, a swimmer who is not an alternate, may only withdraw or “scratch” from that event without penalty according to rules set down by the Provincial Section or written in the Meet Information package.

CSW 3.6.2 HEATS & FINALS: Scratch Deadlines shall be clearly stated in the Meet Information.

TIME-FINAL EVENTS: For individual events or relays that are Time Finals, the Scratch Deadlines shall be clearly stated in the Meet Information.

CSW 3.6.3 PENALTIES: Penalties for failure by a swimmer to scratch from Preliminaries, Finals, or Time Final events shall be clearly stated in the Meet Information.

CSW 3.6.4 ‘NAME CHANGE’ DEADLINES: ‘Name Change’ deadlines for relays should be stated in the meet information and announced at the Coaches Technical Meeting.

To assist the clubs in Alberta the recommended scratch rules are listed below and shall be the rules applied for all Provincial Competitions. If a swim club wishes to institute a different scratch rule/deadline the rules must be clearly communicated in the Meet information package.

Swim Alberta does not allow the use of monetary fines in scratch rules.

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Time Final Meets including Winter & Summer Festivals:

Coaches are requested to submit any known scratches to the meet manager prior to the start of the meet. The meet information package should clearly state the deadline for receiving scratches by the meet manager after the entry deadline. Any scratches that are not received by the published deadline will need to be submitted to the Clerk of Course.

Scratches for the session’s events are to be submitted to the Clerk of Course 30 minutes prior to the start of each session.

There shall be no penalty for swimmers who ‘no show’ or submit a ‘late scratch’ for their event.

Heats & Final Meets including Short Course & Long Course Provincials, Spring & Summer Championships

Coaches are requested to submit any known scratches to the meet manager prior to the start of the meet. The meet information package should clearly state the deadline for receiving scratches by the meet manager after the entry deadline. Any scratches that are not received by the published deadline will need to be submitted to the Clerk of Course according to the information detailed below:

Scratch Deadline and Penalties for Preliminaries:

- Scratches are to be submitted to the clerk of course by the start of the previous night's finals, or before 3:00 pm the day prior to the start of the meet, in order that the preliminary session can be seeded.
- Late Scratches may be received by the Clerk of Course 30 minutes prior to the start of each session. No re-seeding will occur, without the approval of the referee.
- There will be no penalty for scratching from preliminary events. No-shows, step-downs, and unexcused incomplete swims will have no penalty assessed.

Scratch Deadline for Time Final Events (including relays):

- Scratches are to be submitted to the clerk of course by the start of the previous night's finals, or before 3:00 pm the day prior to the start of the meet, in order that the session can be seeded.
- Late Scratches may be received by the Clerk of Course 30 minutes prior to the start of each session in which a Time Final Event is scheduled. No re-seeding will occur, without the approval of the referee.
- Scratches received after the late scratch deadline, no-shows, step-downs and unexcused incomplete swims will result in the swimmer(s) being scratched from all remaining finals, including relays, scheduled for that session.

Scratch Deadline for Time Final Events utilizing Positive Check-in

- The deadline for Positive Check-in shall be clearly communicated in the meet package and communicated to coaches at the technical meeting.
- Failure to check-in by the deadline will be deemed a scratch and the swimmer will be removed from the event. There is no penalty for swimmers who fail to check-in.
- Once checked-in a swimmer is not entitled to scratch from the event. No-shows, step-downs and unexcused incomplete swims will result in the swimmer being scratched from all remaining finals, including relays, scheduled for that session and any other session in which the event in question is swum.

Scratch Deadline and Penalties for Finals:

- Scratches are to be submitted to the clerk of course 30 minutes after conclusion of the preliminary session. The conclusion of the preliminary session will be the completion of the final race of the session or when the 800/1500 are the last events of the session, the scratch deadline shall be 30 minutes after the completion of the last race immediately preceding the start of the 800/1500.
- The Late Scratch Deadline shall be 30 minutes prior to the start of the finals session. However, there shall be no re-seeding to include scratches made after the initial scratch deadline.
- The Late Scratch Deadline only applies if the coach of the late scratch swimmer notifies the referee and the coach of the alternate. The alternate is under no obligation to swim. Should the alternate decline to swim the coach of the late scratch swimmer must contact the coach of the 2nd alternate.
- Scratches received after the late scratch deadline, no-shows, step-downs and unexcused incomplete swims will result in the swimmer(s) being scratched from all remaining events, including relays, scheduled for that day.
- Although alternates are not required to swim, all swimmers not intending to swim finals should scratch by the scratch deadline. This will ensure that those swimmers, who would be intent on swimming in a final and qualify, would be provided the opportunity.

Deadlines for Relays

The deadline for relay name submissions shall be clearly communicated in the meet information package, in the coaches meeting or in the technical bulletin.

The deadline for name changes shall be clearly communicated in the meet information package, in the coaches meeting or in the technical bulletin. The deadline will be a minimum of 30 minutes prior to the first relay event based on session timeouts, regardless of which event (age or gender) the team is entered in.