

SOUTH WIND CONFERENCE BY-LAWS

Article I. Name

The name of the conference shall be South Wind Swim Conference (SWSC). SWSC shall be a league member of AAU Arkansas Association.

Article II. Purpose

The purpose shall be to provide organized swimming competition, which should be wholesome and fun. While at the same time providing all participants an insight to the sport of swimming. In this environment, we will be dedicated to honesty, integrity, and good sportsmanship. Through this we hope to achieve quality training and a healthy social environment and to encourage peer and family participation.

Article III. Meeting

Each member team shall be represented at the following meetings. If a team is not represented, it is ineligible to compete in the Finals meet that season unless it is excused for an emergency absence by the Rules Committee. The following meetings shall be held at a location to be announced by the president of SWSC. These meeting may take place on a Saturday or Sunday. The meeting shall be held at a location set by the president with each member team given at least twenty-one (21) days notice.

- A. Spring Delegate Meeting shall be held in the 2nd weekend in April but no later than the 1st weekend in May.
- B. Spring workshops shall be held prior to the first meet of the season.
- C. Fall Delegate Meetings shall be held the 1st Sunday in October but no later than the 2nd weekend in October.
- D. Winter Delegate Meeting shall be held on the 2nd weekend in January but no later than the first weekend in February.
- E. And any additional meetings may be called by the president or two-thirds of the Executive Committee (President, President Elect/Secretary, Treasurer) as deemed necessary upon two weeks notification to all designated team delegates.

Article IV. Team Membership

- A. Membership shall be open to any team whose goals and objectives conform to SWSC purpose.
- B. A membership fee of \$60.00 shall be due to the SWSC treasurer on or before the day of the Spring Delegate Meeting.
- C. To join the conference, a team must apply for membership to the conference President. A majority vote of the Delegate Assembly is required to admit a team to the conference. However, to compete in the upcoming season the team needs to apply at least a week prior to that Season Spring meeting.
- D. Each member team shall have two voting delegates; each shall have one vote. Delegate changes shall be made following the Fall Delegate Meeting. It is recommended that each team have delegates serve a two-year alternating term in order to maintain continuity within SWSC.

- E. In order to abide by the AAU Code, proof of club (team) membership for the current year (AAU year is September 1st through August 31st) must be provided or before the day of the Fall Delegate meeting.
- F. Teams must keep current email and phone contacts with Secretary and President in order to receive current information on time.

Article V. Officers and Officer Duties

The following officers shall be elected at the Fall Delegates Meeting

- A. President shall call and preside at SWSC meetings, represent SWSC at AAU Arkansas Association, appoint committees when necessary (Rules, Workshop, Scheduling, etc.), and serve on the Rules Committee for the following year.
- B. Secretary shall assist the Conference and President when needed and preside over meeting in case of President absence for any reason.
- C. Treasurer shall collect SWSC dues and Finals meet entry fees, pay SWSC membership fee to AAU Arkansas Association in order for membership to remain active, keep accurate records of monies, pay bills as directed, and report financial standing at winter, spring and fall meetings.
- D. A unanimous vote of the Executive Committee is required to approve an expenditure of more than \$150.00 for any item other than AAU fees and Finals meet expenses.
- E. All officers shall serve a term of two (2) years and at the end of this term. All new officers shall be elected at Fall meeting. The new officers can be all new or a combination of existing officers although they must serve in a different capacity as elected by majority vote.

Article VI. Committee

The following committee shall be elected at the Fall Delegate meeting.

- A. Rules Committee shall be elected as follows:
 - 1. Three members
 - 2. The conference shall determine at Fall meeting whether it is necessary for the President to go on Rules Committee the following year.
 - 3. Chairman shall be designated as such on ballot. The function of this committee is to interpret and enforce the by-laws and rules of SWSC and handle all grievances and protests should they arise. It shall assist the Workshop Committee with the officials' certification. Three members shall make a quorum.
- B. Workshop Committee: Chairman and members shall be appointed. It shall plan and carry out the Spring Workshop training and SWSC officials' certification.
- C. Scheduling Committee: Chairman and members shall be appointed. Questionnaires requesting information necessary for scheduling shall be sent to all teams in early spring. Completed questionnaires shall be returned to the Scheduling Committee. Tentative meet schedules shall be mailed to each team. Meet schedules indicating date, Teams, and approximate time shall be finalized at the Spring Delegate Meeting.

- D. Awards Committee: Committee shall be as follows, with the chairman appointed.
1. SWSC Treasurer
 2. Past Preliminary/Finals Meet Representative
 3. Upcoming Preliminary/Finals Meet Representative
- The committee shall be responsible for ordering and overseeing the awards the Preliminary/Finals Meet as outlined in SWSC Rulebook/Meet Procedures.

Article VII. Swimmer Eligibility

- A. A swimmer may choose the team on which he/she wishes to compete. Once a swimmer is officially listed on a team roster for a season, that swimmer may change teams but not score points for the new team unless he/she has changed school districts.
- B. The following shall be eligible as exhibition swimmers only and shall not compete for awards or points in SWSC meets.
1. SWSC team coaches – defined as currently being paid or a coach.
 2. Collegiate swimmers – defined as swimming on an organized college team during the preceding school year.
 3. Non-member of SWSC team – defined as any swimmer who has not met the requirements (attendance, dues, etc.) as set by that team.
- C. A swimmer's age as of June 1 shall determine the age group he/she will swim all season. However, should a swimmer wish to swim up an age group, he/she must submit the name and birth date to the SWSC President by the swimmers first meet of the season. Once this decision is made, it cannot be changed.

Article VIII. SWSC Meet Requirements

Every team member shall:

- A. Participation
1. Host two meets. If a team hosts less than two meets and one or both of meets are co-hosted with another SWSC team, then an additional meet is required which may also be co-hosted, but no more than three hosted/co-hosted meets are required of a team. ***Amended 10/04 to state: "Hosting the state AAU meet will count as hosting two meets."
- B. Awards (Required minimum)
1. Host team shall pay cost of meet.
 2. Ribbons shall be given as follows:
 - a. Individual events: 1st – 6th place.
 - b. Relay events: 1st – 3rd place ribbon to each member of the relay.
 - c. Heat ribbons for each heat winner of every event.
 - d. Participation ribbons for 6 and under exhibition events.

C. Rules and Requirements

1. Shall be according to SWSC By-Laws, Rulebook/Meet Procedure and U.S.A. Swimming as applies to SWSC. Double asterisks (***) indicate procedure may be deviated; suggestions are in parentheses ().
2. Permitted deviations shall be made only upon unanimous agreement of all participating teams prior to meet information being sent.
3. Emergency deviations necessary after meet information has been mailed shall be made by unanimous agreement of all teams involved. For example: weather cancellations, pool malfunction, etc.
4. In case of weather cancellation, the meet will count toward the swimmers Preliminary/Finals Meet eligibility requirements as long as even numbers are turned in by the host teams deadline and signed by the coaches.
5. Cancellations shall be written 7 days prior to meet scheduled date.
6. Grievances and protest shall be filed in writing to the SWSC Rules Committee Chairman within 3 days of the incident.
7. Failure to comply with Rules Committee ruling will result in suspension from SWSC until reapplication is accepted. Reapplication will be reviewed within seven days of receipt SWSC President and a full delegate meeting called.
8. All teams will provide a team roster to the host team of each swim meet, with the following information on each swimmer: name, gender, date of birth, competition age (as described in Article VII Section C), and AAU number. ***Rule amended 10/04 to state – “All teams will submit a team roster to the conference President and each team in the conference by June 1 of the current year with the following information on each swimmer: name, gender, date of birth, competition age (as described in Article VII Section C), and AAU number.
9. Rule added 10/04 – A Red Cross certified lifeguard will be on duty at all swim meets.

Article IX. Preliminary/Finals Meet

- A. Meet shall float among member teams with a standard size short course pool (Location to be decided upon at the Fall Meeting.).
- B. Entry fees shall be paid to SWSC to cover cost of awards. The fee is \$3 for each individual and \$8 for each relay event.
- C. The conference will not be granting allowances for teams hosting Preliminary/Finals Meets.
- D. Officials
 1. Meet officials shall be SWSC certified. Certification shall be obtained at Spring workshops or specially scheduled workshops.
 2. Each team shall provide timers, etc., as requested by the host team. No one under the age of 16 shall be allowed to time and no meet participants will be allowed to time, regardless of age.
 3. All teams shall have a minimum of 2 or more certified stroke and turn judges that can be counted on for attending meets.
- E. Rules: Meet procedures, order of events, and scoring shall be followed as outlined in the SWSC Rules/Meet Procedures.

F. Preliminary/Finals Meet

1. Shall be held close to the third Saturday in July and before Junior Olympics.
2. Host team shall be decided at Fall Delegate meeting for the following year.
3. Eligibility
 - a. Swimmers shall participate in at least 9 events at the minimum of three SWSC meets prior to the Preliminary to be eligible to enter. The Arkansas AAU Junior Olympics qualifying meets shall count as one of the three required meets.
 - b. A swimmer's age on June 1 shall determine age group entry.
4. Seed times
 - a. Short course times shall be submitted (meters if in a 25 meter pool and yards if in a 25 yard pool).
5. Awards
 - a. Heat ribbons will be given to the winner of every heat of every event at the Preliminary meet.
 - b. Consolation ribbons shall be awarded for 9th – 16th place.
6. Any prelim even that has eight or fewer entries will automatically qualify for the finals and will be swum at finals.

G. Finals Meet

1. Entries
 - a. Individual events: The top eight places from Preliminary advance to finals, using Prelim times. Also those who meet QT.
 - b. Relays are timed finals and will be swum during the meet session. ***Amended 10/04 – “The relay teams with the top four finishes from each Prelims meet will advance to the Finals Meet.”
2. Awards
 - a. Individual Events: Medals shall be awarded 1st through 8th place. High point trophies shall be awarded in each age group, boy and girl, to the swimmer who accumulates the highest number of points.
 - b. Relays: For each relay team member, Medals shall be awarded 1st through 4th place and ribbons for places 5th through 8th for each relay event.
 - c. Team Awards: Banners will be given to the 1st place team in each of two divisions; large teams and small teams. The team size divisions will be determined by the team rosters submitted to Prelims and will be of equal number of teams in each division. In case there are an odd number of teams entered in prelims, the large team division will have an extra team. The host team will announce the team divisions before the Preliminary Meet begins. The Rules Committee will resolve any complaints or requested deviations from the above division of teams before the Preliminary Meet begins.

Article X. Penalty and Fines or Suspension

It is the goal of everyone in this conference to abide by these by-laws since P.F.S. can only be based on circumstance and may or may not warrant such intervention. We must work together and communicate properly with the elected officials and in most cases meet directors and referee. Communication can resolve 90% of all problems. Respect for each team's hard work in putting meets together must be strongly considered. Deviations from standard practice meet requirements and attending meetings shall be addressed by Rules Committee, and their decision whether it be fines, suspension, or penalty will be administered according to the facts leading to the issue. The Rules Committee shall act independently of all teams. If an infraction occurs, the Rules Committee will determine by unanimous decision if and what kind of P.F.S. is appropriate. If a consensus cannot be reached the President shall make the final decision on any P.F.S. Our objective and goals are not to reprimand teams. However, if there is lack of effort and/or consideration for these by-laws and the Rules and Regulations set forth by U.S.A. Swimming as they apply to our conference then Penalty, Fines and Suspension will be in order.

Article XI. Amendment

Amendments to the SWSC By-Laws and Rulebook/Meet procedure shall be acted upon at the Spring, Winter and Fall Meetings only, and shall require a simple majority vote. Any proposal voted on at a SWSC meeting cannot be changed until it has been tried for one season. Any amendment must be in writing and submitted to the President two weeks prior to a delegated meeting.

Per request the following amendments were made: (some are bylaws and some are "rules").

(The newer entries will be at the end, and supersede older entries).

10/20/2007:

1. Article 9 F # A Amended to swimmers need only swim in 8 events.
2. Article 5 Section D to say President, President Elect, Treasurer.
3. Section C #8 Team roster requirement removed.
4. Article 9 G 1 A - amended due to #1.
5. F 5 8 move to finals meet put as 1C.

4/26/08:

1. Article 7 section 8 - to delete by-law subsection 1 & 2 and revert to AAU rules by age only.

10/4/2008

1. Proposal for 6 events needed to qualify for Prelim/Finals passed.
2. Rule change to allow college swimmers based on age.
3. Splash fees to \$5 and \$10 for Finals meet.
4. Any team member may swim relays at finals.
5. 2 relays per event by a team.
6. Dues raised to \$100 per team.
7. Award to be given for most improved team (based on points from prior year). High point teams will not be considered.

4/18/2009

1. Host teams may decide how many individual events (3-5) and relays then can be swum at regular meets.
2. Winter meeting, as listed in by-laws, is to be held in emergency only situation.
3. 2 items of clothing during meets (2 suits or a t-shirt, i.e.).

10/3/2009

No changes.

10/2/2010

1. The following rule change was passed:

That a swimmer be allowed to swim up in the next available age group to participate in events not offered in their own age group following the subsequent guidelines: (a) Such swims must be offered in their age group at Junior Olympics; (b) such swims must be pre-entered and labeled as exhibition and (c) such swims are counted as part of their individual event limit.

04/09/2011

All swimmers must be Race Start Certified per USA rules and each team is responsible for tracking it. Swimmers must perform in-water starts until they are certified.

04/14/2012

Only meets hosted by a South Wind Conference team may be counted as one of the three meets required to swim in the South Wind Conference finals. If the three meet criteria is met, then any time achieved at a sanctioned AAU meet during the current season can be used as a qualifying time for the South Wind conference finals.