

# GSSA



# By Laws

# Granite State Swimming Association By-Laws

## Article

### 1. Purpose

The foremost purpose of the GSSA shall be to promote and develop competitive swimming, in the belief that this activity offers a positive means for increasing athletic ability and character development. The Association is interested primarily in the individual swimmer and his or her accomplishments, not the promotion of organizations, whether within or outside the GSSA. The GSSA will also develop and encourage swimming education, participation and long-term community. The GSSA is a summer recreational league.

### 2. Membership

- a. Membership is open to any qualified swimming teams from the areas of (Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont) or others as voted in by the majority of the general membership present at the spring meeting. Once voted in, a team shall be considered a continuing member. To qualify, a team must meet and accept the provisions provided in these by-laws.
- b. Application to the League must be submitted in writing to the GSSA Board prior to the spring league meeting. Consideration for the new team's entry into the GSSA should be made by a current member as a sponsor. The application should include expected team size, ratio of new and summer swimmers to year round swimmers. The application should contain names of the Head Coach and any board members.
- c. Continued Membership – To stay a continuing member of the GSSA you must have a parent, coach, or board member in attendance at the spring meeting. If there are extenuating circumstances, a proxy ballot must be sent into the meeting. If no members are present at the spring meeting the team not in attendance will be out of the league. They will not attend the GSSA State Meet and must re-apply at the next annual spring meeting. They may participate at any or all league meets but not the GSSA State Meet. All teams must also pay their team dues to the league treasurer by July 15<sup>th</sup> of each year or the same application of league termination will be implemented. The following year of re-application the team will owe back dues, current, and one year of future dues at the time of acceptance to the league. If there are extenuating circumstances, the situation will be reviewed by the board.
- d. A board made up of a representative from each of the participating teams shall govern the association. They shall oversee all business and activities of the Association. They shall elect, at the annual spring meeting, officers for the forthcoming summer season. Term of office shall be one year. In addition, they will elect a representative from each division as division leader to act as liaison between the president and division members.
- e. Any team wishing to continue membership within the Association must attend the annual spring meeting and must remit an annual membership fee to be determined by the governing board.
- f. Any team wishing to join the Association must petition for membership at the annual spring meeting. Once voted in by the governing board as a member, the team must meet and accept the provisions provided in these bylaws. Team must serve a probation period of three years with no voting privileges. Once the team has fulfilled their probation period the team will be granted full voting membership.

- g. Any team not voted in as a member has the right to petition membership at the next spring meeting.
- h. The competitive season shall be from May 15<sup>th</sup> through GSSA Championships.
- i. All USS swimming technical rules shall apply unless specifically countered within the GSSA by-laws.

3. Participants

a) Age Groups

The Association recommends that the following six age groups be used in all Dual, Tri-meets, and the Championship meet:

- 8 and under
  - 9-10
  - 11-12
  - 13-14
  - 15-16
  - 17-19
- i. Departure from the basic age group categories may be made only with the mutual consent of all involved coaches and/or teams.
  - ii. Swimmers may not compete in a younger age group, but are permitted to move up one age group in relays only. Once the child swims up one age group they do not have to stay in that higher age group for all relays.
  - iii. The age of swimmers shall be determined by their age on the first day of the meet as follows US SWIMMING rules. (This rule applies to all divisions.)
  - iv. A swimmer may participate in a maximum of five (5) events per meet, of which a maximum of three (3) individual events and two (2) relay events per meet. Swimmers may not swim in the same relay event in more than one age group.
  - v. Swimmers who have been mistakenly entered in more than three (3) individual events may only compete in the first three (3) in which they were entered.
  - vi. A swimmer may swim in any number of exhibition events as long as it was approved.
  - vii. A swimmer may not represent more than one team in a meet within the Association during the summer season unless a request for waiver of this rule is applied for from the Association.
  - viii. All qualified swimmers entered in the GSSA Championship meet must have the correct birthday (day, month, and year) as part of their entries. Failure to do so will disqualify the swimmer. There can be no guessing of the swimmer's birthday. If no birthday is supplied on the entries, the swimmer will not have been entered as a valid meet participant and will swim for no award and no points. The swimmer may not participate in team relays.

4. Stroke, Turns and Finishes

All starts, strokes, turns, and finishes shall be governed by the current year's USA swimming rules. All USS swimming technical rules shall apply unless specifically countered within the GSSA by-laws

5. Dual and Triangular Meets

The Association recognizes that member teams use pools of many sizes and that no set rules will suffice in all situations. The following information is intended, therefore, as a guide to use in dual and triangular meets. The actual schedule of events will be coordinated by all involved coaches/teams prior to each meet.

a.

<b>GIRLS</b>		<b>EVENTS</b>		<b>BOYS</b>
1	11-12	200 Yard/Meter	Freestyle	2
3	13-14	200 Yard/Meter	Freestyle	4
5	15-18	200 Yard/Meter	Freestyle	6
7	8 & U	100 Yard/Meter	Medley Relay	8
9	9 - 10	200 Yard/Meter	Medley Relay	10
11	11-12	200 Yard/Meter	Medley Relay	12
13	13-14	200 Yard/Meter	Medley Relay	14
15	15-18	200 Yard/Meter	Medley Relay	16
17	8 & U	25 Yard/Meter	Freestyle	18
19	9 – 10	50 Yard/Meter	Freestyle	20
21	11–12	50 Yard/Meter	Freestyle	22
23	13–14	50 Yard/Meter	Freestyle	24
25	15–18	50 Yard/Meter	Freestyle	26
27	8 & U	100 Yard/Meter	I.M.	28
29	9 – 10	100 Yard/Meter	I.M.	30
31	11–12	200 Yard/Meter	I.M.	32
33	13–14	200 Yard/Meter	I.M.	34
35	15–18	200 Yard/Meter	I.M.	36
37	8 & U	25 Yard/Meter	Backstroke	38
39	9 – 10	50 Yard/Meter	Backstroke	40
41	11–12	50 Yard/Meter	Backstroke	42
43	13–14	100 Yard/Meter	Backstroke	44
45	15–18	100 Yard/Meter	Backstroke	46
47	8 & U	25 Yard/Meter	Butterfly	48
49	9 – 10	50 Yard/Meter	Butterfly	50
51	11–12	50 Yard/Meter	Butterfly	52
53	13–14	100 Yard/Meter	Butterfly	54
55	15–18	100 Yard/Meter	Butterfly	56
57	8 & U	50 Yard/Meter	Freestyle	58
59	9 – 10	100 Yard/Meter	Freestyle	60
61	11–12	100 Yard/Meter	Freestyle	62
63	13–14	100 Yard/Meter	Freestyle	64
65	15–18	100 Yard/Meter	Freestyle	66
67	8 & U	25 Yard/Meter	Breaststroke	68
69	9 – 10	50 Yard/Meter	Breaststroke	70
71	11–12	50 Yard/Meter	Breaststroke	72
73	13–14	100 Yard/Meter	Breaststroke	74
75	15–18	100 Yard/Meter	Breaststroke	76
77	8 & U	100 Yard/Meter	Freestyle Relay	78
79	9 – 10	200 Yard/Meter	Freestyle Relay	80
81	11–12	200 Yard/Meter	Freestyle Relay	82
83	13–14	200 Yard/Meter	Freestyle Relay	84
85	15–18	200 Yard/Meter	Freestyle Relay	86



- 3) An event must be run, even though there is only one contestant. The meet referee may, at his discretion and for the expediency of the meet, combine events, provided the total number of contestants does not exceed the number of lanes available.

d. Officials

1) A minimum number of qualified officials must be present at each dual or triangular meet. These include:

- Starter-Referee, who may also act as a stroke and turn judge.
- One other stroke and turn judge (two total).
- Two timers per lane and one back up timer (any exceptions, must have consent of coaches.)
- The visiting team may furnish officials as a courtesy, not as a requirement.

2) The duties of the above officials shall be as given in the Official rules of USA swimming.

e. Disqualification and Protest

See USA Swimming rules.

1) Complete results of each meet should be kept by each participating team and taken to the Championship Meet, to be used for proof of participation by team or individual swimmers who swam after May 15, in case of a challenge.

5. Pools

- a. Some means must be provided either by sight (lines on bottom of pool) or by touch (Lane Dividers) which will guide swimmers in their lane, whether on their back or front.
- b. Surfaces and edges for starting and turning should be provided that are non-slippery and of sufficient dimensions and depths to permit any start or turn to be executed without endangering the swimmer or limiting his or her performance in any way. If such surfaces or edges are unavailable then they must not be used in such a way as to present any advantage to one competitor over another.
- c. Host Teams are encouraged to warn other teams in advance of any problems that might arise because of structural conditions of their home pools.

6. Championship Meet

a. The Association shall organize and operate a championship swimming meet each year during the month of August for all member teams. It shall be held at the end of the season, after all dual and triangular meets are finished.

b. Events and distances

The events and distances for the championship meet shall be the same as those listed in Article 5.A. Any variances from this list must be made by the governing board before the dual meet season starts and distributed to all member teams before this same time.

c. Team entries

- i. To qualify for the Championship Meet, each team is required to compete against other GSSA teams in a minimum of three (3) meets. The opposing teams may be in any division. A triangular meet may count as two (2) meets for a team, but only one meet for a swimmer.
- ii. Each team may enter as many qualified swimmers as desired in the individual and relay events.
- iii. The host teams designated to seed the Championship meet shall establish meet entry deadline dates. The teams or individuals designated to receive the entries shall be established at the Spring organizational meeting. The participating teams must send a complete copy of entries both in print and on diskette to the designated host teams or individuals. The designated recipient must receive all entries for the Championship Meet NO LATER THAN THE ESTABLISHED DEADLINE from all participating teams. Entries not received by the established deadline date may not be entered into the meet and will not be allowed to swim. It is up to the individual participating coaches to check and verify all entries before they are sent to the host team or individual for the established entry deadline.

d. Participants

- i. To qualify for the championship meet a swimmer must have competed for his or her member team in at least two (2) of the dual or triangular meets within the Association.
- ii. Anyone who is listed as a head coach of a team shall not swim.
- iii. A swimmer may not swim more than five (5) events, of which a maximum of three (3) will be individual events. A swimmer may not take advantage of 3.A.2 to swim in more than two (2) relay events.
- iv. Qualifications for the championship meet may also be determined by cut-off times. Establishment of cut-off times is the responsibility of the governing board and must be determined and distributed to member teams before the dual meet season begins.

e. Scoring

Relays:	18 Points for first place
	14 Points for second place
	12 Points for third place
	10 Points for fourth place
	8 Points for fifth place
	6 Points for sixth place
	4 Points for seventh place
	2 Points for eighth place
All other events:	9 Points for first place
	7 Points for second place
	6 Points for third place
	5 Points for fourth place
	4 Points for fifth place
	3 Points for sixth place
	2 Points for seventh place
	1 Point for eighth place

Scoring in each division will be open (unlimited). Relays two per team may score

f. Awards

Suitable awards in the form of ribbons, trophies or medals shall be given for the first eight finishes in all individual events and the first eight teams in all relay events. The awards must bear the name of the Association, date, stroke, distance, and age group.

g. Location

- i. Because of the large number of participants expected in this meet and the necessity of some year-to-year continuity in the distance and events, the Association's championship meet may only be held in pools which meet the following standards:
  - 1) Length of course 25 or 50 yards or meters.
  - 2) Six (6) or more lanes.
  - 3) Sufficient deck and bleacher space to accommodate swimmers and spectators.
- ii. Teams which are hosting the Championship Meet should, if possible, have an alternate indoor facility also meeting the above standards for use if weather does not permit an outdoor meet to be held.