

FAIRFIELD COUNTY SWIMMING LEAGUE

GENERAL SPORTS RULES

A. AUTHORITY

1. These rules shall govern all Fairfield County Swimming League competitions. They are based upon the rules and decisions of USA Swimming Inc., USA Diving Inc., and USA Water Polo Inc. as amended to provide for the special requirements of the FCSL.
2. These rules shall not be changed by Referees or other meet officials, or by mutual agreement of Coaches. The rules for an individual meet may be changed by mutual agreement of the Swim Chairs of both clubs.

B. FACILITIES STANDARDS

1. All member-clubs' pool and equipment shall be acceptable as is for use in all FCSL competitions, subject only to safety requirements and to specific provisions of these rules.
2. Adherence to Health, Safety and USS, USD and USWP Codes: Member Clubs' aquatic activities and facilities shall *adhere to all State and Local health and safety codes*, United States Swimming, Inc., United States Diving, Inc. and United States Water Polo Inc.'s Rules and Regulations (except as otherwise provided in the By-laws or this FCSL Rule Book) and all applicable laws, ordinances, rules and regulations.

NOTE: The Board of Governors strongly recommends that member clubs with pools with water depth of less than 4'6" make plans to bring their pools to the 4'6" standard as soon as practical to ensure the safety of all of our swimmers.

C. COMPETITIVE AGE

Competitive Age -- During the year of FCSL competition, no contestant shall have reached his 18th birthday on or before June 15; his/her age as of June 15 of that year shall be his/her competitive age throughout that FCSL season.

D. DIVISIONS

1. Number of Divisions

The member clubs shall be divided into five or more dual meet Divisions, based upon the competitive ranking of their teams.

From the highest-ranked down, these shall be named the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th, etc divisions (or, respectively, the Blue, Gold, Green, Red and Silver, etc divisions).

A new member - club shall start in the lowest division. The divisions shall be as close to equal as possible in the number of teams per division with the highest division(s) taking on the additional team(s) when the total number exceeds an equal number in each division.

Any change in the number of Divisions shall be determined by vote of the Members Clubs of the League at a June League Meeting for the season in the following year.

Water Polo will be divided into four Divisions initially so that any new member Club Teams will start in the 4th Division. As more teams are added to the League, the number of Club Teams per Division will be adjusted with the lowest Divisions having a single extra team. Another Division may be added as determined by vote of the Members Clubs of the League at a June League Meeting for the season in the following year.

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2. Moving Up or Down

a. At the end of each season, in each of the divisions except the 1st, the team with the best won-lost record in the FCSL dual meets shall move up to the next higher division; in each of the divisions except the lowest, the team with the poorest won-lost record shall move down one division.

If a faltering team is so small that they must compete in double duals then that team may be excluded from the number count of the lowest division.

See Appendix XXV FCSL Divisions: If a Club Drops Out, for further detail.

Exception: no team will drop down when a new team is added to the league.

b. In case of a tie between two teams in won-lost records, the winner or loser of the dual meet between the two tied clubs shall be the one to move up or down.

c. If there is a **tie** in won-lost records between **three or more teams**, the team with the highest or lowest total number of dual meet points, based only on its meets with the other tied teams, shall be the one to move up or down.

d. Water Polo Divisional Ranking is calculated from the win-loss-tie record of games. Please refer to the Water Polo Rules, Article VII, in this FCSL Rule Book, for more information.

E. ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE

1. Basic Eligibility -- Except as otherwise provided herein, the son or daughter of a resident or non- resident member of a FCSL club shall be eligible to compete in FCSL meets on behalf of that club.
2. Championship Meet Eligibility -- To be eligible to enter the Divisional Championships, a child must have competed in the same sport (i.e., have actually swum or dived as an eligible official entry) in at least two FCSL dual meets or FCSL sanctioned meets during that same season.
3. Not eligible -- (Note exception D.4. below)
 - a. Employees - The child of a club employee shall not compete on behalf of the club which employs his parent. A child employed on the pool staff of a club shall not compete on the team of that club.
 - b. One club only - A child shall not compete in FCSL meets for more than one club during any one season. Exception: see Water Polo Rules section.
 - c. Penalties - An ineligible contestant shall be disqualified in all meets that he has entered. The Board may also invalidate triple the number of points won by that contestant in dual or Championship meets.
 - d. Exceptions - An ineligible child may compete as an official entry in a dual meet with the approval of both clubs' Swim Chairs; he may compete as an unofficial entry in a dual meet at the option of his own club's Swim Chair.
4. Extraordinary Conditions –

The Board of Governors of the FCSL may be petitioned by a Swim Chair whose club designates full membership privileges to any employee, for the eligibility of an employee's child.

- a. Any exceptions to the above rules must be petitioned, on an annual basis, by a club's Swim Chair to the Board of Governors of the FCSL.
- b. The President must receive petitions in writing, before that club's first dual meet.