

FAIRFIELD COUNTY SWIMMING LEAGUE

GENERAL SPORTS RULES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I – GENERAL	Page 1-3
A, B, C, D : Authority, Facilities, Competitive Age, Divisions	1
D, E : Divisions, Eligibility to Compete	2
F, G : Meet Management, & Sports Chairs, Two Teams-One Club	3

II - CONDUCT OF COMPETITION	4-9
A, B, C, D, E : General, Order of Events, Starting Time, Entry Closing, Delay of Meet	4
F, G, H, I, J : Entries, Entry Changes, No Shows, 4-Event Rule, No Entry	5
K, L : Unofficial Contestants and Events, Schedule Changes,	6
M, N, O : Forfeits, Contestant Injured or Ill, Records of the Meet,	7
P, Q : Improper Behavior Unsportsmanlike Behavior, Undue Noise, Code of Conduct,	8
R, S, T : Announcer, Scoring Table, Scorers	9

III - ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES	10-11
A, B, C : Dual Meet Scores & Results, Adjustment of Meet Score, Scheduling of Dual Meets	10
D, E : Rule Changes, Dual Meet Protests	11
F, G : Supplies, FCSL Swimming Records	12

ARTICLE I - GENERAL

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. Five Divisions –

The member clubs shall be divided into five 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 divisions (or, respectively, the Blue, Gold, Green, Red and Silver divisions).

A new member - club shall start in the 5th (Silver) 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.

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 when each Division reaches a total number of 7 teams.

2. Moving Up or Down

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

F. **MEET MANAGEMENT & SPORTS CHAIRS**

Each club appoints a Swim Chair to the responsibility of managing the swimming activities of his club in the best interests of his club's members. Therefore, the Swim Chairs are responsible for the proper operation of their dual meets.

Since a dual meet involves two clubs, the two Swim Chairs share equal responsibility for and authority over their meet, and should manage the meet together in active and friendly cooperation.

Swim Chairs may delegate some or all of their duties and responsibilities to designated Chairs for each of the contested sports at their club, including Diving and Water Polo.

Contact details for all Chairs and Coaches must be provided to FCSL prior to the start of every season, to be listed in the Membership Directory. Information is also available on the **fcsl.info** web site. (<http://www.fcsl.info>)

1. These responsibilities shall include the planning arrangements for the meet, appointment of meet officials, schedule changes, observance of the rules by the Referee, protest decisions, etc.
2. The Coaches shall do initial scheduling of dual meets which shall be binding upon the clubs involved unless a mutual schedule change is agreed to by both Swim Chairs.
See also SCHEDULING OF DUAL MEETS, section C of Article III, Administrative Procedures.
3. Proper management of the meet requires both Swim Chairs or their Designates to be present at the meet.
4. All Officials and Coaches have a responsibility for proper observance and enforcement of the rules. Any Swim Chair, Official or Coach may protest an apparent violation of the rules; the Referee shall interrupt the meet and review the pertinent rule(s) by actual reference to the Rule Book. Every attempt should be made to settle the problem during the meet, at poolside. If settlement is not reached, note the DUAL MEET PROTESTS, section E. of Article III, Administrative Procedures.

G. **TWO TEAMS-ONE CLUB**

Clubs with very large numbers of competitors may apply to FCSL to have a second team entered officially in the League.

Rules for these clubs with two teams (A team, B team) are listed in Appendix VII.

Note: These rules do not apply to any unofficial B team which may compete informally against other unofficial B teams, without scores being kept. These unofficial B teams do not participate in any FCSL division.

ARTICLE II – CONDUCT OF COMPETITION

A. GENERAL

This Article shall apply to all dual meets and, except as otherwise provided in the Swimming Rules and the Diving Rules, to FCSL Championship Meets.

B. ORDER OF EVENTS

1. At dual meets, diving and swimming events shall be held in event order, from event 1 through event 60 only. The full list of events is shown in Appendix XIX
2. Changes in the order of events shall be made only with the approval of the Swim Chair of both clubs represented at the meet.

C. OFFICIAL STARTING TIME

1. The Official Starting Time of any dual-meet sporting competition shall be the time originally agreed upon by the Swim Chairs and Coaches of both clubs.
2. If no other agreed time has been set, the Official Starting Time of swimming competition shall be no later than 30 minutes after completion of the final diving event. Upon such completion, the clock-time for Entry Closing and for start of swimming competition should be announced over the PA system.
3. Official Starting time (and Entry Closing deadline) shall, except as provided below, not be delayed except with the approval of a Swim Chair; either Swim Chair may require such delay. Either of these times may be advanced, but only with the approval of both Swim Chairs. Such changes should be announced over the PA system.

D. ENTRY CLOSING

The Entry Closing deadlines for diving and for swimming shall be 15 minutes prior to their respective Official Starting times. Such 15-minute period shall be maintained in order to allow time for Scorers to prepare for the start, etc. Thus, if Entry Closing is delayed by 6 minutes, Official Starting time shall automatically be similarly delayed by 6 minutes, with appropriate notice via the PA system.

E. DELAY OF MEET

1. Each Swim Chair shall be responsible for the promptness of his Coach, of his Team members and of the officials appointed by his club. An insufficient number of officials should not be allowed to cause delay of meet unless the insufficiency is so severe as to fall below the "minimum" requirements listed in the OFFICIALS section of Article IV – Swimming Rules.
2. Decision by a Swim Chair to delay Entry Closing and/or Official Starting time should consider the inconvenience thus caused to parent-members of both clubs, noting also that a delay in the start of diving will cause a similar delay in the start of swimming competition.
3. The FCSL does not, as some swimming organizations do, impose a specific point-penalty upon a club for delaying the start of competition. However, such cases should be reported (verbally or in writing) to the FCSL Board of Governors for action, if necessary, in accordance with League By-laws.

F. **ENTRIES**

Entries for competitions between two teams (dual meets) shall be submitted to the Chief Scorer in writing, on FCSL Score Sheets, at or before Entry Closing.

There are separate and specific procedures for Championship entries which appear in the individual sports sections of this manual.

G. **ENTRY CHANGES**

During non-championship competition (including dual meets), a Coach may make entry changes by verbal or written request to the Chief Scorer. It shall be the responsibility of the Coach to make sure that his request for change has been noted and understood by the Chief Scorer and that it has been made in time to be valid.

- a. Such change shall be completed (given to and accepted by the Scorer) before the Start of the event preceding that in which the change is to be made except in the case of the first event when such change must be completed 5 minutes before the announced start of the meet.
- b. If Scorers discover that the change is made too late, and are not able to warn the Referee in time to prevent the start of the event, the applicable penalty rule shall apply (No-Show, 4-Event rule, No Entry).

H. **NO SHOWS**

A contestant who, without having been scratched, is entered in an event but does not compete in it, shall be charged with that event as if he had competed in it. Such contestant's name shall be marked on the Score Sheet by the Chief Scorer as "NO-SHOW" or as "NS". Such contestant shall not otherwise be penalized in a dual meet except as he may violate the 4-Event Rule.

I. **4-EVENT RULE**

- a. In dual meets, a contestant may compete in a maximum of 4 swim and/or dive events, one of which must be either diving or a relay. In Divisional and County Championships, a contestant may compete in a maximum of 4 swim events, one of which must be a relay.
- b. If a contestant actually competes in any additional event(s) in violation of section (a) of this rule, he/she shall be disqualified in any such additional event(s) and from any further participation in the meet; further any points scored by him/her in his/her previously completed events shall be removed from the team score without further rescoring.
- c. A "No Show" for a fourth (4th) individual swimming event or for a fifth (5th) meet event will not incur a penalty under this rule.
Note that a "No Show" in any prior event is charged as an event
- d. For purposes of this rule, it shall be assumed that the sequence of a contestant's events shall be the numbered order of events as listed in Appendix XIX. For dual meets see also Section B of Article III – General Sports Rules. For Swimming only also see Section N of Article V – Swimming Rules for Championship Meets.

J. **NO-ENTRY**

A contestant who competes in an event for which he is not entered (on the Score Sheet or Diving Entry Form) shall be disqualified and charged with that event. The Chief Scorer shall immediately advise the Referee of such infraction and, upon Referee confirmation, shall enter that contestant's name on the Score Sheet and mark it "DQ-NO ENTRY". The time swum by the swimmer will be considered an Unofficial Time.

K. **UNOFFICIAL CONTESTANTS AND EVENTS**

1. **Unofficial Contestant** -- A coach may designate any of his team's contestants as "Unofficial" by notifying the Chief Scorer; such changes shall be made in accordance with entry-change rules. Names of unofficial contestants shall not be entered on the Score Sheet, except as provided below. Unofficial swimmers need not be timed but, if they are timed, the Timers Card shall be clearly marked as "UNOFFICIAL" or "EXHIBITION". For maximum unofficial divers, see also Diving Rules, Article II, Entries, section 6.
2. **"Best Time" Attempts** -- A swimmer may be entered as "Unofficial" in an attempt to better his Best Competitive Time (BCT), if he does not wish to enter that race as an official swimmer. In such cases, the Chief Scorer should be advised as above but the swimmer's name shall be entered on the Score Sheet, with his Official Time, and clearly marked "UNOFFICIAL". BCT attempts shall be made only at a FCSL dual meet and shall be timed by three Timers.
3. **Ineligible Contestants** shall not participate in a meet as official contestants except by specific prior agreement of both Swim Chairs. He/she may compete as an unofficial entry in a dual meet at the option of his own club's Swim Chair after consultation with the other team. See also ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE section E of Article I.
4. **Unofficial Events or Heats** shall not be added to a dual meet except by specific agreement of both coaches or both Swim Chairs

L. **SCHEDULE CHANGES**

1. **Changes in Schedule** -- Changes in the schedule of a meet (place, date, starting time), or of any part of a meet, or in the order of events, shall be made only with the approval of both Swim Chairs, except as provided in section C-3 of this Article. See also SCHEDULING OF DUAL MEETS, Section C. of Article III.
2. **Interruption of Competition**
 - a. The Referee may stop the competition at any stage, if in his or her judgment, such action is required for reasons of safety of the contestants.
 - b. The Referee shall stop the competition between events at the request of a Swim Chair, Coach or Official, in order to attempt to resolve a protest, to answer a question about the rules, or allow the Scorers to catch up with the order of events.
 - c. The Referee shall not interrupt or delay the any competition for other reasons except as provided elsewhere in these rules or at the request of both Swim Chairs.
3. **Postponements**
 - a. A meet, or any part of a meet, shall be postponed only for reasons of safety, of weather, or failure of facilities or at the request of both Swim Chairs.

The Referee shall stop the meet for such reasons, but the decision as to when and where to resume competition shall be made only by the two Coaches (subject to approval of their Swim Chairs) or by the two Swim Chairs.
 - b. A postponed competition shall be held within seven days after the originally scheduled date.
 - c. Any event completed during the original competition shall not be repeated when competition is resumed. No diving contestant shall repeat any completed dive in an event when competition is resumed.
 - d. The President of the League, Vice-President, or the Coaches Rep for that sport shall resolve disagreements between Swim Chairs as to the rescheduling of a postponed competition. No such resolution should be made by a member of either club involved.

M. FORFEITS

1. Unilateral Forfeit -- Forfeiture of a competition, represents a violation of FCSL By-Laws, in that it is a "failure to maintain an acceptable standard of interclub competition", for which "a club may be suspended or expelled from League membership", Article II-4b of the By-Laws.

A club planning to forfeit a competition shall so advise the League President or Rules Chair, for later review by the FCSL Board of Governors. This does not imply that a club must "ask permission" to forfeit, but merely that the board must be advised of such action. Penalties as listed in the individual sports sections of this rulebook may apply.

For forfeits effect on scoring, see Swimming Rules, Article II, section F (Scoring Forfeits) and Diving Rules, Article H (Scoring Forfeits).

2. Failure of Facilities -- In some cases, broken diving board, malfunction, etc., one of both Swim Chairs may wish to cancel a competition or part of a competition.

If both Swim Chairs agree to cancellation under such circumstances, the score, if any, of the competition to that point shall stand; if both do not agree to cancellation, the competition or its remainder shall be rescheduled and held, see SCHEDULE CHANGES, section H of this Article.

A unilateral refusal to hold or reschedule part of a competition under these circumstances, or whatever other circumstances, shall require notice to the FCSL League President or Rules Chair, as provided in paragraph 1 above.

N. CONTESTANT INJURED OR ILL

If the Referee determines that a contestant's failure to compete in an event was caused by injury or illness that occurred during the competition, the contestant shall not be penalized.

O. RECORDS OF THE MEET

1. The Official Score Sheet shall be the home club's copy of the Score Sheet, which shall be retained by and at the home club. No other copy of the Score Sheet shall have any official standing.
2. Courtesy Copies -- Each club shall make freely available a copy of any of his Official Score Sheets upon request by the Coach of any club in his Division. Such copies shall be complete and true copies, preferably machine-duplicated, showing names, times and scores for all official entries.
3. Custody of Records -- Each coach shall keep all of his own club's records of meets intact and available for inspection by the Board for 48 hours after the end of a meet, or for such longer period requested by the Board. After such period, all records may be destroyed, except that an Official Copy of a Score Sheet shall not be destroyed until one week after the Championships Swim Finals.
4. Access to Records -- The Head Coach of the home club shall make his records of the meet available for inspection by the visiting club's Coach or Swim Chair immediately following the meet and at any reasonable time during the 24-hour period following the final event of the meet. Such access may, at the home club's option, be provided under the supervision of the home club.
5. Definition of "Records" -- The records referred to above shall include the Official and Unofficial, e.g., visiting Club's copies of the Score Sheet, all Timers Cards for Official and Unofficial contestants, and any other written records used by the Scorers during the meet.

P. IMPROPER BEHAVIOR

1. Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Any conduct that is unsuitable to friendly competition and to an activity involving young children will be considered to be unsportsmanlike conduct. This includes but is not limited to, the following:

- a) making insulting or derogatory remarks or gestures, acts such as taunting, or using obscene or inappropriate language.
- b) trying to influence officials' decisions or flagrant and hostile exhibition of disgust with officials' decisions.
- c) interfering with contestants or meet officials.

Competitors cited for unsportsmanlike conduct will be eliminated from further participation and may, at the discretion of the referee, be asked to leave the competition area. If a contestant who causes such an incident has completed any of his or her scheduled diving or swimming events, he or she shall be disqualified from all of his or her previous events with points deducted from the team score, with no additional re-scoring.

Parents, other adults, or team representatives who are cited for unsportsmanlike conduct will be asked to leave the competition area, This penalty will be imposed at the discretion of the referee, but may be requested by either Swim Chair.

2. Undue Noise

The use of artificial noisemakers, other than Referee's whistle and starter gun or horn, shall be prohibited at FCSL meets. It is not the policy of the League to discourage cheering or other normal vocal encouragement by spectators, officials, coaches or contestants but, when necessary, the Referee shall interrupt or delay the meet until quiet is restored. If noise made by any person is so loud as to disturb officials or contestants, he or she shall immediately be warned by the Referee to desist; if he or she does not heed the warning, he or she shall be penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct.

3. Failure to Vacate the Pool

Any contestant who willfully fails to leave the pool promptly upon request by the Referee shall be disqualified from and charged with his or her next event. If not scheduled for further events, he or she may be disqualified in his or her last previous event

4. Entering Pool during Competition

A contestant who enters the competitive area during competition except as an entered competitor, or who delays the progress of the meet by such action, shall be penalized as provided in paragraph L. 3. above. If not scheduled for further events, he or she shall be disqualified in his or her last previous event.

Use of the diving area during swimming competition or vice versa shall be the decision and responsibility of the home club Swim Chair.

5. Swimwear

The swimsuits worn for competition must be non-transparent and shall conform to the current concept of the appropriate. The Referee shall have the authority to bar offenders from competition until they comply with this rule.

Q. CODE OF CONDUCT

The FCSL Code of Conduct must be read prior to the start of every FCSL sanctioned sporting event. A copy of the FCSL Code of Conduct is included in the Appendix section (XVIII).

R. **ANNOUNCER**

The Announcer for any sports competition, appointed by the home club, shall be seated at the Scoring Table, or sufficiently close to the Table to allow easy and instant communication with the Chief Scorer.

1. The announcer will read the FCSL Code of Conduct at the beginning of every competition.
2. Announcement of place results by name of contestant shall not be required, but may be made at the option of the Swim Chair of the home club.
3. Team scores shall be announced from time to time as convenient, but final scores of the competition shall not be announced until instructions to do so is given by the Referee.
4. He or she shall make such other announcements as requested by the Swim Chair, the Referee or the Chief Scorer. Announcements should be timed so as not to interfere with the conduct of the events. Additional requirements may be listed in the individual sports sections.
5. An announcement made in error by the Announcer shall have no official standing and shall not be used as a basis for protest of the competition.

S. **SCORING TABLE**

The Scoring Table should be situated so that it can be approached from the front and every effort should be made to avoid interference with the Scorers by contestants and spectators at a competition.

1. Coaches shall not be permitted to see the Score Sheet entries of the opposing team, nor shall Coaches be given information regarding such entries, or lack of entries, until after the end of the meet.
2. Coaches may approach the front of the Table to notify the Chief Scorer of entry changes. At the option of the Chief Scorer, Coaches may ask the score or the place results of an event already scored by the Scorers, but shall not approach the Table for other reasons nor be permitted to linger in its vicinity.
3. Undue interruptions cause scoring errors. The Chief Scorer should obtain the assistance of the Referee, if necessary in order to prevent such interference.

T. **SCORERS**

Scorers shall be appointed and assigned as provided in the APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIALS section of this article. Performance of the Scorers duties is described in the individual sports sections of this rulebook.

1. **Team Scores** -- The Scorers shall compile cumulative team scores and, from time to time, provide such information to the Announcer.
2. **Chief Scorer** -- Shall be appointed by the home club and shall have charge of the Official Copy, e.g., Home Club's copy, of the score sheet:
 - a. Shall supervise, help and instruct the Scorers in their duties.
 - b. Shall require the Referee to interrupt the competition whenever necessary to allow the Scorers to catch up with the progress of the meet. The Scoring Table should not be allowed to lag more than two events behind the meet.
 - c. Shall, at the end of the competition, examine the Score Sheet and confirm the final results by signature at the bottom of the final page of the Official Copy of the Score Sheet.

ARTICLE III – ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

A. DUAL MEET SCORES & RESULTS

Places 1-3 for both swimming and diving events will score points as follows:

Individual Events:	5-3-1	Relay Events	7-0-0
--------------------	-------	--------------	-------

Running Totals and Total Scores will be tabulated on the Official Score Sheets.

The Total Score for any combined Swimming & Diving dual meet will include the sum of both the Swimming and Diving Totals.

The win/loss Dual Meet Results Report Form (Appendix IX) should be kept up to date during the season and returned to the Chair of the Coaches upon completion of the last dual meet and/or the full details emailed to **entries@fcsl.info**.

In all sports, the home team must report dual meet results to the **fcsl.info** website within 24 hours after the end of each home dual meet using the supplied fcsl.info User ID to enter the information securely.

B. ADJUSTMENT OF MEET SCORE

1. Mathematical Error, Violation of "4-Event" Rule, Diving Entry Form Rule, Etc.
 - a. The Coach and/or Swim Chair shall have 24 hours, after completion of the meet's final event, in which to review the Score Sheet and other records of the meet.
 - b. If an error is found which would significantly affect the score of the meet, such complaint may, within such 24-hour period, be made by notifying the President(s). The President(s) will notify both parties and resolve the situation in 48 hours.

C. SCHEDULING OF DUAL MEETS

1. Scheduling Policy
 - a. Dual Meets will be arranged for the following summer at the end of the current competitive season, usually at the coaches' luncheon in August, by the coaches and with the approval of the Swim Chairs.
 - b. Home versus Away. If Clubs A and B swam at Club A last year, they should hold their meet at Club B next year. Clubs moving up or down between Divisions inherit the home-away status of the clubs they replaced.
 - c. Changes may be made before the scheduled dual meet with the consent of the Swim Chairs of both clubs. FCSL should be notified promptly of any changes.
 - d. Dual meets shall be scheduled and held between all clubs within each Division.
 - e. No competition shall be scheduled to start before 9:00 am. To accommodate a large number of divers, the two clubs Swim chairs and Diving Coaches may agree to start the Diving competition as early as 8:30 am, in consultation with the two clubs' Swim Coaches and the FCSL Board.

D. **RULE CHANGES**

1. The Swim Chairs of both clubs must agree upon any major changes to the dual meet format, 24 hours prior to the start of the meet.
2. Pursuant to the League's By-Laws, FCSL rules as currently presented in the Rule Book may only be amended or changed :
 - (a) after review by the Board of Governors, and
 - (b) by a 2/3's vote of the Swim Chairs and head swim coaches at a League Meeting.
3. An official proposal for any rule change may be made by any member club, FCSL Board member, or coach of the League at any time by writing to the Secretary of the Board or verbally at a League meeting. Such proposals shall first be reviewed and discussed by the Board and then acted upon.
4. The FCSL League President may require each or any of the individual sports Vice Presidents to form a Rules Committee for that sport to review, in conjunction with the Rules Committee Chair, the current rules and propose any needed changes or updates prior to the start of each season.

E. **DUAL MEET PROTESTS**

Protests should be settled during the competition rather than at a formal Protest Hearing several days after the meet is over. The Referee shall make every effort to settle questions and disagreements to the satisfaction and understanding of all parties while the meet is still in progress. He or she shall not hesitate to interrupt the meet, open the Rule Book and review the pertinent section with any questioning Coach, official or Swim Chair, any one of whom shall have the right to require such action.

1. **Formal Protest of Meet**

- a. If a question is not satisfactorily settled during the competition, the protesting Swim Chair should immediately advise the Referee that the meet is under protest, and the Referee should signify such, in writing, on the official score sheet, no later than 30 minutes after the final event.
- b. Upon notification of a formal protest the Referee shall instruct the Chief Scorer and Announcer that the score is not to be announced at the end of the meet.
- c. The Referee shall, as soon as possible, and on that same day, notify the President in writing of this protest.

2. **Competing Under Protest** –

No protest shall interrupt the meet, or prevent a swimmer from competing.

3. **Protest Hearing**

Upon receipt of a written protest, the President(s) shall notify the parties concerned, Referee, Swim Chairs, Coaches and other officials, as necessary, of the nature of the protest and of the place, date, and time of the Protest Hearing. A Hearing Committee shall be formed and composed of two (2) Coaches, two (2) Board Members, and the President(s). The Hearing shall be held within five (5) days after receipt of the protest. Coaches and Swim Chairs of the clubs involved will also be present at the Hearing.

The Committee shall have the option of considering only the elements of the protest contained in the written protest, or expanding its investigation into other related aspects of the protested meet, and shall have the power to impose such penalties as it deems appropriate to the situation.

F. **SUPPLIES**

The League will supply each club with a copy of the following supplies each season:

Timers Cards: 3 pads (100 cards per pad) per lane (6 or 8 as appropriate), with the cards for each lane printed on different colors of paper.

FCSL Score Sheets: 2 sets, 6 pages per set. See also Appendix XV

Dual Meet Diving Score Sheets See Appendix XVI

Championship Diving Master Sheet

Championship Diving Score Sheets

Water Polo Score Sheets See Appendix XVII

In addition, each club can print additional copies of all of these items, except the Timers Pads, by downloading the appropriate **pdf** files from the FCSL web site: **<http://www.fcsl.info>**

Web Site

Each club will also be supplied with a unique **User ID** and **password** to use to enter information into the fcsl.info web site for that club. This private User ID is for use by the Head Coach and/or Swim Chair (or other officially delegated user) and is not to be disseminated throughout the club to prevent unauthorized access.

The name and contact info for the person at each club that is responsible for entering this information must be notified to the respective Sports VP and to the Webmaster (by email to **webmaster@fcsl.info**).

G. **FCSL EVENT RECORDS**

1. FCSL Event Records may only be set in a Divisional or Final Championship Meet.
2. Reporting of Records

The Chief Scorer of a Championship competition shall report any FCSL record tied or broken to the Chair of the Championship Committee, who shall be responsible for having such record entered in the official listing of "FCSL Records". The Championship Committee shall have the option of recognizing such records by certificate and/or other special award.