

# MCSL Proposed Rule Changes for 2017 Season

If there is a change to an existing rule, the changes are highlighted in red.

1. CCSDA S&T Clinic reciprocity (Board Proposal and **Board is for passage**):

CCSDA clinics are taught by PVS instructors and the CCSDA technical swim rules are the same as MCSL (CCSDA also uses the high school backstroke turn rule).

2. Swim suit and cap requirements for Dual Meets/Divisionals/Relay Carnival (2 member clubs proposed, the two proposals are below. **The Board is neutral**). This rule has been in place for Coaches LC/All Star Individuals and Relays:

1. A uniform section should be included in all meet sections as it is in MCSL Coaches' Invitational Long Course Meet (15i), MSCL All Star Relay Meet (16j), and MCSL Individual All Star Meet (17i). Those rules state that a swimmer shall not wear a suit or cap bearing the name, insignia or logo of any team or pool other than the MCSL team represented by the swimmer. This would eliminate any question or confusion in the future.

2. Currently, MCSL rules for All Stars and Coaches Long Course championship meets prohibit a swimmer from wearing a suit or cap bearing the name, insignia, or logo of any team or pool other than the MCSL team represented by the swimmer. (Plain caps are acceptable). We propose that this rule be expanded to apply to all MCSL competition, inclusive of dual meets, relay carnivals and Divisionals. As stated in the handbook, the purpose of the MCSL is to provide organized, friendly team competition within a fair and wholesome environment at the neighborhood pool level. Swimming with a club team cap, for example, one that represents RMSC, NCAP, Joe Flaherty's Dolphins, etc. diminishes the neighborhood pool spirit, unity and the culture that the league seeks to foster. It also advertises year-round competitive club teams that can be divisive within a summer swim team. Additionally, having this rule apply to all MCSL competition will provide consistency of rules for the entire swim season, reducing confusion.

3. Rule change to section 12 (relay carnival), part q. Currently ribbons are awarded only for second and third place. Price cost to MCSL would be minimal. (Board Proposal and **Board is for passage**).

q. Awards. MCSL medals for first place, ribbons for second **through sixth place**. Duplicates awarded for ties.

4. Requirement for signatures for Relay Early Take-Off Violations (Board Proposal and **Board is for passage**):

Below is a rule change proposal to codify that the signatures of both lane and side relay take-off judges is required on the DQ slip for early take-off violations.

18.c Documentation. DQ cards are to follow the template provided by the MCSL. The DQ card must be signed by the disqualifying official(s), the referee and the swimmer's coach or designated team representative. If a team wishes to have DQ's handled by a representative

# MCSL Proposed Rule Changes for 2017 Season

other than the coach, that representative must be identified to the referee at the start of the meet.

18.e.i Dual confirmation of illegal take-offs is required; that is, both the side take-off judge and the lane take-off judge must record that a particular swimmer left early for a team to be disqualified. **Both the lane and side take-off judge shall sign the MCSL DQ slip for dual confirmed early take-off violations (see 18.c for additional signatures required).** Swimmers must be in a forward starting position when the relay exchange takes place.

5. Seeding for dual meets is based on current season times (member proposal and **Board is against this change**).

Currently there is no rule covering seeding for Dual Meets, coaches can place their swimmers in any manner they desire. This rule proposal would require only times achieved in MCSL (A or B) meets from this year or this years' Time Trials.

6. **Board is against this change.** Delete rule 18.e.ii "running starts" (for relay exchanges) and renumber rules 18.e.iii and 18.e.iv accordingly. Revise rule 18.e.iv to read as follows (member proposal and Board is against, mainly for safety reasons (running on deck)):

"Jurisdiction. For dual meets and Divisionals, disqualifications for ~~running starts or~~ pushing falls under the jurisdiction of the starter, who also has responsibility for watching swimmers ~~who take more than one step to bring them to the edge of the pool~~ during the start of a relay leg. For Relay Carnivals, the chief judge will also watch for ~~running starts or~~ pushing for starts or exchanges that occur on his or her end of the pool."

Rationale:

No other rule in the book causes as much consternation as this rule. People get upset when it's called, and they get upset when they believe it should have been called. As a practical matter, running starts give no competitive advantage for the following reasons:

- During relay events, the ends of the pool are very crowded. There simply is not enough room to take a running start.
- The further away a departing swimmer is from the edge of the pool, the harder it is to time an efficient relay take off. The likelihood of leaving later than the incoming swimmer's touch or before the touch increases with each step. Departing after the incoming swimmer's touch wastes time. Departing before the incoming swimmer's touch is a violation of rule 18.e.i.

7. **Special Note that applies to both proposals for changing distance: If either of these changes pass they will not be implemented until the 2018 Summer Season.**

**This came from a Team Rep from another rule change but applies to these two proposals and is included here for information only. "I propose no change to the current lengths of the 15-18 events. These events have been long standing in the MCSL since the league's inception. The 15-18**

# MCSL Proposed Rule Changes for 2017 Season

**age group has successfully demonstrated year-after-year of being able to complete 100M events. In fact, many swimmers, both year-round and seasonal high school swimmers, look forward to swimming 100M vs. 50M as they get older and much bigger and stronger physically.”**

**Member proposal and the Board is against these proposals.**

Rule proposal to increase distance in the 15-18 year old events (member proposal).

13-14s – change 50 free to 100 free

15-18s – change 100 free to 200 free

15-18s – change 50 Fly to 100 Fly

15-18s – change 100 IM to 200 IM

The overall rationale for increasing these event lengths is that as summer swimmers become more skilled as they become older, just like other sports, they are challenged more by increased distances. Particularly for the 15-18s, these lengths are more in line with what is required to swim at a high school swim meet.

At the current length, 9 year olds are required to swim a 50 free. By the time swimmers are 13, they have been swimming a 50 free for 4 years; their skill level should have increased such that they would be able to swim a 100 free. By the age of 15 (in high school), their endurance and skill level would be such that they can swim a 200 free. Some may argue that this is too long for some non-year round swimmers. However, as I have observed at our high school team which has few year-round swimmers, nearly every swimmer is required to swim the 500 free and to date all of them have completed it successfully. As anyone with a high school swimmer can attest, there are more opportunities to practice at a MCSL pool than for high school swim teams. High school teams only practice 2 times per week whereas summer league pools have practice 5 times per week.

Again the same reasoning that a swimmer has been swimming a 50 fly for 4 years since they were 11, a 15 year old should be swimming a 100 fly. The physical development between an 11 year old and a 15 year old is significant. Again, high school swimmers swim a 100 fly.

We suggest an increase in the IM from 100 to 200 for 15-18 year-olds for similar reasons. It is not unusual for kids much younger than 12 to be swimming a 100 IM. For example, a swim meet we had this year had a 6 year old successfully swim a 100 IM. While he was slow, he finished it legally. Also in high school swimming, the length is 200 IM (yards).

With these changes, the timeline for a regular dual meet would only be increased by about 10 minutes. The timeline for Divisionals would only increase by about 20 minutes.

If these changes are approved it would also not greatly increase the time of Coaches' Long Course since there is only one heat of each event.

8. Rule change to reduce the 15-18 year old events to 50 meters except for freestyle (member proposal and Board is against).

Swimming 50s would be more fun, it could potentially keep more swimmers interested in summer

## MCSL Proposed Rule Changes for 2017 Season

swimming, and it would decrease the competitive advantage of year round swimmers. I think it would be worth a thoughtful discussion among the board as well as among all the team reps as to if this potential change would better support the "purpose of the league" keeping in mind the "words of wisdom" from the MCSL Meet Management Handbook that "This is for the kids. If they are having fun, it is all worth it in the end."

The potential advantage is that possibly more swimmers will hang around summer swimming instead of just the year round swimmers. It would make swimming as a 15-18 more fun (which is part of the goal) and decrease the competitive advantage for year round swimmers. Swimming 3 100s at a quick summer meet is a lot for the non-year round swimmers.