Scratch Procedures

General Information:

Following the announcement of the qualifiers for an event, there is a 30 minute period during which you may scratch from the event, or declare your intention to scratch from the event.

If you do not scratch from an event, you must swim in finals or you will be barred from further competition in the meet.

Please use the Scratch Sheet for the scratch procedures described below. Do not write or mark on the Preliminary Results Sheet.

Scratching From an Event:

To scratch from an event, either the swimmer or the swimmer's coach must fill out and sign a Scratch Sheet which must then be deposited in the Scratch Box within the 30 minute scratch period.

Exercising the Option of Scratching From an Event Within 30 Minutes of Your Last Event of the Session:

If your decision to scratch from an event is contingent on how you place in one or more subsequent individual events, you may delay your decision to scratch from an event until no later than 30 minutes following your last individual event. To preserve this right, the swimmer or the swimmer's coach must indicate that intention by checking the second box on the Scratch Sheet, signing the Scratch Sheet, and depositing it in the Scratch Box within the 30 minute scratch period of the event for which the intent is being exercised.

If you declare that you may want to scratch from an event, you must declare your final intention to scratch within 30 minutes following your last individual preliminary event. This must be done on the "Declaration of Intent to Scratch From Finals" form, the first four columns of which the Administrative Referee will have already filled out.

If you declare that you may want to scratch an event, but do not return to confirm that scratch, you will be seeded into the event and will be barred from further competition in the meet if you do not appear for finals.

Contact the Administrative Referee if you have any questions about the scratch procedures or penalties for failing to compete.