

PMSL Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) v2

(UPDATED: 6/21/21)

Q1. How many meets must a swimmer participate in to be eligible for Divisionals this year?

A1. Due to the shortened season, swimmers must compete in at least ONE regularly scheduled PMSL dual meet to be eligible for Divisionals.

Q2. Must swimmers complete a team-switching form during 2021?

A2. If a swimmer is changing teams from the team they competed on in 2019 then YES, they must complete a team-switching form. Please remember that swimmers cannot switch teams again for two years unless they meet the criteria in the PMSL rules or unless they meet one of the following two special 2021 criteria's:

- a. The swimmer is switching from a 2021 in-person team to a 2021 virtual team; OR
- b. The swimmer is switching from a 2021 virtual team to a 2021 in-person team.

Q3. Can swimmers who are 19 on May 31, 2021 compete in PMSL this year?

A3. As voted upon in 2020, swimmers who are 19 on May 31, 2021 may compete in PMSL this year; however, they cannot score points or break league records (team records are up to each individual team) – the swimmers would be the only allowed exhibition swimmers. PMSL wanted to provide the swimmers for one last season with their summer teams.

Q4. Can 19 year old swimmers be on a relay?

A4. Yes, 19 year old swimmers may compete on a relay team; however, the relay team will be counted as exhibition so they would not score any points.

Q5. My team is swimming virtual. What are the requirements for officials?

A5. Virtual teams must meet the required officials listed in the PMSL handbook:

1) For dual meets (minimum of 2 stroke & turn officials; 4 are preferred). The two competing virtual teams should mirror each other for fairness (i.e., each has the same number of stroke & turn officials making calls on the deck during the meet and each uses either a separate referee and starter OR one person as the referee/starter.)

2) For the divisional meet (minimum of 4 stroke & turns plus a separate referee and separate starter). If a virtual team cannot meet the minimum requirements, then you must reduce the number of lanes being used for competition so that the officials are judging the same number of lanes as the in-person teams; i.e., if you only have 2 stroke & turns then you would only use 3 lanes for competition.

Q6. How will the virtual meets be scored?

A6. At the end of the meet results will be emailed to the opposing team and to the Division Data Manager. Each team will then need to follow the PMSL-provided method to merge and score the meet. The teams must agree upon the final score and the "Home" team will email the merged results to the Division Data Manager, the League Data Manager and the webmaster before Sunday morning.

Q7. If both teams are comfortable using 3 timers per lane, can we return to using the usual number of timers per lane?

A7. YES, if both teams agree and your jurisdiction allows it, then you can return to the usual number of 3 timers per lane. You can also choose to use 2 timers if both teams agree and the Head Judge would need to average the times for the official time.

Q8. Why is the LEAGUE mandating such strict protocols for this season?

A8. The LEAGUE has not mandated any protocols for this season other than what is required by your state, county or local jurisdiction. Each team is allowed to develop the protocols for their pool based on the requirements of their jurisdiction or governing body. Protocols will be allowed to be updated throughout the season; however, the league must receive notification of the changes as they happen.

Q9. If my team is in-person and does not feel comfortable (safe) with the protocols in place by the host team, what should I do?

A9. Your team's meet manager should discuss the concern with the Host team's meet manager by Wednesday before the meet and see if a compromise can be made so everyone feels safe. If a resolution cannot occur, you need to notify the league president via email by Wednesday at 11:59 PM prior to the meet and you may choose to swim the meet virtual.

Q10. Where can I view each team's protocols?

A10. The League will send an email to each team (through the League Rep and First Alternate) with a consolidated document outlining each team's protocols for your division.

Q11. Why are starters doing Order of Finish? What is it?

A11. Starters were asked to start recording the Order of Finish for every heat in 2019. Starters record the order of finish on their heat sheet for every race by writing down the lane numbers as the swimmer's touch. Ex.: 456123 tells me that lane 4 was 1st, lane 5 was 2nd, lane 6 was 3rd, etc. The starter's Order of Finish is only used if there is a question in placement. A couple of scenarios may include:

a. A timer's watch malfunctioned and a time was not recorded for a swimmer. The Order of Finish would let us know what place the swimmer should be awarded in the heat

b. Results are posted and people are questioning the results. The swimmer in Lane 4 is shown as being in 1st place but "everyone" saw the swimmer in Lane 2 clearly finish first. When we review the lane timer sheets: Lane 4 has a time of 32.84 and Lane 2 has a time of 34.23. When we ask the Starter, the Order of finish clearly shows the following Order of Finish: 2,4,6,1,3,5. Since the difference in times is more than 0.3, the Order of Finish does not support the posted results and should over-rule the times.

Q12. Why aren't we using Place Judges?

A12. We are not using Place Judges in order to minimize the number of people on the deck and around the swimmers. Place Judges originated when we used non-digital stop watches to help mitigate the errors in reading the non-digital stop watch. We now use digital stopwatches that record to the 1/100 of a second (0.01). Research shows that the naked eye cannot distinguish anything less than 3/10 of a second (0.3) and this is the number used to overturn any discrepancies in timing for professional swimming. We are working to redefine the place judge job to only allow the place judge to overturn a result if the watch times differ by more than 3/10 of a second (0.3)

Q13. Since we only have 4 teams per division, how many entries will be allowed for Divisionals?

A13. Each team may enter 3 swimmers per event; however, only two swimmers per team will be allowed to score. **Only the scoring swimmers are eligible to move forward to the All-Star meet. 19 year old athletes are not eligible for All-Stars.**

Q14. I can't make the training sessions for the officials. Can I get a link from the Zoom meeting to review and then take the test to become certified?

A14. No, the Zoom videos are not available. All interested people need to ATTEND a class and be interactive in the class to qualify to take the test.

Q15. I have a swimmer who wants to wear a suit that does not conform to the swimwear design allowed in the PMSL Handbook, what so I need to do? Can the referee allow the swimmer to compete?

A15. If a swimmer needs to wear a suit that does not conform to the swimmer design allowed in the PMSL handbook (including the use of a rash guard or sunscreen shirt) the parent needs to request a swimsuit waiver through the team league rep to the League President at least 72 hours before the swimmer's first meet. (A swimsuit waiver form is available on the [princemont.org](https://formsmarts.com/form/26i8) website and using this link: <https://formsmarts.com/form/26i8>) Swimsuit waivers may be granted by the Board for medical, religious or other reasons (including mental health). The waiver may need to include a picture and description of the requested swimwear modification to ensure it meets specific criteria. The swimmer and his/her team will receive written (emailed) notification if the waiver is granted and will need to provide the written notification to the referee prior to the start of the meet. Without the written notification, the swimmer may compete; however, they will be disqualified for a swimsuit violation. Referees cannot approve swimsuit waivers independently as the league wants to be sure that the swimmer is treated the same at all meets.