

NVSL Proposed Rules
October 31, 2022
For Consideration by Team Reps on March 19, 2023

Note: Proposed changes to rules below are in red. Deletions are indicated by strikeouts.

1. Add a new definition of “League” and “League Competition” to the Glossary and amend Rules 19.a., 19.b., and 19.d. (proposed by Linda Klopfenstein, NVSL Records Chair):

Add two new definitions to the Glossary:

League - the Northern Virginia Swimming League

League Competition – only meets listed in the swimming and diving sections of the current NVSL Handbook.

Make the following changes to Rule 19:

Rule 19.a.: The League shall maintain an up-to-date set of records of the fastest times achieved in League **Competition**. League records shall be recorded to hundredths of a second. These records shall be maintained for each event swum in League **Competition** over the following distances only: 25, 50, 100 and 200 yards/meters.

Rule 19.b.: To be accepted as a League record, a **swim at a League Competition** shall be timed with at least three **independently activated digital watches or automatic timing system buttons**.

Rule 19.d.: No relay leg times, ~~or~~ split times, **or times achieved in non-League Competition** are acceptable for League records. Record times shall be acceptable only for the age group of the swimmer setting the record including “swim-ups.” A swimmer who is “swimming up” in an older age group shall be eligible to set a record for his or her own age group, but not for the older age group.

Proposal 1	In favor	Against
NVSL Rules Committee	6	0
NVSL Board of Directors	15	1

2. Amend Rule 12.b.(2) to require the Starter to announce the distance and stroke of each event prior to the start of an event (proposed by Chris Mack, Division 2 Coordinator):

Rule 12.b.(2): The no-recall and whistle start procedure of the USA Swimming Rules shall be followed. **Optional verbal instructions, announcing the distance and the stroke may be used by the Starter. Starters shall provide verbal instructions announcing the distance and stroke prior to the start of the event.**

Proposal 2	In favor	Against
NVSL Rules Committee	6	0
NVSL Board of Directors	16	0

3. WITHDRAWN

4. Amend Rules 1.b., 14.b., add a new 14.c., and amend 14.d. to create a new system through which sportsmanship issues may be protested (proposed by Hillary Fielden, Hunter Mill Team Rep):

Rule 1.b. All persons involved with the League – swimmers, Coaches, League Board Members, Team Representatives (Team Reps), Officials, parents and spectators – shall adhere to the Standards of Conduct as published in the NVSL Handbook. If any such person violates the Standards of Conduct during a NVSL team meet, a Team Rep **or member of the pool board** may file a protest as set out in Rules 14b and 14c. Sanctions, including suspension(s) may be imposed pursuant to Rule 14.b(5) **or 14.c(5). [remainder of rule remains the same]**

Rule 14.b. Protests involving non-technical League Rules **other than the Standards of Conduct under 14.c.:**

Rule 14.c.:

14.c. Protests involving Standards of Conduct:

(1) When protests involving the NVSL Standards of Conduct arise during or after a meet, if practicable the Team Reps involved should make every effort to reach a mutually agreeable solution. Failing this, or a discussion is not practicable, then a protest must be submitted in writing to the League President by the Team Rep or member of the pool board.

(2) Upon receipt of such a protest, the league president shall appoint a NVSL “Sportsmanship and Conduct Committee” (Committee) comprised of three (3) individuals selected by the NVSL president who are unaffiliated with the division where the protest originated. The President shall designate one member as chair. The President shall not serve on the Committee.

(3) The Committee shall have the authority to examine meet records or other evidence deemed pertinent to the matter under consideration, to conduct interviews, and require all parties to submit written statements of the facts.

a. The Committee shall give the Team Reps or pool board members of the pools involved in the protest a reasonable opportunity to submit written statements, written responses, and supplement with written statements of meet officials or other witnesses. The Team Reps or pool board member may supplement the statements and responses with written statements of meet officials or other witnesses.

b. All materials collected by or submitted to the Committee must be saved in their original condition for a minimum of 3 years.

c. All materials collected by or submitted to the Committee shall be provided in full to law enforcement or legal representation when required.

(4) Decisions rendered by the Committee shall be final and binding with regard to the outcome of the NVSL meet or future participation in NVSL teams or events.

(5) If a violation of these rules is found by the Committee to have been intentional, the Committee may, subject to approval of the Executive Board, declare a forfeiture or set a penalty greater than that allowed by Rule 4f.

Delete the current 14.c. and add a new 14.d.:

14.d. Technical and non-technical protests shall not be considered later than three days after the date of the last League meet of the season. Protests involving Standards of Conduct under 14.c. shall be submitted as soon as possible but will be accepted anytime until three days after the last League event of the season.

Proposal 4	In favor	Against
NVSL Rules Committee	0	6
NVSL Board of Directors	0	16