

# RULES FOR THE "SURPRISE SKINS"

1. The race distance will be 50m.
2. Up to 8 swimmers will contest the first heat of each event.
3. Boys' and girls' heats will be run concurrently with the time between each gender's heats being 3 minutes.
4. If there are 7 or 8 competitors in the first heat then the 2 slowest competitors will be eliminated from heats 1 and 2, thereafter only the slowest competitor will be eliminated. If 6 or fewer competitors start heat 1 then only the slowest competitor will be eliminated from each heat.
5. Choice of stroke will be made by drawing slips from a hat. The Referee will select from the hat the first stroke to be swum in the boy's and the girl's heat. Subsequent strokes will be selected by the slowest eliminated swimmer and communicated to the remaining swimmers by the Referee before the 10sec whistle (see point 8). The stroke which has just been swum will not be entered into the draw for the next heat but will be entered for the subsequent heat. Therefore the same stroke will not be swum consecutively and for all heats after the first heat there will be a choice from three strokes.
6. Heat 1 of the boy's event will be started with a conventional start i.e. Referee blows the whistle and Starter announces, "Take your mark" before sounding the starting signal.
7. 1.5 minutes later, heat 1 of the girl's event will start with a conventional start as detailed in point 6.
8. 1 min 20secs later (i.e. 10sec before the 3 minutes have elapsed since the start of the boy's heat) a whistle will be blown by the Starter to indicate that there is 10secs until the start of heat 2 for the boys. Swimmers should prepare themselves to commence their race. When 10secs has elapsed the starting signal will be given for the race to begin. THERE WILL BE NO VERBAL ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE STARTER (i.e. Starter will not say, "Take your mark"). It is up to the swimmer to ensure that they are on the block/ in the water (backstroke) and ready to go at the starting signal. False starts will result in disqualification and elimination.
9. The Placing Judges will identify the swimmer(s) who are eliminated and inform the Referee. The Referee informs the eliminated swimmer(s). If the Placing Judges disagree on the swimmer to be eliminated the Referee's decision is final. If no clear decision can be reached all swimmers will swim in the next heat and 2 swimmers will be eliminated.
10. 10secs before heat 2 of the girl's event should begin, the whistle will be blown by the Starter to tell the girls to prepare to race. Heat 2 of the girl's event will proceed as shown in points 8 and 9.
11. The heats proceed according to these rules with the heats in each event being 3 minutes apart until there is a winning swimmer.
12. Swimmers will remain in their original assigned lanes throughout the event. However the final heat will take place in the two central lanes.

13. If there is a tie between the two final swimmers in an event then swims will continue in the same manner until a winner can be determined.
14. If a swimmer false starts or any swimmer is disqualified for a stroke infringement then there will be no elimination of the slowest swimmer in that swim. Strokes will be in accordance with ASA Laws and Technical Rules.
15. At the end of each heat the Referee will enter on the swimmer's timecard the place attained in the event (i.e. 8<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> etc.). At the end of the final heat the Referee will enter the place attained and the time achieved by the swimmer.
16. In all matters pertaining to the Surprise Skins the Referee's decision is final.