

NHIAA SWIMMING & DIVING

(Differences between DFS, NS and Scratches)

I've been asked to explain the differences between DFS, NS and scratches. Please cover this with your Timing Table and Computer Operators.

Declare False Starts:

Declare False Starts may be used only if the swimmer is present and the swimmer reports to the referee before the race is swum. A DFS is a disqualification and counts as an entry and as participation in the meet. In a Timed Final meet, which all our meets are, it is usually used when a swimmer is unable to compete because of illness, injury or another reason they are unable to compete.

Scratches:

Scratches before competition are used when the swimmer is not at the meet and will not be competing. The coach should report this to the timing table so that the swimmer may be removed from the meet. If heat sheets have been preprinted out, the Officials should be notified also. When the swimmer is present a scratch may be used to take them out of one race and allow them to swim in another race as the scratch usually counts as a no entry in standard HS rules. Invitationals and prior mutual consent pre-meet information may change this process. Scratching swimmers who are not attending allows coaches to enter other swimmers in those events and make other changes. Scratches do not count as entries in either an event or the meet. Scratches should be removed from the meet results.

No Shows:

No Shows are when a swimmer does not swim during an event in which they are entered. In Timed Finals there is not a penalty. No Shows count as an entry. So, if a swimmer misses an event, they cannot enter an additional event to make up for the missed race. If they want to change events this must be done before the race they are going to swim is swum. If the swimmer is not at the meet, they should be scratched from the meet by the Timing Table/Computer Operator.

Thank you,
MaryAnne Lustgraaf
Rules Interpreter & Supervisor of Officials