

Situation: Check-in Procedures

At an LSC competition the meet invitation expressly included the phrase, "Positive check-in by 5:00 pm Saturday is required for the 800 and 1500 Freestyle events on Sunday." No additional information was given regarding the check-in procedures. A couple of coaches did not check in their athletes prior to the deadline for check-in, but later wanted their athletes to participate in the events. After initially agreeing to allow the additional entries, the referee changed his mind when other coaches protested that to allow the swims would violate the check-in procedure stated in the meet announcement. Ultimately the referee decided the athletes could swim, but they would not be scored in the event, and the swims would be treated as a time trial for those affected. Correct Ruling?

Answer:

No. Article 102.3 of the Rulebook states "Meet announcements and advance information shall specify check-in and scratch procedures for individual and relay events **and penalties for violation of those procedures**". Since the meet announcement did not state any penalty for failing to check-in by the deadline the swimmers should have been allowed to swim and score in the events.