

From: Records and Tabulation Committee Chair
Sent: September 21, 2021
To: LMSC Top Ten Recorders
CC: USMS National Swims Coordinator
Subject: Potential Relay Issues

Hello Top Ten Recorders,

It has come to our attention that many relays are often deemed ineligible for Top Ten consideration according to the rulebook criteria. But, most of the time it's usually due to a relay labeling issue in the meet information & registration forms which can be corrected fairly easily (as opposed to a DQ, non-members etc.) thus avoiding potential elimination for top ten consideration. This is not a new situation but seems to be showing up more frequently. It's possible there are more new sanction folks out there, and/or new meet directors.

We are hoping that you can pass this information on to your local Sanction Chairs and potentially to meet directors, so there won't be any surprises and relays won't have to get removed from Top Ten. Also, if you're willing to review the forms for consistency/accuracy etc. prior to the meet it could help.

Please see the attached information for details and potential solutions. Feel free to pass on that document.

MJ Caswell
Records and Tabulation Chair
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DON'T LET YOUR RELAYS BE ELIMINATED FOR TOP 10!!

- 1) It has come to our attention that many relays are often deemed ineligible for Top Ten consideration according to the rulebook criteria. But, most of the time it usually due to a relay labeling issue in the meet information & registration forms which can be corrected fairly easily (as opposed to a DQ, non-members etc.) thus avoiding potential elimination for top ten consideration. See detailed description and examples below.

- 2) It has been noted often that the Meet Information (uploaded for sanctioning purposes) has additional and/or conflicting information from the actual meet registration forms. For example, the meet information may include an event description like a 200 yard Women's Medley Relay but the registration form says Mixed 200 yard Medley Relay. Which one is correct? Which one is intended?

- 3) Below is a detailed description & specific examples with potential solutions. Note that the Meet Director (defining the relays and checking meet info & registration forms for consistency), Sanctions Chairs (checking meet information and educating Meet Directors) and Top Ten recorders (verifying issues have been addressed throughout the process) all have a part in this process.

Based on how the meet announcement labels relays, the relays may or may not be valid for Top 10. From article 102.5.2 in the rulebook, it lists two events for relays for freestyle:

200-400-800 yards freestyle relay

200-400-800 yards mixed freestyle relay

It is similar for meters, both Long Course and Short Course.

and two events for relays for medleys:

200-400 yards medley relay

200-400 yards mixed medley relay

It is similar for meters as well.

Note that the freestyle relay and the mixed freestyle relay are TWO DIFFERENT events. Same with the medley relays. The freestyle relay and the medley relay, similar to the other individual events, are for men's relays and/or women's relays. The mixed freestyle relay and mixed medley relay is for 2 men and 2 women on each relay (per article 101.7.3).

So how does that affect the order of events? If it is not clearly stated, then relays may be eliminated from top 10 for not conforming to the valid events listed in 102.5.2.

For example, if this is the listed order of events:

#	EVENT	ENTRY TIME	#	EVENT	ENTRY TIME
1	200 Medley Relay	_____	13	200 IM	_____
4	200 Free	_____	14	50 Butterfly	_____
5	100 IM	_____	15	100 Freestyle	_____
6	50 Backstroke	_____	16	100 Backstroke	_____
7	100 Butterfly	_____	17	50 Breaststroke	_____
8	50 Freestyle	_____	18	400 Free Relay	_____
9	100 Breaststroke	_____			
10	200 Free Relay	_____			

What kind of relay are events 1, 10 and 18? According to 102.5.2, these would only be men's and/or women's relays.

In the above example, the truly mixed relays (2 women & 2 men) will NOT be eligible for top 10 using this description of the relay events.

Now suppose the same order of events includes "mixed" prior to each event:

#	EVENT	ENTRY TIME	#	EVENT	ENTRY TIME
1	Mixed 200 Medley Relay	_____	13	Mixed 200 IM	_____
4	Mixed 200 Free	_____	14	Mixed 50 Butterfly	_____
5	Mixed 100 IM	_____	15	Mixed 100 Freestyle	_____
6	Mixed 50 Backstroke	_____	16	Mixed 100 Backstroke	_____
7	Mixed 100 Butterfly	_____	17	Mixed 50 Breaststroke	_____
8	Mixed 50 Freestyle	_____	18	Mixed 400 Free Relay	_____
9	Mixed 100 Breaststroke	_____			
10	Mixed 200 Free Relay	_____			

What kind of relay are events 1, 10 and 18? Are they a mixed relay or the men's/women's similar to the other events, also listed as "mixed"? They can't be both technically.

In this case, it will be assumed (without more information) that the mixed relays are men's/women's and the truly mixed relays will not be considered eligible for top ten consideration.

The clearest solution is to label the gender of the relays separately, for example:

1. Women's 200 Medley relay
2. Men's 200 Medley relay
3. Mixed 200 Medley relay

To include all 3 in a single event, try this:

1. 200 Medley relay (M,W,X)

Or if using "mixed" as part of each event label:

1. Mixed 200 Medley relay (M,W,X)

To include the events with men/women together but mixed separately, this is acceptable

1. 200 medley relay (M,W)
2. 200 mixed medley relay

Or

1. 200 medley relay (M,W)
2. 200 medley relay (X)

Or if using "mixed" as part of each event label:

1. Mixed 200 medley (M,W)
2. Mixed 200 medley (X)

Another option, or in addition to the above, is to detail the relays in the body of the meet announcement, such as:

Relays: All relays will be men's, women's or exactly 2 men 2 women.

Or

Relays: all relays are mixed relays only with 2 men 2 women.

Or

Relays: events 1 and 10 are men's / women's relays and event 18 shall consist of 2 men 2 women.

Or whatever the case may be.

Questions? Contact the USMS National Swims Coordinator, Mary Beth Windrath, via email topten@usmastersswimming.org.