

ROCKET CITY SWIM LEAGUE
Council Motion: Fair Meet Eligibility Rule
Submitted under ROC Article IV, Section 2(A)

Submitted by: Pete Huetson, Valley Hill Country Club (VHCC), Team Rep

Date submitted: May 2, 2026

THE PROBLEM

To swim in the City Championship (City Meet), every swimmer must participate in at least **two (2) regular-season Dual “A” Meets** (Rules of Competition, Article IV, Section 6). This rule applies equally to every swimmer in every division, but the schedule does not give every division an equal opportunity to meet it.

Looking at the current season (2026) and past season (2025) schedule:

A League: 6 pools, every team swims 5 meets. Every swimmer has 5 chances to get their two splashes.

B League: 6 pools, every team swims 5 meets. Same opportunity as A League.

C League: 5 pools, which forces a "off" week into the rotation every week of the season.

Every C League team sits out at least one meet, meaning every C League swimmer starts the season with 4 meet opportunities at most, compared to 5 for A and B League.

That one-meet difference is not a minor inconvenience. C League swimmers and their families already deal with the same real-world obstacles that affect every summer league team: weather cancellations, family vacations, conflicts with other sports, and illnesses. A and B League swimmers absorb those losses and still have enough meets left to qualify. C League swimmers do not have that cushion. In past seasons, C League teams have been forced to schedule makeup meets in the days immediately before the City Championship begins, putting families in an impossible position and giving swimmers no real recovery time before the most important meet of the season. This is not a theoretical problem. It happens every year.

THE EXISTING REMEDY DOES NOT WORK

Section 6 of the Rules of Competition does include a provision intended to help teams in exactly this situation. It states that any two teams sharing the same scheduled off week may choose to swim a B meet, with that meet counting toward the two-splash City Championship eligibility requirement.

However, this provision is structurally impossible to use in C League. Because C League has five pools, the "off" week rotates through a different team every single week of the season. No two C League teams ever share the same "off" week. The schedule makes that mathematically

unavoidable. As a result, the only relief valve the rules provide is completely inaccessible to the division that needs it most.

This means C League swimmers are held to a two-splash eligibility standard with no reliable path to satisfy it if a single meet is lost to weather, illness, or any other cause. The rule as written cannot be followed as intended in a five-pool division. This motion corrects that.

WHAT THIS MOTION ASKS FOR

This motion asks the Council to change the City Championship eligibility requirement so that it is tied directly to the number of Dual Meets the schedule actually provides. The rule is simple: **the minimum splash requirement for City Championship eligibility should match what the League can guarantee, not a fixed number that some divisions cannot reliably reach.**

If all divisions are scheduled for an equal number of Dual Meets greater than four (4), the current two-splash requirement stands for everyone. If any division is scheduled for fewer Dual Meets than the others due to pool availability, that division's eligibility minimum drops to one splash for that season. The standard adjusts automatically based on what the Board is actually able to provide.

PROPOSED RULE ADDITION

Replace the existing eligibility requirement in ROC Article IV, Section 6 with the following:

"All swimmers representing a member club in any League competition must be members of the club for which they compete. Coaches, lifeguards, and any other employees of the club may not represent that club in League competition unless they and/or their families are members of that club. The Board will rule on any eligibility disputes with the Rocket City Swim League and that member club's rules as guide. Each member club shall provide a list of eligible competitors at the RCSL meeting immediately before Dual Meets begin. This list will be on the RCSL form supplied to member teams or in the same format. All swimmers must be placed in alphabetical order by gender and age group. This list may be revised in writing on the RCSL form (or same format) during the season, but only swimmers so identified prior to a given Dual Meet will be eligible to participate for points in that meet. A swimmer must compete in at least two (2) RCSL Dual A Meets to be eligible to represent their club in the City Championship, provided that all divisions are scheduled for an equal number of Dual Meets of five (5) or more. If any division is scheduled for fewer Dual Meets than the others, or if the highest-scheduled division has fewer than five (5) Dual Meets in a given season, the eligibility minimum for any affected division shall be reduced to one (1) Dual A Meet splash for that season. Before the start of each season, the Board shall publish in writing to all member teams the applicable eligibility minimum for each division based on that season's published schedule. Any two teams that have the same scheduled off meet, per the published RCSL meet matrix, may choose to

swim a B dual meet whereby all dual meet guidelines and rules are adhered to, thus allowing it to be officially counted toward the meet requirement for City Championship eligibility but not scoring points for overall RCSL division awards.
"

FALLBACK PROVISION (if full motion is not adopted)

If the Council is not ready to adopt the full rule change above, this motion alternatively proposes the following minimum requirement. It does not change the two-splash rule but requires the Board to acknowledge the imbalance and act on it:

"If any division is scheduled for fewer Dual Meets than the others, the Board shall publish a written plan on the date that the League Meet Matrices are published specifying how swimmers in that division who would not reach two splashes through the published schedule alone will be given at least one qualifying opportunity prior to the City Championship. Qualifying opportunities may include but are not limited to: a Board-sponsored B meet, a League-sanctioned invitational, an intrasquad meet, a time trial session, or any other meet format approved by the Board that meets the requirements of ROC Article IV, Section 6. The Board shall schedule qualifying opportunities at times reasonably distributed across the season so that participation is not dependent solely on availability in the days immediately preceding the City Championship."

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE

This rule shall take effect beginning with the **2026 RCSL summer season**.

ALIGNMENT WITH RCSL GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

The RCSL's rules state that they exist **"to protect the swimmer, provide fair and equitable conditions, and promote uniformity so that no swimmer may gain unfair advantage over another"** (ROC Article V, Section 2). This motion is a straightforward effort to bring the eligibility rules into alignment with that stated purpose.

The pool availability situation in C League is a practical reality the League has worked around for some time. The Board is charged with directing all operations of the League (By-Laws, Article IV, Section 2), and the Council meets at least four times a year to address issues as they arise (By-Laws, Article IV, Section 3). This motion gives both the Board and the Council a clear, simple tool to ensure that scheduling realities are reflected fairly in the eligibility rules going forward.