



SWIMMING OFFICIALS GROUP

FINA SWIMMING RULES

(As amended following the FINA Technical Congress July 2017)

Where no reference is made to a rule the existing rule within the FINA Handbook 2015-2017 together with any subsequent reference to those rules by Home Countries is still valid

*New wording is shown in **bold** lettering and deletions by a ~~strikethrough~~. Where new rules have been introduced re-numbering thereafter will be necessary.*

British Swimming implementation date: 2nd October 2017

SWIMMING RULES

SW 1 Management of Competitions

SW 1.2.2

Where Automatic Officiating Equipment is not available, such equipment must be replaced by a chief timekeeper, ~~three (3)~~ **one (1)** timekeeper per lane and ~~two (2)~~ **one (1)** additional timekeeper.

SW 1.2.3

A Chief Finish Judge and finish judges may be used when Automatic Equipment and /or ~~three (3)~~ digital watches ~~per lane~~ are not used

SW 2 Officials

SW 2.2 Control Room Supervisor

SW 2.2.1

The supervisor shall supervise the Automatic timing operation including the review of ~~backup-timing cameras~~ **Video Timing**.

SW 2.2.4

The supervisor may review the video ~~used for backup~~ timing to confirm early take-off.

SW 2.5 Chief Inspector of Turns

SW 2.5.2

~~The chief inspector of turns shall receive the reports from the inspector of turns if any infringement occurs and shall present them to the referee immediately.~~

SW 2.6 Inspector of Turns

SW 2.6.1

One inspector of turns shall be assigned to each lane at each end of the pool, to **ensure swimmers comply with the relevant rules after the start, for each turn and at the finish**

SW 2.6.2

~~Each inspector of turns shall ensure swimmers comply with the relevant rules for turning commencing from the beginning of the last arm stroke before touching and ending with the completion of the first arm stroke after turning. The inspector of turns at the starting end of the pool, shall ensure swimmers comply with the relevant rules from the start and ending with the completion of the first arm stroke. The inspector of turns at the finish end shall also ensure that the swimmers finish their race according to the current rules.~~

Jurisdiction for the inspector of turns at the start end commences from the start signal until the completion of the first arm stroke, except in Breaststroke where it shall be the second arm stroke.

SW 2.6.3(New)

For each turn, jurisdiction for the inspector of turns commences from the beginning of the last arm stroke before touching and ending with the completion of the first arm stroke after the turn, except in Breaststroke where it shall be the second arm stroke.

SW 2.6.4(New)

Jurisdiction for the inspector of turns at the Finish commences from the beginning of the last arm stroke before touching.

SW 2.6.5

When a backstroke ledge is being used, each inspector at the starting end shall install and remove the ledge ~~after the start~~

Moved from SW6.2

~~SW 2.6.6~~ **SW2.6.9**

Inspectors of turns shall report **to the Referee** any violation on signed cards detailing the event, lane number, and the **Infraction.** ~~infringement delivered to the chief inspector of turns who shall immediately convey the report to the referee.~~

SW 2.7 Judge of Stroke

SW 2.7.3

Judges of stroke shall report **to the Referee** any violation ~~to the referee~~ on signed cards detailing the event, lane number, and the **infraction.** ~~infringement~~

SW 2.9 Timekeepers

SW 2.9.4

Unless a video ~~timing backup system~~ is used, it may be necessary to use the full complement of timekeepers even when Automatic Officiating Equipment is used.

SW 3 Seeding of Heats, Semi-Finals and Finals

SW 3.2.5

For heats, semi-finals and finals, swimmers ~~must~~ **shall** report to the First Call Room ~~no later than 20 minutes, at a time determined by the event management prior to the start of their event.~~ After inspection, swimmers proceed to the final call-room.

SW4 The Start

SW 4.4

A swimmer starting before the starting signal has been given, shall be disqualified. If the starting signal sounds before the disqualification is declared, the race shall continue and the swimmer or swimmers shall be disqualified upon completion of the race. If the disqualification is declared before the starting signal, the signal shall not be given, but the remaining swimmers shall be called back and start again. The Referee repeats the starting procedure beginning with the long whistle (second one for Backstroke) as per SW2.1.5.

FINA Interpretation (Version 13.9.2017):

After all swimmers are "stationary" (SW 4.1), any swimmer initiating a start before the signal may be disqualified when such movement is observed and confirmed by both the starter and referee (SW 2.1.6). When video timing is available (FR 4.7.3), it may be used to verify the disqualification.

SW 6 Backstroke

SW 6.2

~~When a backstroke ledge is being used, each inspector at the starting end shall install and remove the ledge after the start.~~

Note Moved to new SW 2.6.5 renumber thereafter

SW 7 Breaststroke

SW 7.1

After the start and after each turn, the swimmer may take one arm stroke completely back to the legs during which the swimmer may be submerged. At any time prior to the first Breaststroke kick after the start and after each turn a single butterfly kick is permitted. **The head must break the surface of the water before the hands turn inward at the widest part of the second stroke.**

SW 7.4

During each complete cycle, some part of the swimmer's head must break the surface of the water. ~~The head must break the surface of the water before the hands turn inward at the widest part of the second stroke.~~ All movements of the legs shall be simultaneous and on the same horizontal plane without alternating movement.

SW 7.6

simultaneously at, above, or below the water level. At the last stroke before the turn and at the finish an arm stroke not followed by a leg kick is permitted. The head may be submerged after the last arm pull prior to the touch, provided it breaks the surface of the water at some point during the last complete or incomplete cycle preceding the touch.

FINA Interpretation (Version 13.9.2017): "Separated" means that the hands cannot be stacked one on top of the other. It is not necessary to see space between the hands. Incidental contact at the fingers is not a concern.

SW 8 Butterfly

SW 8.1

From the beginning of the first arm stroke after the start and each turn, the body shall be kept on the breast, ~~underwater kicking on the side is allowed~~. It is not permitted to roll onto the back at any time, except at the turn after the touch of the wall where it is permissible to turn in any manner as long as the body is on the breast when leaving the wall.

SW 9 Medley Swimming

SW 9.2(New)

In Freestyle, the swimmer must be on the breast except when executing a turn. The Swimmer must return to the breast before any kick or stroke.

Renumber thereafter

SW 9.3

In medley relay events, swimmers will cover the four swimming strokes in the following order: Backstroke, Breaststroke, Butterfly and Freestyle. **Each of the strokes must cover one quarter (1/4) of the distance.**

SW 11 Timing

SW11.2

When Automatic Equipment is used, the results shall be recorded only to 1/100 of a second. ~~When timing to 1/1000 of a second is available, the third digit shall not be recorded or used to determine time or placement.~~ In the event of equal times, all swimmers who have recorded the same time at 1/100 of a second shall be accorded the same placing. Times displayed on the electronic scoreboard should show ~~only to~~ 1/100 of a second.

SW 12 World Records

~~Note: World junior records in 25-meter courses to be recognized after 1 January 2016~~

SW12.8

World Records and World Junior Records will be accepted only when times are ~~reported~~ **recorded** by Automatic Officiating Equipment, or Semi-Automatic Officiating Equipment in the case of Automatic Officiating Equipment system malfunction.

SW 12.11

Worlds Records and World Junior Records can be established only in ~~fresh-water~~ **water with less than 3 gr/litre of salt**. No World Records will be recognized in any kind of sea or ocean water.

SW 13 Automatic Officiating Procedure

SW 13.1

When Automatic Officiating Equipment (See FR 4) is used in any competition, the placing and times so determined and relay take-offs judged by such Equipment shall have precedence over the timekeepers **and inspectors of turns**.

GENERAL RULES

GR 6 Advertising

GR 6.3

Advertising for tobacco, alcohol **or sports-related betting** is not allowed.

GR 9.2 Protests

GR 9.2.2 Protest must be submitted:

- (a) to the referee,
 - (b) in writing on FINA Forms,
 - (c) by the responsible team leader,
 - (d) together with a deposit of **five-hundred (500)** ~~(100)~~ Swiss Francs or its equivalent, and
 - (e) within thirty (30) minutes following the conclusion of the respective event or match.
- If conditions causing a potential protest are noted prior to the event a protest must be lodged before the signal to start is given.