



OFFICIALS BULLETIN – March 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE OCRC CHAIR – Suzanne Paulins

This is a repeat of my message last February and I feel it is just as relevant today as it was a year ago. As we come to the end of February and head in to March and April we will all be on deck working at many competitions of varying levels, from developmental to regional, provincial and university championship meets, to the national events in April. As officials, we have the unique privilege to be on the deck to assist in creating an optimal environment for our swimmers to excel. Swimmers and their coaches are working very hard day in and day out preparing for competition, and as officials we are there not only to judge the rules of swimming but, to also create an environment where our swimmers can succeed. The Competition Coordinator or Meet Referee will lead the officials team, assigning roles and communicating not only with the officials coming to work the meet but also with the coaches. The Meet Referee is instrumental in setting the tone of the meet. It isn't always easy, and there can be disagreements and bumps along the way, but if all officials stay true to the rules, always providing the benefit of the doubt to the swimmer, maintain effective communication with our coaches at the competitions, then we are sure to create an optimal environment for our swimmers, which at the end of the day is why we are all here.

OFFICIAL SPLIT REQUESTS and DISQUALIFICATIONS

A question was recently asked about the legality of an official split should there also be a DQ called in the same race. For example – a swimmer is swimming the 200 back, a request has been made for an official split at 100m. The swimmer completes the 100m obtaining the official split, but is then disqualified for an infraction that takes place following the official split, does the official split count?

Yes, it does. The official split for the 100m back is considered a separate event and it is created in meet management software (Hy tek or Splash), the time achieved would be entered and captured appropriately. The results for the 200m back would show as a DQ for the infraction that took place after the official split was achieved.

Conversely, a swimmer requesting an official split at 100m in 200m back, does a flip turn by turning onto breast and does not finish the 100m race on their back. In this case, the 100m back official split would result in a DQ as the swimmer did not finish the race according to the rules for that swim. So no official split as this swimmer is disqualified for the 100m distance but the swimmer would have a time for the 200m back.

BACKSTROKE LEDGES

As an update to the bulletin last year, one warning is still being given at national events if a swimmer's toes are not in contact with the touchpad. This is consistent with the procedures being applied by FINA. Inspectors of Turns (ITs) should be instructed to raise a hand if the swimmer in their lane does not have toes of both feet in contact with the touchpad. The starter would then ask the swimmers to relax and give a general warning. Following the warning, the Referee would then blow their whistle to have the swimmers reset. If a swimmer still does not have proper contact with the touchpad after the warning and reset has occurred, the IT would bring forward an infraction to the referee following the race.



BACKSTROKE FINISHES

Another question that has recently been received is specific to the finish in backstroke – when is the race considered over, when the swimmer touches the wall, or when their arm crosses the horizontal plane at the end of the pool. The finish of the race occurs when the swimmer touches the end of the pool with some part of their body. The rule specifies that the race finishes when the swimmer touches the wall.

SW 6.5 Upon the finish of the race the swimmer must touch the wall while on the back in his/her respective lane.

MINIMUM AGE FOR OFFICIALS CLINICS

The OCRC is currently reviewing the minimum age requirements for participation in officials' clinics and acting on deck as an official.

At this time, it is recommended that officials be a minimum of 13 years old to complete the Introduction to Swimming Clinic and to act as a timer on deck during competition. It is recommended that officials be a minimum of 16 years old to complete the Inspector of Turns/Stroke Judge Clinic and to act in the role of IT or Stroke Judge during competitions.

QUICK REFERENCE CARD FOR DQs

The OCRC recently approved a national Infraction Card that provinces may use for all meets hosted. This quick reference card isn't intended to replace the rulebook, but is a resource. Officials may use on deck when writing up infractions to ensure correct wording. Thanks to Jim Fleury and Louise Leblanc for their work on this. The Infraction Card can be found [here](#).

BATHING SUITS and GR 5.1

GR 5.1 says, "The swimwear (swimsuit, cap, and goggles) of all competitors shall be in good moral taste and suitable for the individual sports disciplines and not carry any symbol which may be considered offensive".

Some officials have inquired as to how to manage suits that they view to be "not in good moral taste". At this time Swimming Canada is not making a determination on what good moral taste is. Swimmers and their parents are purchasing suits and making a personal decision that is right for them. As officials we will continue to be guided by GR 5.2 and the CGR 5.2.1-5.2.4 however officials should not be making personal judgements in regards to GR 5.1 or GR 5.3.

PARA SWIMMING OFFICIATING

CAN AMS

As shared by Wayne Lomas, Associate Director of High Performance and Para-Swimming National Coach, in the October 2019 Swimming Canada Technical Bulletin to the coaching community, the Para Swimming Team at Swimming Canada are now directing their focus and resources on one (1) single quality CAN AM meet per season. In collaboration with our partners at USA Paralympic Swimming, an event will run once a year alternating between the two countries, which started in Lewisville, Texas in December 2019. Wayne has initiated this change to create a better opportunity for swimmers and coaches to focus their swimmer preparation on domestic and International Championship events and use the winter-racing as a stepping stone toward the Canadian Swimming Trials held in the spring.

The next CAN AM meet will be held in Vancouver, December 11 to 13, 2020.



PARA SWIMMING OFFICIATING CLINICS

A para swimming officiating clinic will be offered at the Speedo Western Canadian Swimming Championships in Saskatoon. Registration for the clinic can be found [here](#).

A bilingual clinic is also being offered in Pointe Claire, Quebec on March 12, 2020. Location: à la piscine de Pointe-Claire, 60 ave Maywood, Pointe-Claire, H9R 0A7. From 6:30pm to 10pm. Registration must be completed by March 10, 2020. Registration details can be found through the link found [here](#).

CANADIAN OPEN WATER SWIMMING TRIALS

As noted in the December 2019 bulletin, the Canadian Open Water Swimming Trials will be held in the Cayman Islands on April 25 & 26, 2020. The National Meet Referee for this event is Carole Thomas. Any official interested in attending the Open Water Trials in the Cayman Islands is encouraged to attend. If interested, please email Suzanne Paulins at spaulins@swimming.ca. Please note there is no funding available from Swimming Canada to support travel to the national event. The meet package can be found [here](#).

MASTERS OPEN WATER RULES

Canadian Masters Open Water Rules have been updated please find the updates [here](#).

UPCOMING NATIONAL EVENTS – OFFICIATING OPPORTUNITIES

There are several opportunities to officiate at upcoming national events. Please see the links below for each of these national events:

Canadian Eastern Swimming Championships -

<https://www.swimming.ca/content/uploads/2016/06/Officials-Form-invite-2020-Easterns.pdf>

Canadian Western Swimming Championships -

<https://www.swimming.ca/content/uploads/2016/06/2020-Officials-Form-Westerns-2.pdf>

Canadian Masters Swimming Championships -

<https://www.swimming.ca/content/uploads/2019/11/Officials-Volunteers-sign-up-form-2020-CMSC.pdf>

LEVEL V OFFICIALS

Congratulations to the following new Level 5 Officials, certified since December 2019:

Mark Berry (ON)

Annie Gauthier (QC)

INTERNATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS – OLYMPIC GAMES, TOKYO

Huge congratulations to Louise Leblanc, a member of the Swimming Canada OCRC and also a representative on the FINA TSC for her selection as a Referee for the Olympic Games in Tokyo. This is a tremendous honor and opportunity for Louise, and we wish her all the best!

Any questions regarding information found in this bulletin may be directed to questions@swimming.ca