



2023-2025 SWIMMING RULE CHANGES

February 6, 2023





MANAGEMENT OF COMPETITIONS

SW1



SW 1.2 ~~At the Olympic Games and World Championships the FINA Bureau shall appoint the following minimum number of officials for the control of the competitions:~~

- ~~• referee (2)~~
- ~~• control room supervisor (1) etc.~~

SW 1.2 Organisers of swimming competitions shall appoint sufficient officials to ensure the fairness, integrity and safety of the competition.

- The officials for World Championships and Olympic Games will now listed in the By-Laws.*



Duties of Officials - Canada

CSW 1.2.1 For each session there should be a minimum of the following certified officials:

Meet Manager (added)

Administration Desk (formerly Clerk of Course, may include Marshal)

Chief Recorder (formerly Recorder-Scorer)

SW1



SW 1.2.2 Where Automatic Officiating Equipment is not available, such equipment must be replaced by a chief timekeeper. Wherever possible, a minimum of one (1) timekeeper per lane shall be appointed together with one (1) additional timekeeper in case of a watch malfunction. It is advisable that there shall be three (3) timekeepers for each lane.



OFFICIALS

SW2 REFEREE



SW 2.1.6 A disqualification for starting before the starting signal must be observed and confirmed by both the Starter and the Referee. When Automatic Officiating Equipment is available, it may be used to verify the disqualification.

SW2 REFEREE



NEW

SW 2.1.8 All potential infractions shall be verbally reported to the Referee. Once confirmed by the Referee, a signed disqualification card shall be completed by the reporting official, detailing the event, lane number and the infraction.

CSW 2.1.8.2 Infractions shall be reported immediately through channels established by the meet manager and approved by the Referee. ~~The reason for, and the time of~~ The infraction shall be recorded on the approved disqualification form which shall be signed by the official. When the disqualification is accepted, it shall be signed by the Referee on the disqualification form.

SW2 REFEREE

Updated DQ form based on
CSW 2.1.8.2



DISQUALIFICATION FORM FORMULAIRE DE DISQUALIFICATION



Name
Nom _____

Club
Équipe _____

Event Heat Lane
Épreuve # _____ *Série #* _____ *Couloir #* _____

Infraction :

Judge
Juge _____

Referee
Arbitre _____

Coach Told or Announced
L'entraîneur informé ou annoncé _____

Time Told|
Temps annoncé _____

SW2 REFEREE



NEW

SW 2.1.9 The Referee shall appoint officials who shall determine, in relay events, whether the starting swimmer is in contact with the starting platform when the preceding swimmer touches the starting wall. When Automatic Officiating Equipment which judges relay take-offs is available, it shall be used in accordance with SW 13.1.

SW2 STARTER



NEW

SW 2.3.5 The Starter shall report to the Referee any violation observed within their jurisdiction.

SW2 ~~CLERK OF COURSE~~ CALL ROOM SUPERVISOR



SW 2.4 Call Room Supervisor

SW 2.4.2 The Call Room Supervisor shall report to the Referee any violation noted with regard to:

- swimwear, and
- advertising

and if a swimmer is not present when called.

SW2 INSPECTOR OF TURNS



SW 2.6.5 When a Backstroke ledge is being used, each inspector at the starting end shall install and remove the ledge. Once installed, the ledge shall be set at zero (0).

SW 2.6.9 Inspectors of Turns shall report to the Referee any violation ~~on signed cards detailing the event, lane number, and the infraction.~~ observed within their jurisdiction.

SW2 NEW POSITIONS



SW 2.12 ~~Desk Control~~

- *Desk Control renamed Chief Recorder and Recorder*

SW 2.12 Chief Recorder

SW 2.13 Recorder

NEW

SW 2.14 Video Review Supervisor

SW 2.15 Video Review Judge

SW2 OFFICIALS DECISION MAKING



SW 2.13

~~CSW 2.13.1.1 Head Lane Timekeeper~~

- *The Head Lane Timekeeper position has been removed*

NEW

SW 2.6 Inspectors of Turns

CSW 2.6.1.1 Additional responsibilities that may include Timekeeper duties.



SEEDING OF HEATS, SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS

SW3



CSW 3.1.3.1 Qualifying times ~~shall be established by Swimming Canada or the PS and must be achieved by the swimmer before entering a meet.~~

NEW

CSW 3.1.1.9 Qualifying times if required, shall be clearly listed in the Meet Information Package.

SW3



SW 3.2.3 In the event that swimmers from the same or different heats have equal ... there ~~shall~~ may be a swim-off ... Another swim-off ~~shall~~ may take place if equal times are registered again ...

SW 3.2.4 Where one or more swimmers scratch from a semi-final or final reserves will be called in order of classifications in heats or semi-finals.

Whenever possible, the event or events must be re-seeded ...

NEW

CSW 3.2.4.1 When scratches are received after the scratch deadline, reseeding is not necessary. Alternates are placed as applicable.



THE START, STROKES

SW4 THE START



SW 4.4 Any swimmer initiating a start before the signal ~~shall~~ may be disqualified.

- *Incorporating the rule interpretation. A swimmer may be disqualified if they initiate their start before the signal. An involuntary movement or twitch is not regarded as initiating the start*

SW6 BACKSTROKE



SW 6.1 When using a backstroke ledge at the start, ~~the toes of both feet~~ at least one toe of each foot must be in contact with the end wall or face of the touchpad.

SW 6.4 When executing the turn there must be a touch of the wall with some part of the swimmer's body ~~in his/her respective lane~~.

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

SW7 BREASTSTROKE



SW 7.2 From the beginning of the first arm stroke ... All movements of the arms shall be simultaneous ~~and on the same horizontal plane~~ without alternating movement.

SW 7.4 During each complete cycle, some part of the swimmer's head must break the surface of the water. All movements of the legs shall be simultaneous ~~and on the same horizontal plane~~ without alternating movement.

- *Whether a swimmer's arms/legs are on the same horizontal plane is very difficult to judge. The more important aspect is the arm/leg movements are simultaneous without alternating movement.*

SW9 MEDLEY SWIMMING



SW 9.1 In Individual Medley events, the swimmer covers the four swimming strokes in the following order: Butterfly, Backstroke, Breaststroke and Freestyle. Each of the strokes must cover one-quarter (1/4) of the distance. Leaving the wall on the back during the freestyle portion is permissible but no kicking action is permitted until the swimmer has returned past the vertical to the breast at which point kicking, including a butterfly kick(s) may commence.

SW9 MEDLEY SWIMMING



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SW 9.2 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.



THE RACE

SW10



SW 10.2 A swimmer swimming over the course alone shall cover the whole distance to qualify. A swimmer who does not complete the whole distance in accordance with relevant World Aquatics rules shall be disqualified.

SW10



NEW

SW 10.3 On the pool deck, after respecting the presentation protocol outlined in SW 1.5, the competitors must immediately remove all clothing except for swimwear.

- *Related rule change*

SW 1.5 The event management shall specify for heats, semi-finals, and finals the presentation and preparation protocol that the competitors must respect when they leave the last call-room.

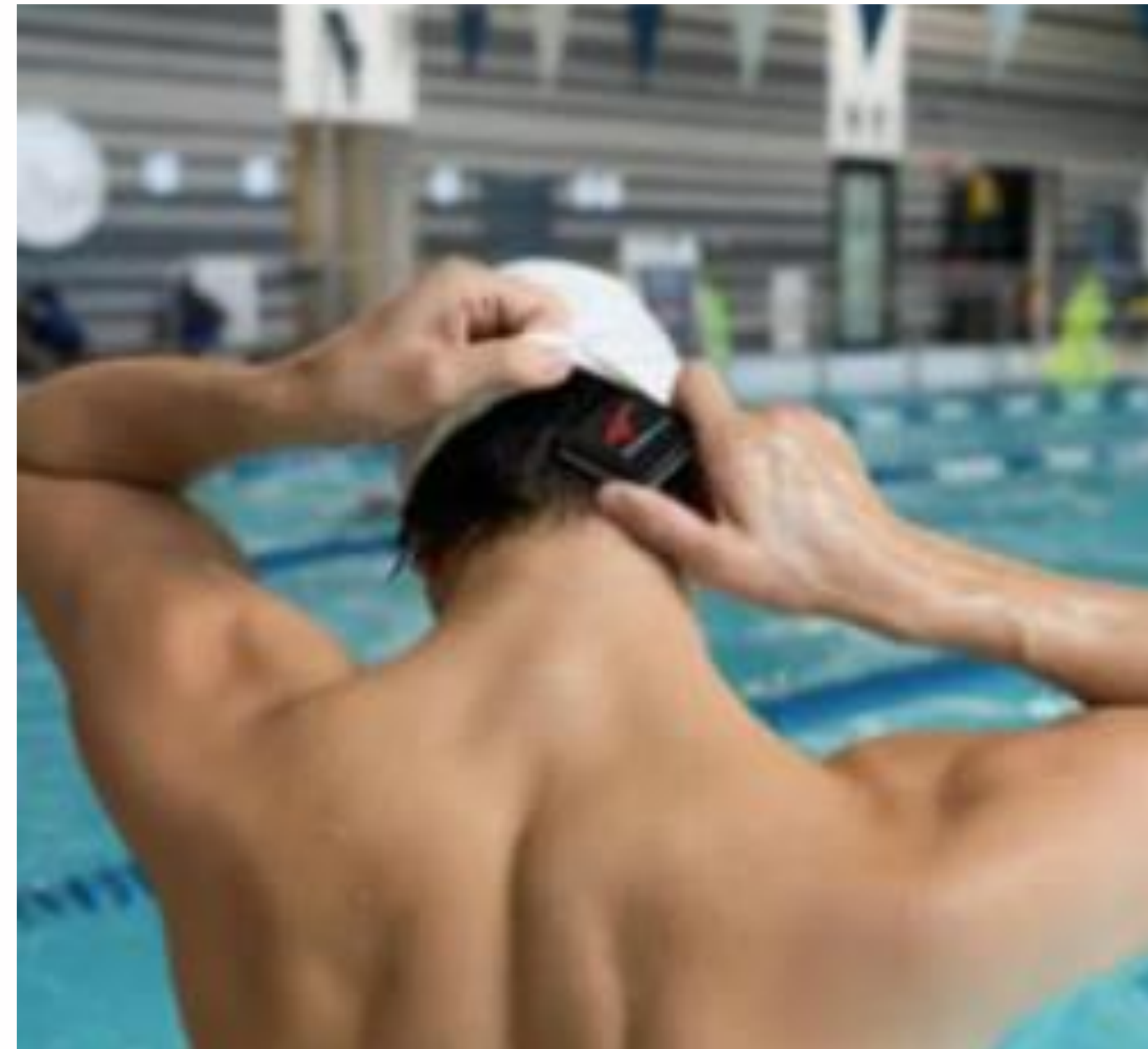
SW10



SW 10.9 No swimmer shall be permitted to use or wear any device or swimsuit that may aid his/her speed, buoyancy or endurance during a competition (such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, power bands, or adhesive substances, etc.). The use of technology and automated data collection devices is permissible for the sole purpose of collecting data. Automated devices shall not be utilised to transmit data, sounds, or signals to the swimmer and may not be used to aid their speed. Goggles may be worn. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by World Aquatics Sport Medicine Committee.

SW10

SW 10.9



SW10



CSW 10.8.1 ~~In Canada, any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the Referee.~~

NEW

CSW 10.9.1 In all sanctioned age group swimming events, taping is permitted. Approval may be required for taping at championship events, and the process for this approval shall be stated in the meet information package.

CSW 10.9.2 At a Swimming Canada national competition, a committee shall be created to review and approve taping requests.

SW10



NEW

SW 10.12 Relay exchanges must commence from the starting platform.
Running starts from pool deck are not permitted.

SW10



CSW 10.13.1 -> 10.15.1 & 10.15.2

CSW 10.15.1 Unattached swimmers shall not participate in relay events.

CSW 10.15.2 A swimmer shall compete as a member of only one relay team per event.

NEW

CSW 10.15.3 The deadline for submitting the members of a relay team and their order of competing shall be clearly stated in the Meet Information Package.



TIMING, WORLD RECORDS

SW11 TIMING



SW 11.1 The operation of Automatic Officiating Equipment shall be under the supervision of appointed officials... In the event that there is failure of all timing devices in a lane then the swimmer may be offered a reswim.

SW 11.3

SW 11.3.3 With only two (2) out of three (3) watches working, the average time shall be the official time. When this calculation results in a value that is expressed in thousandths of a second, the final digit shall be dropped without rounding.

SW12 WORLD RECORDS



SW 12.14 Applications for World Records and World Junior Records must be made on the World Aquatics official forms ... [including a certification of the pool measurement](#) and a negative doping test certification ([DC 5.3.3](#)). The application form shall be forwarded to the Executive Director of World Aquatics within fourteen (14) days after the performance.



AGE GROUP SWIMMING RULES

SWAG1



SWAG 1 Federations may adopt their own Age Group rules using World Aquatics technical rules

CSWAG 1.2.5 A swimmer may only compete in that swimmer's own age group as defined in the meet package. (i.e. single, double age bands).

~~If an event is not offered in that swimmer's age group, the swimmer may enter that same event in the senior category, should it be offered in the meet program.~~

~~CSWAG 1.1.6 In a meet where both age-group and senior events are offered, an age group swimmer may swim in either section, but not a combination; except that when the swimmer is entered in the age-group competition, the swimmer may also swim in senior events that are not offered in the swimmer's age group.~~

SWAG1



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CSWAG 1.2.5 A swimmer may only compete in that swimmer's own age group as defined in the meet package. (i.e. single, double age bands).

- *Allowing younger athletes to compete in senior events does not support Appropriate athlete development and the recently released Athlete Development Model (ADM)*

ELIGIBILITY



CGR 1.2.1 Eligibility - Canada

~~CGR 1.2.1.5 Competitions designated as senior shall be open to all eligible swimmers of any age who meet the qualification standard.~~

~~CGR 1.2.1.6 Competitions designated as open shall be open to all swimmers registered with a FINA member and who meet the qualification standard.~~

- *Removed because designation of age groups is defined in the meet package as per CSWAG 1.2.5*



GENERAL RULES

GR5 SWIMWEAR



GR 5 Swimwear

- *will be moved to it's own document, waiting for update from World Aquatics*

CGR 5.2.2 In competitions that are not National Level, Trials, or Selection meets, the Referee shall exempt swimwear from compliance with the GR 5 Swimwear rule for a participating swimmer, where an exemption is requested ~~for medical or religious reasons~~, and the fabric of the swimwear is a permeable open mesh textile and would not reasonably be seen to be creating a technical advantage. ...

GR9.3 JURY OF APPEAL



CGR 9.3.1.2 The Jury of Appeal shall be chaired ~~by the meet manager or designate at non national meets and~~ by the National Meet Director at National Competitions. The chairperson shall have no vote. The voting members shall be odd in number preferably either three (3) or five (5) and should be the most experienced Swimming Canada/PS officials or officers available, in addition to the requirement to include a coach, as determined by the CSCA after the entry deadline. None of those participating on the Jury of Appeal can have been involved in the disputed decision or disqualification.

GR9.3 JURY OF APPEAL



NEW

CGR 9.3.1.3 The members of the Jury of Appeal will be determined by the Meet Manager in collaboration with the Competition Coordinator/Meet Referee or designate, if applicable, at non-national meets. The voting members shall be odd in number preferably either three (3) or five (5) and should be the most experienced Swimming Canada/PS officials or officers available, in addition to the option to include a coach. None of those participating on the Jury of Appeal can have been involved in the disputed decision or disqualification. In the event that there is no coach available, the jury will still convene, and the outcome shall be final.



QUESTIONS?



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