



# ITO Call 2023

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May



# Agenda



- WPS Team Update
- 2023 WPS Rules Update
- ITO Appointments
- Officials Training Programme
- WPS News
- Questions



# THANK YOU!

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# WPS Team Update



- World Para Swimming Team
  - Craig Nicholson -Head of World Para Swimming
  - Nicole Burns - World Para Swimming Manager
  - Xiaoyi Wang - World Para Swimming Competition Coordinator
  - Saloni Gupta - World Para Swimming Classification Coordinator

# World Para Swimming Rules and Regulations 2023- key points



# Definitions



Substantial changes and additions to Definitions to ensure all WPS terminology is included and correctly defined

## 5.1.2

Clarity around Anti-Doping requirements when a record performance is set

# 6.6.2.1 Medical Taping



No plan to follow World Aquatics ruling on this.

Due to the complexity of our athletes needs, medical taping still needs to be checked by the Referee prior to the session



# 10.1 Competition Management



10.1.1 At all World Para Swimming Approved Competitions, the organising committee or relevant governing body shall appoint a sufficient number of officials to ensure the fairness, integrity and safety of the Competition.

*Promoters and organisers of events must appoint sufficient officials to ensure that the competition is fair and safe.*

*The officials for World Championships, Paralympic Games and Sanctioned Competitions are now listed in 10.1.3*

# 10.2 Officials



10.2.2.5 A disqualification for starting before the starting signal must be observed by either the Referee or Starter. It is not necessary that both Referee and Starter have observed the infraction. When AOE is available, it may be used to verify the disqualification.

*Clarifies that DQ calls can be made by either Referee or Starter.*

*Confirmation that AOE overhead cameras may be used to confirm a start infraction.*

*Reaction times from starting blocks should not be used.*

# 10.2 Officials

10.2.2.7 All potential infractions shall be verbally reported to the Referee by the relevant Technical Official(s). Once confirmed by the Referee, a signed disqualification report shall be completed by the reporting Technical Official, detailing the Event, lane number and the infraction.

*Good practice, reflects what is actually done on pool deck.*

# 10.2 Officials

10.2.4.5 }

10.2.6.2 } Reporting of Infractions

10.2.7.10 }

10.2.8.4 }

*These Rules have been amended to reflect the actual on deck protocol of reporting a potential infraction*

# 10.2 Officials



## 10.2.5 Call Room Supervisor

*Change of name from Clerk of the Course*

# 10.2 Officials

10.2.7.5 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).

*Clarifies that the backstroke ledge should be set to zero (0) for all athletes*

# 10.2 Officials



10.2.11 Video Review Supervisor

10.2.12 Video Review Judge

*New Rules which state the roles and responsibilities involved when video judging is in place and being used*

# 10.2 Officials

## 10.2.13 Officials Decision Making

*Renumbered due to the inclusion of the video review roles*



# 10.4 Events and Programme of Events



*New events added to the list*

*10.4.1 Deletion of 'Butterfly'; a housekeeping change to match the Rule as stated in the Freestyle Rule 11.2.1*

# 10.8 Support Staff

10.8.3.3 For Athlete in Sport Classes other than S11, SB11 and SM11, Tappers and/or tapping is optional and does not have to be consistent throughout the race or whole competition.

*Clarifies the use of tappers for athletes who are not in Sport Class 11.*

# 10.9 Call Room

10.9.1

10.9.1.1

*Clarifies the call room reporting protocols*

*The fee incurred under 10.9.2.1 (at approved competitions), the fees are passed onto WPS*

# 10.16 Swimwear

10.16.1 A swimsuit not bearing a valid FINA approval label will only be considered approved if it fulfils the material requirements set forth in the current FINA Requirements for Swimwear Approval. This is notably the case for swimsuits made of traditional permeable textile (i.e. open mesh) material (such as cotton, Nylon, Lycra and the like) with no application of surface treatment closing the open mesh structure.

*Clarifies that a NPC does no longer have to get a simple swimsuit checked where it does no bear a FINA Label, provided it has not been amended and is made of textile fabric etc.*

# 10.16 Swimwear

10.16.5 All swimsuits shall be non-transparent. It is permissible to wear a maximum of two (2) caps (this number includes any hair retaining device or 'soul cap'), both must adhere to The World Para Swimming Uniform and Equipment Advertising Regulations unless otherwise stated in Technical Documentation.

*Clarifies the position regarding the number of caps which can be worn and use of hair retaining devices or Afro/soul caps.*

# 11.1 The Start

11.1.1 Once all Athletes have removed their clothing, except for swimwear, the Referee shall signal the commencement of an Event by a short series of whistles inviting them to get ready at the starting end, followed by a long whistle indicating that they should take positions on the starting platform (or for Backstroke swimming and Medley Relays to immediately enter the water). A second long whistle shall bring the Backstroke and Medley Relay Athletes immediately to the starting position. When the Athletes and Officials are prepared for the start, the Referee shall gesture to the Starter with a stretched-out arm, indicating that the Athletes are under the Starter's control. The stretched-out arm shall stay in that position until the start is given.

*Formalisation of good practice that competitors remove their clothing, except swimwear, before the Referee starts the whistle blowing procedure.*

*Fits along with existing Sports Presentation protocols.*

# 11.1 The Start

11.1.1.1 Athletes entering the water from the side of the pool are requested to enter the water on the series of short whistle blasts.

*Clarifies when athletes starting from the side should enter the water so as not to delay a start.*

# 11.1 The Start

11.1.5 Any Athlete initiating a start before the signal may be disqualified. If the starting signal sounds before the disqualification is declared, the race shall continue and the Athlete(s) shall be disqualified upon completion of the Event. If the disqualification is declared before the starting signal, the signal shall not be given, but the remaining Athletes shall be called back and start again. The Referee repeats the starting procedure beginning with the long whistle (the second one for backstroke) as per Rule 11.1.1

*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.*



# 11.3 Backstroke

11.3.1 Prior to the starting signal, the Athletes shall line up in the water facing the starting end, with both hands holding the starting grips. Standing in or on the gutter or bending the toes over the lip of the gutter is prohibited. When using a backstroke ledge at the start, at least one (1) toe of both feet (or parts thereof) must be in contact with the end wall or face of the touchpad. Bending the toes over the top of the touchpad is prohibited.

*Clarifies the position of the toes when using a backstroke ledge.*

# 11.3 Backstroke

## 11.3.6

- We were aware that the rules regarding being submerged at the finish were planned to be reviewed, however at the FINA congress no formal wording was approved. We followed our rules process and deleted from the WPS Rules and Regulations 'it is not permissible to be submerged at the finish' as we planned to follow the FINA/World Aquatics rule when it was released.
- Sadly the World Aquatics rule change regarding this was a late addition and the wording only came out after the WPS Rules and Regulations had been approved by the IPC Governing Board.
- WPS still intends to follow the FINA/World Aquatics rule regarding the finish of backstroke, therefore please officiate for the stroke using (this incorporates the WA ruling):-
- 11.3.3 Some part of the Athlete must break the surface of the water throughout the race, *except that once some part of the head of the swimmer has passed the 5 metres mark immediately prior to reaching for the finish, the swimmer may be completely submerged.* It is also permissible for the Athlete to be completely submerged during the turn and for a distance of not more than 15 metres after the start and each turn. By that point the Athlete's head must have broken the surface.

# 11.4 Breaststroke

11.4.2 From the beginning of the first arm stroke after the start and after each turn, the body shall be on the breast. 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. From the start and throughout the race the stroke cycle must be one (1) arm stroke and one (1) leg kick in that order. All movements of the arms shall be simultaneous without alternating movement.

*Removes the requirement for the arms to be on the same horizontal plane.  
Whether a swimmer's arms are on the same horizontal plane is very difficult to judge.  
The more important aspect is that the arm movements are simultaneous without alternating movement.*

# 11.4 Breaststroke

11.4.4 During each complete cycle, some part of the Athlete's head must break the surface of the water. All movements of the legs shall be simultaneous, without alternating movement.

*Removes the requirement for the legs to be on the same horizontal plane. Whether a swimmer's legs are on the same horizontal plane is very difficult to judge. The more important aspect is that the leg movements are simultaneous without alternating movement.*

# 11.4 Breaststroke

11.4.4.1 An Athlete with a lower limb impairment must show a simultaneous intent to kick throughout the race or trail/drag the leg(s) throughout the race.

*Removes the requirement for the legs to be on the same horizontal plane. Whether a swimmer's legs are on the same horizontal plane is very difficult to judge. The more important aspect is that the leg movements are simultaneous without alternating movement.*

# 11.5 Butterfly

11.5.2.4

*Video*

*1:19.30 into the video. Butterfly Heat 1*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1eVDcoHWu6Y>

# 11.5 Butterfly

11.5.5.1 For Athletes in Sport Classes S1-5, some part of the Athlete must break the surface of the water during one (1) full rotation of the shoulder joint(s) and/or one (1) complete up and down movement of the hip joint(s).

*Aligns with what an athlete can do in Freestyle.*

# 11.6 Medley Swimming



11.6.1

11.6.1.1

*Incorporation of the previously published interpretation.*



# 11.7 Relays

11.7.4 .....Teams submitted for the heats session will be automatically rolled over to the Final unless a new WPS Relay Declaration Form is submitted a minimum of one (1) hour before the start of the Finals Session.

*Submission of Relay Declaration forms clarifies/follow what is done in practice.*

# 11.7 Relays

11.7.6 Substitutions may be made only in the case of a medical withdrawal made in accordance with Regulation 6.3. If a medical withdrawal is accepted, a new World Para Swimming Relay Declaration Form must be submitted, which may contain updated/new Athletes and the strokes they are competing in.

*Submission of Relay Declaration forms clarifies/follow what is done in practice.*

# 11.7 Relays

11.7.14 During relay exchanges, running starts from the pool deck are not permitted. It is not permitted for Athletes to place either foot on the block behind the moveable backplate or to place one or both feet on top of the moveable backplate.

*Confirmation that relay exchanges must be made from the block or pool deck.  
To ensure a safe competition, running take-overs are not allowed.  
A safety measure for all athletes.*

# 11.7 Relays

11.7.14 Image to support understanding.



# 11.8 The Race

11.8.2 An Athlete swimming over the course alone shall cover the whole distance to qualify. An Athlete who does not complete the whole distance in accordance with the relevant Rules shall be disqualified.

*A swimmer who does not complete the course is disqualified and NOT listed as “Did not finish (DNF)”.*

# 11.8 The Race

11.8.9 No Athlete shall be permitted to use or wear any device or swimsuit that may aid their speed, buoyancy or endurance during a Competition (such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, power bands, or adhesive substances, etc.). No watches, wearable technology, communication or data collection devices may be worn. Goggles may be worn. Any kind of strapping or improper use of swimwear that limits unwanted movement is prohibited. Taping on the body is not permitted unless approved under Regulation 6.6.2

*Does not allow the use of wearable technology, subject to the accepted devices stated in 11.8.9.2.*

# 11.8 The Race

11.8.9.2 The wearing of cochlear implants and insulin pumps is permitted.

*Stipulates the wearing the listed medical devices is permitted, without having to be declared or checked.*

# Appendices



## Appendix One – Open Water Rules

*Changes have been made, including addition of new events, adopting of World Aquatics Rules and general updating.*



# Appendices



## Appendix Two – Facilities Rules

*Changes have been made, adopting the updated World Aquatics rules and general updates.*

# Questions

- Question surrounding Insulin pumps and sensors
  - The wearing of an insulin pumps and subsequent glucose monitor is not an issue for para swimmers, WPS approves their use for both training and competition. Technical officials do not have to check the devices.

# ITO Appointments



# 2 Stage process

## Stage 1

1. Official Active on SDMS
  - Including updated license information,
  - Updated SDMS profile with correct email, photo, address, documents
2. OEA completed, signed and submitted
3. Officials Log complete from previous season
  - Please also include any AB or WA events, any officiating is better than nothing in our eyes
  - Even if you did not officiate, please tell us!

# 2 Stage process

## Stage 2

1. Competition Calendar released and shared by WPS
2. WPS Availability Request per competition on SDMS
3. WPS will then collate availability and review against Stage 1 criteria
4. WPS will provide a recommended list of ITOs for that competition to the TD, having taken into account:
  - Location of event
  - Regional spread (weighted heavier depending on regional competition or world)
  - Other WPS events already appointed that year
  - Gender
  - Opportunity for self development
  - Officiating roles.



# Officials Training Programme





- WPS training
  - Classifiers, ITOs, NTOs, TD
- Working on a proposal to be implemented in late 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of the year
- Working group

# WPS News

- Launch of 'Swim Together' Learn to Swim Programme
- Manchester 2023 PSWC approaching
- World Championships 25/27 Bid process live
- TD/ITO Appointments for 2024 World Series and Paris coming soon
- Transfer of Sport, no update on position of transfer currently, however an announcement is due shortly





# Questions

