

# APPENDIX C: III. OPEN WATER SWIMMING

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All World Championships, World Cups and World Aquatics Events shall be governed by the rules of World Aquatics with the following exceptions and additions:

## **C1. AUTHORITY**

Swimming Canada reserves the right to sanction all Open Water swimming events at provincial, National and International levels staged and held within Canada. All such events shall be governed by the [Swimming Canada Open Water Safety Guide and Meet Manager Guidelines](#) as published by Swimming Canada and Provincial Sections where it applies, which themselves shall follow the World Aquatics Competition Regulations for Open Water Swimming. World Aquatics Open Water Swimming Rules may change over time, so please refer to the most current version on the World Aquatics website:

<https://www.worldaquatics.com/rules/competition-regulations>.

### **1. WORLD AQUATICS CHAMPIONSHIPS AND OLYMPIC GAMES**

Refer to World Aquatics Competition Regulations III.1.

**C1.1** To ensure standard safe practices the following age limits are in effect for all open water swimming competitions in Canada:

- Competitors **MUST** be 11 years of age or older to participate in any sanctioned open water swimming competitions in Canada.
- Competitors 11 years of age are limited to open water swimming events of **NO** more than 1,500m.
- Competitors 12-13 years of age are limited to open water swimming events of **NO** more than 3,000m.
- Competitors 14 years of age or older may participate in open water swimming events of any distance.
- The same age restrictions apply to para swimmers who are limited to open water swimming events of **NO** more than 5,000m which must be completed within a 2 hour time limit, as per WPS rules.

### **2. OFFICIALS**

The following officials shall be appointed at Open Water Swimming competitions:

- A Chief Referee (one per race)
- Referees (2 minimum, additional Referees proportional to race entries)
- Chief Timekeeper plus 2 Timekeepers
- Chief Finish Judge plus 2 Finish Judges
- Safety Officer
- Medical Officer
- Course Officer
- Clerk of the Course



- Race Judges (one per competitor) except for events with a course of 10 km or less
- Turn Judges (one per alteration of course)
- Feeding Platform Judge (when feeding platforms are used)
- Relay Judge
- Starter
- Announcer
- Recorder

*NOTE: No official can act in more than one role simultaneously. They may only undertake a new role after all of the obligations of their previous role have been fulfilled.*

**C2.1** In addition to the above officials, a Meet Manager shall be appointed.

### **3. DUTIES OF OFFICIALS**

#### **3.1 Chief Referee**

The Chief Referee shall:

**3.1.1** have full control and authority over all officials and shall approve their assignments and instruct them regarding all special features or regulations related to the competition. The Chief Referee shall enforce all the Rules and decisions of World Aquatics and shall decide all questions relating to the actual conduct of the competition, the final settlement of which is not otherwise covered by these Rules.

**3.1.2** have authority to intervene in the competition at any stage to ensure that World Aquatics Rules are observed.

**3.1.2.1** In case of hazardous conditions that jeopardize the safety of the competitors and the officials, in conjunction with the Safety Officer she/he can stop the race.

**3.1.3** adjudicate on all protests related to the competition in progress.

**3.1.4** give a decision in cases where the Finish Judges' decisions and times recorded do not agree.

**3.1.5** signal to competitors, by raised flag and short blasts on a whistle, that the start is imminent and when satisfied indicate by pointing the flag at the Starter that the competition may commence.

**3.1.6** disqualify any competitor for any violation of the Rules that she/he personally observe, or which is reported to her/him by other authorised officials. Notwithstanding the provisions of III.5.3 hereof, the Chief Referee may decide to enforce the disqualification at the end of the race.

**3.1.7** ensure that all necessary officials for the conduct of the competition are at their respective posts. She/He may appoint substitutes for any who are absent, incapable of acting or found to be inefficient. She/He may appoint additional officials if considered necessary.

**3.1.8** receive all reports prior to the start of the race and at the conclusion of the race



from the Clerk of the Course, Recorder, Course Officer and Safety Officer to ensure all competitors are accounted for.

### **3.2 Referees**

The Referees shall:

**3.2.1** have authority to intervene in competition at any stage to ensure that World Aquatics Rules are observed.

**3.2.2** disqualify any competitor for any violation of the Rules that they personally observe.

### **3.3 Starter**

**3.3.1** The Starter shall start the race in accordance to III.4 following the signal by the Chief Referee.

### **3.4 Chief Timekeeper**

The Chief Timekeeper shall:

**3.4.1** assign at least two (2) Timekeepers to their positions for the start and finish.

**3.4.2** ensure that a time check is made to allow all persons to synchronise their watches with the official running clocks 15 minutes before start time.

**3.4.3** collect from each Timekeeper the time recorded for each competitor and, if necessary, inspect their watches.

**3.4.4** record or examine the official time for each competitor.

### **3.5 Timekeepers**

Timekeepers shall:

**3.5.1** take the time of each competitor/s assigned. The watches must have memory and printout capability and shall be certified correct to the satisfaction of the Management Committee.

**3.5.2** start their watches at the starting signal, and only stop their watches when instructed by the Chief Timekeeper.

**3.5.3** promptly after each finish record the time of each competitor and turn it over to the Chief Timekeeper.

*NOTE: When Automatic Officiating Equipment is used, the same complement of hand timers is to be used.*

### **3.6 Chief Finish Judge**

The Chief Finish Judge shall:

**3.6.1** assign each Judge to a position.

**3.6.2** record and communicate any decision received from the Referees during the competition.

**3.6.3** collect after the race, signed results sheets from each Finish Judge and establish the result and placing which shall be sent directly to the Chief Referee.



**3.6.4** confirm to each race judge their escort boat and instruct them in their duties.

**3.6.5** collect after the race, signed sheets from each Judge of their observations during the race which shall be sent directly to the Chief Referee.

### **3.7 Finish Judges**

Finish Judges (two) shall:

**3.7.1** be positioned in line with the finish where they shall have at all times a clear view of the finish.

**3.7.2** record after each finish the placing of the competitors according to the assignment given.

*NOTE: Finish Judges shall not act as Timekeepers in the same event.*

### **3.8 Race Judge**

Each Race Judge shall:

**3.8.1** be positioned in an escort safety craft (where applicable), assigned by random draw prior to the start, so as to be able to observe, at all times, their appointed competitor.

**3.8.2** ensure at all times that the Rules of competition are complied with, violations being recorded in writing and reported to a Referee at the earliest opportunity.

**3.8.3** have the power to order a competitor from the water upon expiry of any time limit so ordered by the Chief Referee.

**3.8.4** ensure that their appointed competitor does not take unfair advantage or commit unsporting impediment on another competitor and if the situation requires instruct a competitor to maintain clearance from any other competitor.

### **3.9 Turn Judges**

Turn Judges shall:

**3.9.1** be positioned so as to ensure all competitors execute the alterations in course as indicated in the competition information documents and as given at the pre-race briefing.

**3.9.2** record any infringement of the turn procedures on the record sheets provided, then immediately communicate the infringement to the Chief Referee.

**3.9.3** promptly upon completion of the event deliver the signed record sheet to the Chief Referee.

### **3.10 Feeding Platform Judge**

**3.10.1** Each Feeding Platform Judge shall be responsible for the management of the activity and the competitors authorised representatives present on the platform, in accordance with World Aquatics rules.

**C3.10.1.1** Each competitor must have a representative on the feeding platform. This individual must be a registered coach or support staff.



### **3.11 Relay Judge**

**3.11.1** The Relay Judge/s shall manage the activity on the Relay platform and change-over zone to ensure all changeovers occur in accordance with the rules whereby the arriving competitor completes their lap before the departure of the next competitor.

### **3.12 Safety Officer**

The Safety Officer shall:

**3.12.1** be responsible to the Chief Referee for all aspects of safety related to the conduct of the competition.

**3.12.2** check that the entire course, with special regard to the start and finish areas, is safe, suitable, and free of any obstruction.

**3.12.3** be responsible for ensuring that sufficient powered safety craft are available during competition so as to provide full safety backup to the escort safety craft.

**3.12.4** provide prior to the competitions to all competitors a tide/current chart clearly indicating the time of tide changes on the course and showing the effect of tides or current on a competitor's progress along the course.

**3.12.5** in conjunction with the Medical Officer advise the Chief Referee if, in their opinion, conditions are unsuitable for staging the competition and make recommendations for the modification of the course or the manner in which the competition is conducted.

**3.12.6** monitor temperature conditions periodically during the race.

### **3.13 Medical Officer**

The Medical Officer shall:

**3.13.1** be responsible to the Chief Referee for all medical aspects related to the competition and competitors.

**3.13.2** inform the local medical facilities of the nature of the competition and ensure that any casualties can be evacuated to medical facilities at the earliest opportunity.

**3.13.3** in conjunction with the Safety Officer, advise the Chief Referee if, in their opinion, conditions are unsuitable for staging the competition and make recommendations for the modification of the course or the manner in which the competition is conducted.

### **3.14 Course Officer**

The Course Officer shall:

**3.14.1** be responsible to the Management Committee for the correct survey of the course.

**3.14.2** ensure the start and finish areas are correctly marked and all equipment has been correctly installed and, where applicable, is in working order.

**3.14.3** ensure all course alteration points are correctly marked and manned prior to the commencement of the competition.



**3.14.4** with the Referee and Safety Officer inspect the course and markings prior to the commencement of competition.

**3.14.5** ensure that Turn Judges are in position prior to the start of the competition and report this to the Chief Referee.

### **3.15 Clerk of the Course**

The Clerk of the Course shall:

**3.15.1** assemble and prepare competitors prior to each event and ensure proper reception facilities at the finish are available for all competitors.

**3.15.2** ensure each competitor is identified correctly with their race number and that all competitors have trimmed fingernails and toenails and are not wearing any jewellery, including watches.

**3.15.3** be certain all competitors are present, in the assembly area, at the required time prior to the start.

**3.15.4** keep competitors and officials informed of the time remaining before the start at suitable intervals until the last five minutes, during which one- minute warnings shall be given.

**3.15.5** be responsible for ensuring that all clothing and equipment left in the start area is transported to the finish area and kept in safekeeping.

**3.15.6** ensure that all competitors leaving the water at the finish have the basic equipment required for their well being should their own attendants not be present at that time.

### **3.16 Recorder**

**3.16.1** The Recorder shall record withdrawals from the competition, enter results on official forms, and maintain records for team awards as appropriate.

**3.16.2** The Recorder shall be responsible to the Chief Referee for keeping the Official Results lists. These shall be when the Men's and Women's events start at the same time.

A combined results list by times and overall positions

The Men's Results list

The Women's Results list

**3.16.3** When completed and after being signed by the Chief Referee, the Officials Results Lists shall be known as the Ratified Results List for the Event.

### **3.17 Announcer**

**3.17.1** The Announcer shall be responsible to the Organizing Committee for the communication of all relevant information related to the current positions and abandonments from the race.



### **C3.18 Meet Manager**

The Meet Manager shall:

**C3.18.1** be responsible for all the organizational details of the meet, shall have control of the mechanics associated with the running of the meet, and shall be responsible for having the necessary equipment and personnel available during the meet. Appointments of personnel shall be subject to ratification by the Chief Referee.

**C3.18.2** be responsible for the dissemination of all meet information and all meet forms.

**C3.18.3** be responsible for the preparation of entry lists and/or heat sheets and have them available prior to the start of each race.

**C3.18.4** be responsible for issuing official results.

**C3.18.5** be the Chairperson of the Jury of Appeal at non-National competitions.

## **4. THE START**

**4.1** All Open Water competitions shall start with all competitors wearing an approved swim cap and standing on a fixed platform or in water depth sufficient for them to commence swimming on the start signal.

**4.1.1** When starting from a fixed platform competitors shall be assigned a position on the platform, as determined by random draw.

**4.1.2** For Olympic Games, World Aquatics Championships, and other World Aquatics competitions, the start shall be from a fixed platform.

**4.2** The Clerk of the Course shall keep competitors and officials informed of the time before start at suitable intervals and at one-minute intervals for the last five minutes.

**4.3** When the numbers of entries dictate the start shall be segregated in the Men's and Women's competitions.

**4.4** The start line shall be clearly defined by either overhead apparatus or by removable equipment at water level.

**4.5** The Chief Referee shall indicate by a flag held upright and short blasts on a whistle when the start is imminent and indicate that the competition is under Starter's orders by pointing the flag at the Starter.

**4.6** The Starter shall be positioned so as to be clearly visible to all competitors.

**4.6.1** On the Starter's command "take your marks" all competitors shall take up a starting position immediately in line with the start line where a platform is not used, or with at least one foot at the front of the platform.

**4.6.2** The Starter will give the starting signal when he/she considers all competitors are ready.

**4.7** The start signal shall be both audible and visual.

**4.8** If in the opinion of the Chief Referee an unfair advantage has been gained at the start the offending competitor will be given a yellow or red flag in accordance with III.5.3.



- 4.9** All escort safety craft shall be stationed prior to the start so as not to interfere with any competitor, and if picking up their competitor from behind shall navigate in such a way as not to manoeuvre through the field of competitors.
- 4.10** Although they may start together, in all other respects the men's and women's competitions shall be treated as separate events.

## **5. THE RACE**

**5.1** All Open Water competitions shall be Freestyle events and competitors are required to complete the whole course, respecting all designated turning buoys and course boundaries.

**5.2** Race Judges shall instruct any competitor who is, in their opinion, taking unfair advantage by pacing or slip streaming with the escort craft to move clear.

### **5.3 Disqualification Procedure**

**5.3.1** If in the opinion of the Chief Referee or Referees, any competitor, or competitor's approved representative, or escort safety craft, takes advantage by committing any violation of the rules, or by making intentional contact with any competitor, the following procedure shall apply:

#### **5.3.1.1 1st Infringement:**

A yellow flag and a card bearing the competitor's number shall be raised to indicate and to inform the competitor that she/he is in violation of the Rules.

#### **5.3.1.2 2nd Infringement:**

A red flag and a card bearing the competitor's number shall be raised by the Referee (III.3.1.6) to indicate and to inform the competitor that she/he is for the second time in violation of the Rules. The competitor shall be disqualified.

**5.3.2** If in the opinion of a Referee, an action of a competitor or an escort safety craft, or a competitor's approved representative is deemed to be "unsporting" the Referee shall disqualify the competitor concerned immediately. She/He must leave the water immediately and be placed in an escort craft and take no further part in the race.

**5.4** Escort safety craft shall manoeuvre so as not to obstruct or place them directly ahead of any competitor and not take unfair advantage by pacing or slip streaming.

**5.5** Escort safety craft shall attempt to maintain a constant position so as to station the competitor at, or forward of, the mid-point of the escort safety craft.

**5.6** Standing on the bottom during a race shall not disqualify a competitor but they may not walk or jump.

**5.7** With the exception of Rule III.5.6 above competitor shall not receive support from any fixed or floating object and shall not intentionally touch or be touched by their escort safety craft or crew therein.

**5.7.1** Rendering assistance by an official medical officer to a competitor in apparent distress should always supersede official rules of disqualification through "intentional contact" with a competitor (Rule III.5.3.1).



- 5.8** For races where escort boats are used, each escort safety craft shall contain: a Race Judge, a person of the competitor's choice, and the minimum crew required to operate the escort safety craft.
- 5.8.1** Each escort safety craft shall display the competitor's competition number so as to be easily seen from either side of the escort safety craft and the national flag of the competitor's Federation.
- 5.9** Each safety craft shall contain appropriately qualified safety personnel and the minimum crew required to operate the safety craft.
- 5.10** No competitor shall be permitted to use or wear any device which may be an aid to their speed, endurance, or buoyancy. Approved swimsuit, goggles, a maximum of two (2) caps, nose clip and earplugs may be used.
- 5.11** Competitors shall be allowed to use grease or other such substances providing these are not, in the opinion of the Chief Referee, excessive.
- 5.12** The pacing of a competitor by another person entering the water is not permitted.
- 5.13** Coaching and the giving of instructions by the approved competitor's representative on the feeding platform or in the escort safety craft is permitted. No whistle shall be allowed.
- 5.14** When taking sustenance competitors may use Rule III.5.6 provided Rule III.5.7 is not infringed.
- 5.15** No objects can be thrown from the feeding platform to the competitors, including sustenance. The competitors shall receive their feeding directly from their representative by a feeding pole or by hand.
- 5.16** Feeding poles are not to exceed 5m in length when extended. No objects, rope or wire may hang off the feeding poles except national flags. National flags are allowed to be attached to the feeding pole but may not exceed the size of 30cm x 20cm.
- C5.16.1** For non-World Aquatics events, Club flags are allowed to be attached to the feeding poles.
- C5.16.2** Feeding poles shall be inspected by the Clerk of the Course.
- 5.17** In all events, time limits shall apply as follows from the finish time of the first competitors:
- 15 minutes per 5km (or part thereof) up to a maximum time limit of 120 minutes.
- 5.17.1** Competitors who do not finish the course within the time limit shall be removed from the water except that the Chief Referee may allow a competitor outside the time limit to complete the course but not be eligible for any points or prizes.
- C5.17.2** At non-World Aquatics International events a time limit will be specified on the entry form or information sheet. This time limit will be based on the time at which the leading competitor passed a particular point or finished the course.
- C5.17.3** After expiry of the designated time limit the Chief Referee may order any or all competitors not in compliance from the water.
- C5.17.4** The Chief Referee may delegate the responsibility for ordering competitors



“out of time limit” from the water to the Referees or to the Race Judges, in which case a specific time must be appointed after the first competitor has set the qualifying time.

**C5.17.5** If the Chief Referee orders competitors not in compliance with a cut off time from the water, designated escort safety crafts shall collect the competitors, starting at the rear of the course.

## **5.18 Emergency Abandonment**

**5.18.1** In cases of emergency abandonment of races of 10km or less, the race will be restarted from the beginning at the earliest possible moment.

**5.18.2** In cases of emergency abandonment for any race longer than 10km, the final ranking will be as reported by the Chief Referee. If 2 hours of the race has not been completed, it will be restarted from the beginning at the earliest moment possible.

**C5.18.3** If, for any reason, a race is abandoned with no possibility to restart that race, the final ranking will be as reported by the Chief Referee at the time of abandonment.

## **6. THE FINISH OF THE RACE**

**6.1** Escort safety craft should be stationed at the approach to and entrance of the finish lane to ensure that only the escort safety craft authorised to do so enter or cross this entrance.

The final places will be determined by the Chief Referee based upon the finish judges' report and the finish video tape.

**6.2** It is mandatory for all competitors to wear a microchip transponder on each wrist throughout the race. If a competitor loses a transponder the Race Judge or other authorised Official, will immediately inform the Chief Referee who will instruct the responsible Official on the water to issue a replacement transponder. Any competitor who finishes the race without at least one transponder will be disqualified.

**C6.2.1** Information on microchip transponders shall be clearly stated in the Meet Information Package if microchip transponders are used.

**6.3** When at the finish of an Open Water Swimming competition, a vertical wall is available, competitors must touch the vertical wall to finish the race. Any competitor who does not touch the vertical wall will be disqualified.

**6.4** The Finish Judges and Timekeepers shall be placed so as to be able to observe the finish at all times. The area in which they are stationed should be for their exclusive use.

**6.5** Every effort should be made to ensure that the competitor's representative can get from the escort safety craft to meet the competitor as they leave the water.

**6.6** Upon leaving the water some competitors may require assistance. Competitors should only be touched or handled if they clearly display a need, or ask for assistance.

**6.7** A member of the medical team should inspect the competitors as they leave the water. A chair, in which the competitor can sit while an assessment is made, should be provided.



**6.8** Once cleared by the medical member, competitors should be given access to refreshment.

## **7. SWIMWEAR & TECHNOLOGY**

**7.1** For open water swimming competitions with water temperature from 18°C and above, Swimsuits (men and women) shall not cover the neck, nor extend past the shoulder, nor extend below the ankle. Subject to these specific shape specifications, swimsuits for open water swimming competitions shall further comply with all other requirements applicable to swimsuits for swimming-pool competition.

**7.2** From January 1, 2023, for open water swimming competitions in water with temperature below 18°C, the use of wetsuits is compulsory. Wetsuits are not permitted in open water swimming competitions in water with temperature 18°C and above.

### **7.3 Wetsuits**

Wetsuits (for both men and women) shall completely cover torso, back, shoulders and knees. They shall not extend beyond the neck, wrists and ankles.

### **7.4 Team Event**

All competitors from the same team must wear the same colour caps which shall also comply with the Competitions Rules I.8.

### **7.5 Technology**

Technology such as drones, GPS tracking, bio-medical sensors or devices that record blood pressure, body temperature, stroke rate, breathing rate etc. via the transponder are permitted when approved by World Aquatics.

The technology may transmit such information but not act as a receiver giving advantage to the competitor such as "smart goggles", hearing devices, and the like.

**C7.5.1** The use of technology such as drones, GPS tracking, bio-medical sensors or devices that record blood pressure, body temperature, stroke rate, breathing rate etc. are permitted via the transponder. The technology may receive such information, but shall not be utilised to transmit data, sounds, or signals to the swimmer and may not be used to give advantage to the competitor such as "smart goggles", hearing devices, and the like.

## **8. OPEN WATER SWIMMING FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT**

### **8.1 Open Water Swimming Facilities**

#### **8.1.1 Start Platforms**

Start Platforms shall be of sufficient size to allow 60cm space per competitor plus an additional 5m. Each competitor space should be identified and numbered with number 1 farthest from the entry to the platform. They shall be of sufficient width to allow for the necessary activities prior to the start and to support the weight of the competitors and officials at the start.



## **8.1.2 Finish**

**8.1.2.1** The final approach to the finish shall be clearly defined with markers of a distinctive colour and shall comprise the boundary of the course.

**8.1.2.2** The area leading to the finish apparatus should be clearly marked by rows of buoys which narrow as they get closer to the finish wall.

**8.1.2.3** The finish shall be clearly defined and marked by a vertical face.

**8.1.2.4** The finish apparatus should, where possible, be a vertical wall at least 5 metres wide fixed if necessary to floatation devices, securely fastened in place so as not to be moved by wind, tide or the force of a competitor striking the wall. The finish should be filmed and recorded from each side and above by a video system with slow motion and recall facilities including timing equipment.

## **8.1.3 Turns/Alteration**

**8.1.3.1** All turns/alterations of the course shall be clearly indicated. Directional Buoys which are alterations of the course shall be of a different colour to guidance buoys. Wherever possible there shall be a long distance (to be confirmed by World Aquatics) from the start to the first turning buoy to ease congestion at the turn.

**8.1.3.2** A clearly marked craft or platform, containing a Turn Judge, shall be positioned at all alterations of course in such a manner as not to obstruct a competitor's visibility of the turn.

## **8.1.4 Feeding Platforms**

Feeding platforms shall be of sufficient size and buoyancy for the safe operation of the platform and the feeders and officials operating thereon. A minimum of 60cm of linear space per feeder plus 5m shall be required and of sufficient width to allow storage a preparation for competitor feeding. There needs to be sufficient space on one or more platforms to accommodate all feeders. Access to the platform shall be outside of the racecourse wherever possible.

## **8.1.5 All Platforms**

All Starting Platforms, Feeding Platforms, Relay Platforms, turning apparatus and Turn Judges craft/platforms shall be securely fixed in position and not be subject to tidal, wind or other movements.

## **8.1.6 Water Conditions**

**8.1.6.1** A certificate of suitability for use of the venue shall be issued by the appropriate local health and safety authorities. In general terms the certification must relate to water purity and to physical safety from other considerations.

**8.1.6.2** The minimum depth of water at any point on the course shall be 1.40 meter.

**8.1.6.3** The water temperature should be a minimum of 16°C and a maximum of 31°C. It should be checked the day of the race, 2 hours before the start, in the middle of the course at a depth of 40 cm. This control should be done in the presence of a Commission made up of the following persons present: a Referee,



a member of the Organising Committee and one coach from the teams present designated during the Technical Meeting.

## **8.2 Automatic Officiating Equipment for Open Water Swimming**

The operation of Automatic Officiating Equipment shall be under the supervision of appointed officials. Results recorded by Automatic Equipment shall be used to determine the winner, all placing and the time applicable to each competitor. The placing and times so determined shall have precedence over the decisions of judges & timekeepers. In the event that a break-down of the Automatic Equipment occurs or that it is clearly indicated that there has been a failure of the Equipment, or that a competitor has failed to activate the Equipment, the recordings of the judges & timekeepers shall be official.

### **8.2.1 Microchip Transponders**

When automatic Officiating Equipment is used for timing of competitions in accordance with Rule III.8.2, microchip transponder technology capable of providing split times is mandatory and should be added to the Equipment. Use of microchip transponder technology is mandatory for World Aquatics competitions, at the World Aquatics Championships and Olympic Games. Microchip transponder timing technology will be recorded officially in tenths of seconds.

### **8.2.2 Intermediate Timing Gate**

Where an intermediate timing gate is used it shall be placed such that it becomes part of the overall course within the swimming line of the course without deviation for the competitors. It shall be a minimum width of 6m wide at the swimming waterline.

## **8.3 Automatic Officiating Procedure for Open Water Swimming**

**8.3.1** Any timing device that is terminated by an official shall be considered a watch. Such manual times must be taken by three timekeepers appointed or approved by the Member in the country concerned. All watches shall be certified as accurate to the satisfaction of the governing body concerned. Manual timing shall be registered to 1/10 of a second. Where no Automatic Equipment is used, official manual times shall be determined as follows:

**8.3.1.1** If two (2) of the three (3) watches record the same time and the third disagrees, the two identical times shall be the official time.

**8.3.1.2** If all three (3) watches disagree, the watch recording the intermediate time shall be the official time.

**8.3.1.3** 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 hundredths of a second, the final digit shall be dropped without rounding.

**8.3.2** When the Automatic Officiating Equipment fails to record the place and/or time of one or more competitors in a given race:

**8.3.2.1** Record all available Automatic Officiating Equipment times and places,

**8.3.2.2** Record all human times and places.



**8.3.2.3** The official place will be determined as follows:

- A competitor with an Automatic Officiating Equipment time and/or place must retain their relative order when compared with the other competitors having an Automatic Officiating Equipment time and/or place within that race.
- A competitor not having an Automatic Officiating Equipment place shall have their place established by the Chief Referee from the video recording of the finish of the race.
- A competitor having neither an Automatic Officiating Equipment place nor an Automatic Officiating Equipment time shall establish their relative order by the place recorded by the judges.

#### **8.4 Water Quality Guidelines for Open Water**

Refer to World Aquatics Competition Regulations III.8.4 and the [Swimming Canada Open Water Safety Guide and Meet Manager Guidelines](#).

### **9. IDENTIFICATION OF COMPETITORS DURING THE RACE**

#### **9.1 Numbering of Competitors**

The numbering of Competitors is to appear on the arms, upper backs and hands of competitors. On the arms the numbers shall be arranged vertically. On the upper backs and hands the numbering is horizontally. Where the numbering of the arms and backs is made with an ink template: 100 mm high x 60 mm wide. The numbering of the hands of competitors is allowed by marking pens. For Competitors with darker skin and full body wet suits a white marker pen will be required.

### **10. OPEN WATER SAFETY REGULATIONS**

Refer to World Aquatics Competition Regulations III.10.

#### **10.2 Submission of a Safety Plan to World Aquatics**

**10.2.3** No Covered Competition subject to these regulations shall be sanctioned or approved by World Aquatics without an approved safety plan in place.

**C10.2.3.1** Prior to sanction approval, hosts must have an approved safety plan in place.

### **11. ANNEXES**

Refer to World Aquatics Competition Regulations III.11.

