

FACILITY RULES & GUIDELINES OF SWIMMING CANADA



The Facility Rules & Guidelines were prepared by Swimming Canada in partnership with the Provincial Sections, the Canadian Swimming Coaches Association and Officials Competition and Rules Committee. They have been prepared in both English and French. Where there is a discrepancy between the two versions, the English version shall be applied. The Facility Rules & Guidelines shall be in force and shall influence all decisions surrounding facility usage for competition and training in Canada until such time as revisions are approved and published. The Facility Rules & Guidelines are to be used in conjunction with the Swimming Canada Rules for ALL sanctioned competitions in Canada. The Facility Rules & Guidelines (Section 3) are also to be used for all affiliated Swimming Canada clubs in their daily training environment.

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Introduction

Purpose:

The Facility Rules & Guidelines of Swimming Canada provide a single source of facility information regarding all facility rules and guidelines required for sanctioned competitions and training use for affiliated clubs. The Facility Rules & Guidelines will be a living document that will be updated as required. The Facility Rules & Guidelines of Swimming Canada supplement the current Swimming Canada Rules (<https://www.swimming.ca/en/swimmingcanadarules/>) that are specific to the swimming rules for ALL sanctioned competitions held in Canada.

Overview:

Section 1: World Aquatics Facility Rules – primarily used for World Aquatics Competitions including World Championships and Olympic Games

Section 2: Canadian Facility Rules & Guidelines for Sanctioned Competitions in Canada

Section 3: Canadian Facility Rules for Training in Canada

Appendix A and B, provide standards for existing pools when considering international, national and provincial facility requirements. Appendix C will provide minimum standards required when considering a new pool construction project and is currently under development.

Appendix A: Facility Standard Comparison for Sanctioned Competitions

Appendix B: Swimming Canada Request for Bids (November 2024 – 2028)

Appendix C: New Pool Construction Guidelines

Interpretation:

“**Affiliation**” means fully registered;

“**Backstroke Turn Indicator**” means flagged ropes suspended across the pool from fixed standards placed 5.0 metres from each end wall;

“**C - Canadian Facility Rule**” refers to a Canadian specific facility rule related to either competition or training;

“**Competition**” or “**Meet**” or “**Time Trial**” or “**Event**” means a sanctioned swimming competition;

“**CSCA**” means the Canadian Swimming Coaches Association;

“**OCRC**” means the Officials Competition and Rules Committee of Swimming Canada;

“**Provincial Championship Competition**” means competitions which are designed and run in accordance with the meet format determined from time to time by the Provincial Section (PS);

“**Provincial Section (PS)**” means that geographically defined provincial or territorial swimming organization, which is a Member of Swimming Canada;

“Reasonable Variance” is to be determined having regard to the health and safety of all users, including but not limited to the age and ability of the swimmer(s), the type of training and/or competitions to take place at the venue, and respecting all rules, policies, standards, or legislation applicable to the facility;

“Rule” means a set standard which must be met;

“Sanctioned Competition” means a swimming competition approved under the authority of Swimming Canada in a facility having the minimum standards determined by Swimming Canada with the expectation of qualified officials who conduct the competition under the published rules; and where the results of the competition are entered in the Swimming Canada results database. Swimming Canada designates the authority of sanctioning competitive events to Provincial Sections for events taking place in their respective Provinces (Link: [Swimming Canada Event Sanctioning Policy](#));

“Starting Platform” is also known as a starting block and is used when diving during sanctioned competitions or during training. The height of the platform above the water surface shall be measured from the level of the water surface to the top (front) of the starting platform;

“Swimming Canada National Competition” means competitions which are designed and run in accordance with the meet format determined from time to time by Swimming Canada; these events include, but may not be limited to:

- Olympic, World, Commonwealth, Pan Pacific, Pan American TRIALS;
- Paralympic, Para Pan Pacific, Para Pan American TRIALS;
- Canadian Swimming Championships;
- Canadian Swimming Open;
- Speedo Eastern Championships and Speedo Western Championships;
- Canadian Short Course (25m) Championships;
- Ken Demchuk International Invitational

“Water Depth” means the water depth as measured from the bottom of pool to the water level at the end wall or any given point in the course of the pool per the rules defined;

“World Aquatics” means the body that regulates and controls competitions in the six aquatic sports at the world level. Always use World Aquatics or the acronym AQUA (never WA or other acronyms).

Section 1: World Aquatics Facility Rules

WORLD AQUATICS COMPETITION REGULATIONS I.10 and II.16

I.10. FACILITIES

10.1 General

The present Section related to Facilities is intended to provide the best possible environment for competitive use and training. This section does not intend to govern issues related to the general public. It is the responsibility of the owner or controller of a facility to provide supervision for activities undertaken by the general public.

10.2 Pools

10.2.1 World Aquatics Olympic Standard Pools

All World Championships (except the Masters World Championships) and Olympic Games must be held in pools that comply with the Facility Rules of each Discipline (see Sections II to VIII).

10.2.2 World Aquatics General Standard Pools

Other World Aquatics events should be held in World Aquatics Olympic Standard Pools, but the Bureau may waive certain standards for existing pools if they do not materially interfere with the competitions.

10.2.3 World Aquatics Minimum Standard Pools

All other events held under World Aquatics rules should be conducted in pools that comply with all of the minimum standards contained within this section.

10.3 Automatic Officiating Equipment

At Olympic Games and World Aquatics Championships, the approved Automatic Officiating Equipment, including Video Judging Equipment shall be provided and used. The approved Video Judging Equipment shall be used to initiate stroke infraction calls, confirm stroke infraction calls or assist the Referee to overturn calls made on the pool deck.

10.4 Availability of Venues

For the World Aquatics Championships all venues shall be available for use at least five (5) days before the opening ceremony. For all other World Aquatics events all pools shall be available for use by entered competitors before the competition begins. Swimming, Open Water Swimming, Water Polo, Artistic Swimming - five (5) days prior, Diving, High Diving - eight (8) days prior.

10.4.1 Training

During the competition days, the pools shall be available for training when competitions are not in progress.

10.5 Seating

Seating positions along the side of the pool shall be provided for all competitors, team officials and unassigned technical officials, from which they may properly observe training and competitions.

10.6 New competition equipment (e.g. Starting blocks, lane-ropes, etc.) must be available by 1st January in the year of the Olympic Games and World Aquatics Championships.

10.7 At the Olympic Games, World Aquatics Championships, World Aquatics Swimming Championships (25m) and World Aquatics Junior Swimming Championships, it shall be the responsibility of the Chairperson of the World Aquatics Technical Swimming Committee (or his/her designee) to determine if a Competitor may receive an additional opportunity to compete in the situation when there is a mechanical or technical malfunction that affects the Competitor.

Example: if the lane-line on either side of a competitor snaps during the first 20m of a 100m race, the Technical Swimming Committee Chairperson may grant the allowance to re-swim the race.

At all other competitions, in the event of an equipment malfunction during a swimming race, the Referee may offer all competitors affected by such malfunction the opportunity to compete again.

10.8 In order to protect the health and safety of persons using swimming facilities for the purposes of recreation, training and competition, owners of public pools or pools restricted only to training and competition must comply with the requirements established by law and the health authorities in the country where the pool is situated.

II.16. SWIMMING FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

16.1 Swimming Facilities

16.1.1 Length

16.1.1.1 50.000 metres

When touch panels of Automatic Officiating Equipment are used on the starting end, or additionally on the turning end, the pool must be of such length that ensures the required distance of 50.000 metres between the two panels.

16.1.1.2 25.000 metres

When touch panels of Automatic Officiating Equipment are used on the starting end, or additionally on the turning end, the pool must be of such length that ensures the required distance of 25.000 metres between the two panels.

16.1.2 Dimensional Tolerances

16.1.2.1 50m swimming pools

The admissible tolerance in 50.00m swimming pools will be +0.010, and -0.000 metre when touch panels are installed.

Tolerances will be measured as follows:

For swimming pools with touch panels of Automatic Officiating Equipment on both ends the Wall to Wall distance shall be: Minimum 50.020 metre/ Maximum 50.030 metre.

Tolerances have to be consistent 0.300 metre above to 0.800 metre below the water surface.

These measurements should be certified by a surveyor or other qualified official, appointed or approved by the Member in the country in which the pool is situated.

16.1.2.2 25m swimming pools

The admissible tolerance in 25.00m swimming pools will be +0.010, and -0.000 metre when touch panels are installed.

Tolerances will be measured as follows:

For swimming pools with touch panels of Automatic Officiating Equipment on both ends the Wall to Wall distance shall be: Minimum 25.020 metre / Maximum 25.030 metre.

For swimming pools with a touch panel of Automatic Officiating Equipment on one end the Wall to Wall distance shall be: Minimum 25.010 metre / Maximum 25.020 metre.

Tolerances have to be consistent 0.300 metre above to 0.800 metre below the water surface.

These measurements should be certified by a surveyor or other qualified official, appointed or approved by the Member in the country in which the pool is situated.

16.1.3 Width

There is no minimum width requirement. However, the width of the pool has to comply with the provision II.16.1.6 Lanes.

16.1.4 Depth

A minimum depth of 1.35 metres, extending from 1.0 metre to at least 6.0 metres from the end wall, is required for pools with starting blocks. A minimum depth of 1.0 metre is required elsewhere.

16.1.5 Walls

16.1.5.1 End walls shall be vertical, parallel and form 90-degree right angles to the swimming course and to the surface of the water. They shall be constructed of solid material, with a slip-resistant surface extending 0.8 metre below the water surface, so as to enable the competitor to touch and push off in turning without hazard.

The admissible tolerance in walls verticality will be ± 0.3 degrees.

16.1.5.2 Rest ledges along the pool walls are permitted; they must be not less than 1.2 metres below the water surface, and may be 0.1 metre to 0.15 metre wide. Both internal and external ledges are acceptable, however internal ledges are preferred.

16.1.5.3 Gutters may be placed on all four walls of the pool. If end wall gutters are installed, they must allow for attachment of touch panels to the required 0.3 metre

above the water surface. They must be covered with a suitable grill or screen.

16.1.6 Lanes

There is no minimum number of lanes. Lanes shall be at least 2.5 metres wide, first and last lane may be 2.4 metres wide with 2 spaces of at least 0.1 metres wide outside of the first and last lanes.

16.1.7 Lane Ropes

16.1.7.1 The main function of a lane rope is not only to separate swimming lanes, but to reduce the pool waves. A lane rope should have the properties to reduce the waves going through to the other side of rope or bouncing back into the swimming lane.

Lane ropes shall extend the full length of the course and components not contributing to its wave reduction function, such as tension spring and take-up reel, shall measure less than 200mm each end of rope.

Lane rope should be secured at each end wall to anchor brackets recessed into the end walls. If anchor placement is on pool deck, an extender, firm and non-elastic, should be in place. The installed lane rope should stay in the pool water. The anchor, including extender, shall not extend more than 10mm into the pool. The anchor shall not influence the length of the lane rope by more than ± 10 mm each end of rope.

The anchor shall be positioned so that the wave reducing components at each end wall of the pool shall be 50% below the surface of the water. Anchors should be installed to withstand 20kN. Each lane rope will consist of wave reducing components paced end-to-end having a minimum diameter of 0,10 metre. The design of discs and floats should be so that the floats, by themselves, do not influence the length of the lane rope. A float should be an integral part in between two discs. The lane rope length of the course shall have a negative buoyancy in such a way that at least one half to maximum two thirds of the height of the wave reducing components should be beneath the water surface.

The take-up reel of the lane rope should require a tool to lock tensioning into position and to prevent non-authorized tampering. The lane rope shall be equipped with a tension spring, absorbing sudden high point loads and a wire withstanding a tensile force of 12kN.

In an eight (8)-lane pool, lane ropes shall extend the full length of the course, secured at each end wall to anchor brackets recessed into the end walls. The anchor shall be positioned so that the floats at each end wall of the pool shall be on the surface of the water. Each lane rope will consist of floats placed end-to-end having a minimum diameter of 0.10 metre to a maximum of 0.15 metre.

In a swimming pool the colour of the lane ropes should be as follows, although variations in the colour scheme can be used:

- Two (2) GREEN ropes for lanes 1 and 8
- Four (4) BLUE ropes for lanes 2, 3, 6, and 7
- Three (3) YELLOW ropes for lanes 4 and 5

The floats extending for a distance of 5.0 metres from each end of the pool shall be of RED colour.

There shall not be more than one lane rope between each lane. The lane ropes shall be firmly stretched and the tensions should be 1-1,2kN.

See Swimming Diagrams Annex 1, 6, and 7 located at the end of Section II.16 of the World Aquatics Competition Regulations.

16.1.7.2 At the 15-metre mark from each end wall of the pool the components shall be distinct in colour from the surrounding components.

16.1.7.3 In 50 metre pools the components shall be distinct to mark 25 metres.

16.1.7.4 Lane numbers of soft material may be placed on the lane ropes at the start and turning end of the pool.

16.1.8 Starting Platforms

Starting Platforms shall be firm and give no springing effect. The height of the platform above the water surface shall be from 0.5 metre to 0.75 metre. The surface area shall be at least 0.5 metre x 0.5 metre and covered with a slip-resistant material.

Maximum slope shall not be more than 10 degrees. The starting platform may have an adjustable setting back plate. The platform shall be constructed so as to permit the gripping of the platform by the swimmer in the forward start at the front and the sides; it is recommended that, if the thickness of the starting platform exceeds 0.04 metre, grips of at least 0.1 metre width on each side and 0.4 metre width in the front be cut out to 0.03 metre from the surface of the platform.

Handgrips for the forward start may be installed on the sides of the starting platforms. Handgrips for backstroke starts shall be placed within 0.3 metre to 0.6 metre above the water surface both horizontally and vertically. They shall be parallel to the surface of the end wall, and must not protrude beyond the end wall.

A minimum depth of 1.35 metres, extending from 1.0 metre to at least 6.0 metres from the end wall is required for pools with starting blocks. Electronic read-out boards may be installed under the blocks. Flashing is not allowed. Figures must not move during a backstroke start.

16.1.9 Numbering

Each starting block must be distinctly numbered on all four sides, clearly visible. It is recommended that lane number 0 shall be on the right-hand side when facing the course from the starting end with exception of 50m events, which may start from the opposite end. Touch panels may be numbered on the top part.

16.1.10 Backstroke Turn Indicators

Flagged ropes shall be suspended across the pool, 1.8 metres above the water surface, from fixed standards placed 5.0 metres from each end wall. Distinctive marks must be placed on both sides of the pool, and where possible on each lane rope, 15.0 metres from each end wall.

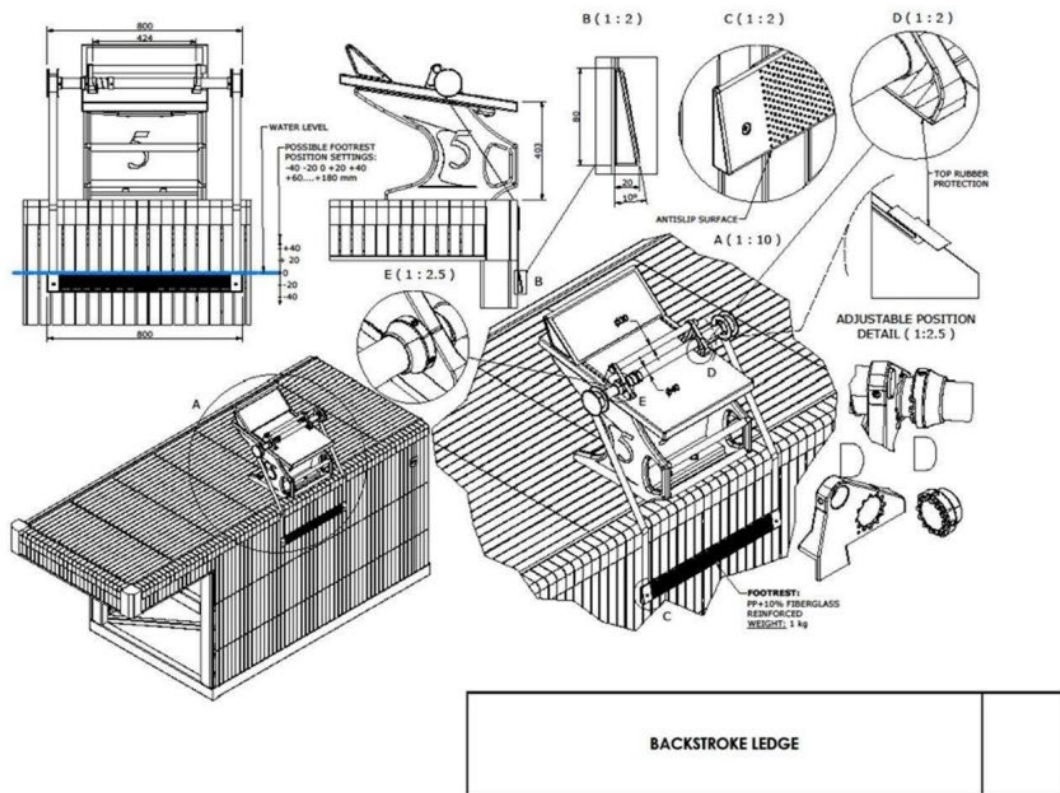
16.1.11 Backstroke Ledge

Backstroke ledges conforming to the specification set out below shall be used in all World Aquatics Championships and Competitions.

The ledge:

- shall be adjustable to 4 cm above or 4 cm below the water level and may not be used outside of this range;
- is a minimum of 65 cm in length;
- must be 8 cm in height, 2 cm at the width with 10 degrees of slope.

See Diagram



16.1.12 False Start Rope

False Start Rope may be suspended across the pool not less than 1.2 metres above the water level from fixed standards placed 15.0 metres in front of the starting end. It shall be attached to the standards by a quick release mechanism. The rope must effectively cover all lanes when activated.

16.1.13 Water Conditions

16.1.13.1 Water Temperature

Water temperature shall be 25° to 28°C.

16.1.13.2 Water Movement

During competition, the water in the pool must be at a constant level, with no appreciable movement. In order to keep the water level, preserve the transparency of water and take into consideration the health regulations in force in most countries, inflow and outflow has to be regulated as follows:

- 220 to 250 m³/h for 50.00 m pools
- 150 to 180 m³/h for 33.33 m pools
- 120 to 150 m³/h for 25.00 m pools

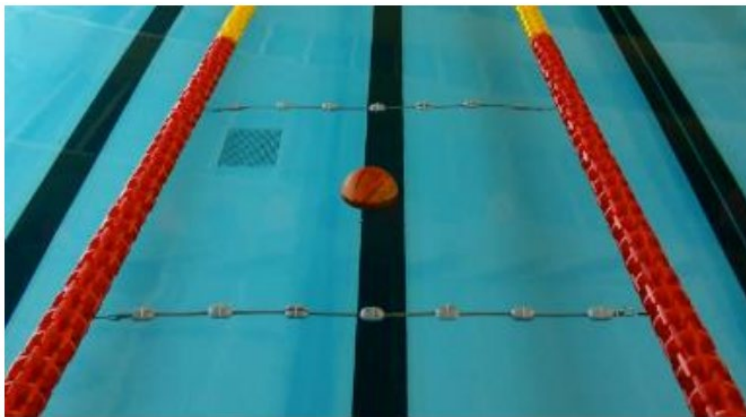
In daily use, inflow and outflow has to follow the health regulation of each country.

At these turnover rates, the water distribution has to be such that no appreciable current or turbulence is created.

“Appreciable current” is defined as water movement that can move a floating basketball (filled with 6 liters of water to obtain the right buoyancy) in one direction for more than 1,25m in 60 seconds.

The practical way to test this is to install two floating lines crosswise in a swim lane (to obtain a square with 2,5m size, see image below) and then to leave the basketball in the central point of the square. If the ball does not touch any of the four lane ropes within 60 seconds, the turbulence test is successful.

Test should be repeated in lanes 1,3,6,8 on two sides, at 5m from each headwall.



16.1.13.3 Salinity of the water

World Records and World Junior Records can be established only in water with less than 3gr/litre of salt.

No World Records will be recognized in any kind of sea or ocean water.

16.1.14 Lighting

Light intensity over starting platforms and turning ends shall not be less than 600 lux.

16.1.15 Lane Markings

Lane Markings shall be of a dark contrasting colour, placed on the floor of the pool in the center of each lane.

Width: minimum 0.2 metre, maximum 0.3 metre.

Length: 46.0 metres for 50-metre-long pools;
21.0 metres for 25-metre-long pools.

Each lane line shall end 2.0* metres from the end wall of the pool with a distinctive cross line 1.0-metre-long and of the same width as the lane line. The distance between the centre points of each lane shall be 2.5 metres.

**Pool length tolerances must be considered.*

Target lines shall be placed on the end walls or on the touch panels, in the centre of each lane, of the same width as the lane lines.

They shall extend without interruption from the deck edge (curb), to the floor of the pool to a maximum of 3 metres. A cross line 0.5 metre long shall be placed 0.3 metre below the water surface, measured to the center point of the cross line.

For 50m pools constructed after 1 January 2006, cross lines 0.5 metre long shall be placed at the 15 metre mark from each end of the pool. After October 2013 this shall be measured from the end wall to the centre point of the cross line.

16.1.16 Bulkheads

When a bulkhead serves as an end wall, it must extend the full width of the course and present a solid smooth, non-slippery stable vertical surface on which touch pads may be mounted extending not less than 0.8m below and 0.3m above the surface of the water, and must be free of hazardous openings above or below the waterline which may be penetrated by a swimmer's hands, feet, toes or fingers. A bulkhead must be of a design that provides for the free movement of officials along its length without such movement creating any appreciable current or water turbulence.

16.2 Swimming Facilities for Olympic Games and World Championships

Refer to World Aquatics Competition Regulations II.16.2.

16.3 Automatic Officiating Equipment For Swimming

16.3.1 General description

Automatic and Semi-Automatic Officiating Equipment records the elapsed time of each swimmer and determines the relative place in a race. Judging and timing shall be to 2 decimal places (1/100 of a second). Equipment that is installed shall not interfere with the swimmers' starts, turns, or the function of the overflow system.

16.3.2 Equipment Requirements

The Equipment must:

16.3.2.1 Be activated by the starter.

16.3.2.2 Have no exposed wires on the pool deck, if possible.

16.3.2.3 Be able to display all recorded information for each lane by place and by lane.

16.3.2.4 Provide easy digital reading of a swimmer's time.

16.3.3 Starting devices

16.3.3.1 The starter shall have a microphone for oral commands.

16.3.3.2 If a pistol is used, it shall be used with a transducer.

16.3.3.3 Both the microphone and the transducer shall be connected to loudspeakers at each starting block where both the starter's commands and the starting signal can be heard equally and simultaneously by each swimmer.

16.3.4 Touch panels for Automatic Equipment

16.3.4.1 The minimum measurement of the touch panels shall be 2.4 metres wide and 0.9-metre-high, and the thickness shall be 0.01m when the contact is closed (and the time is stopped).

They shall extend 0.3 metre above and 0.6 metre below the surface of the water. The equipment in each lane shall be electronically connected independently, so it may be controlled and maintained individually. The surface of the panels shall be of a bright colour and shall bear the line markings approved for the end walls.

16.3.4.2 Installation - The touch panels shall be installed in a fixed position in the centre of the lanes. The panels may be portable, allowing the pool operator to remove them when there are no competitors.

16.3.4.3 Sensitivity - The sensitivity of the panels shall be such that they cannot be activated by water turbulence, but will be activated by a light hand touch. The panels shall be sensitive on the top edge.

16.3.4.4 Markings - The markings on the panels shall conform with and superimpose on the existing markings of the pool. The perimeter and edges of the panels shall be defined by a 0.025 metre black border.

16.3.4.5 Safety - The panels shall be safe from the possibility of electrical shock and shall not have sharp edges.

16.3.5 Semi-Automatic Equipment

With Semi-Automatic Equipment, the finish shall be recorded by buttons pushed by timekeepers at the finish touch of the swimmer.

16.3.5.1 Semi-Automatic Equipment may be used as a backup to the Automatic Officiating Equipment at World Aquatics or other major events if there are three buttons per lane, each operated by a separate official (in which case other finish judges shall not be required). An inspector of turns may operate one of the buttons.

16.3.6 Automatic Equipment – Essential Accessories

The following accessories are essential for a minimum installation of Automatic Equipment:

16.3.6.1 Printout of all information, which can be regenerated during a succeeding race.

16.3.6.2 Spectator readout board.

16.3.6.3 Relay take-off judging to 1/100 of a second. Where overhead video

cameras are installed they may be reviewed as a supplement to the automatic system's judgement of relay take-off. For the differential in the relays take-off the manufacturer of the device shall be consulted.

16.3.6.4 Automatic lap counter.

16.3.6.5 Readout of splits.

16.3.6.6 Computer summaries.

16.3.6.7 Correction of erroneous touch.

16.3.6.8 Automatic rechargeable battery operation possibility.

16.3.7 Automatic Equipment - Accessories for Olympic Games and World Championships

Refer to World Aquatics Competition Regulations II.16.3.7.

16.3.8 Timing Room

Timekeepers shall have a clear view on the finish pool side from the Timing room. Sponsor panels or LED wall shall start at a minimum of 2m distance from the finish wall Timing room side.

See Diagram in World Aquatics Competition Regulations II.16.3.8.

16.3.9 Video Judging Equipment

Refer to World Aquatics Competition Regulations II.16.3.9.

Section 2: Canadian Facility Rules & Guidelines - Competition

Rules

Preamble:

The Canadian Facilities Rules & Guidelines – Competition are intended to provide the best possible environment for sanctioned competitions in Canada. Swimming Canada designates the authority of sanctioning competitive events to Provincial Sections for events taking place in their respective Provinces.

The World Aquatics Facility Rules found in section II.16 of the World Aquatics Competition Regulations are those rules found in Section 1; the Canadian Facility Rules (C) are Canadian specific facility rules relative to the corresponding World Aquatics Facility Rules.

16.1.1 Length

16.1.1.1 50.000 metres

When touch panels of Automatic Officiating Equipment are used on the starting end, or additionally on the turning end, the pool must be of such length that ensures the required distance of 50.000 metres between the two panels.

16.1.1.2 25.000 metres

When touch panels of Automatic Officiating Equipment are used on the starting end, or additionally on the turning end, the pool must be of such length that ensures the required distance of 25.000 metres between the two panels.

C16.1.1.3 25.000 yards

When a 25.000 yard pool is used for competitions in Canada, the times shall not be approved or used for ranking or qualifying purposes. Swimming Canada does not recognize 25.000 yard pools for record purposes.

16.1.2 Dimensional Tolerances

16.1.2.1 50m swimming pools

The admissible tolerance in 50.00m swimming pools will be +0.010, and -0.000 metre when touch panels are installed.

Tolerances will be measured as follows:

For swimming pools with touch panels of Automatic Officiating Equipment on both ends the Wall to Wall distance shall be: Minimum 50.020 metre/ Maximum 50.030 metre.

Tolerances have to be consistent 0.300 metre above to 0.800 metre below the water surface.

These measurements should be certified by a surveyor or other qualified official, appointed or approved by the Member in the country in which the pool is situated.

16.1.2.2 25m swimming pools

The admissible tolerance in 25.00m swimming pools will be +0.010, and -0.000 metre when touch panels are installed.

Tolerances will be measured as follows:

For swimming pools with touch panels of Automatic Officiating Equipment on both ends the Wall to Wall distance shall be: Minimum 25.020 metre / Maximum 25.030 metre.

For swimming pools with a touch panel of Automatic Officiating Equipment on one end the Wall to Wall distance shall be: Minimum 25.010 metre / Maximum 25.020 metre.

Tolerances have to be consistent 0.300 metre above to 0.800 metre below the water surface.

These measurements should be certified by a surveyor or other qualified official, appointed or approved by the Member in the country in which the pool is situated.

16.1.3 Width

There is no minimum width requirement. However, the width of the pool has to comply with the provision II.16.1.6 Lanes.

16.1.4 Depth

A minimum depth of 1.35 metres, extending from 1.0 metre to at least 6.0 metres from the end wall, is required for pools with starting blocks. A minimum depth of 1.0 metre is required elsewhere.

C16.1.4.1 A minimum water depth of 1.20 metres, extending from 1.0 metre to at least 5.0 metres from the end wall is required for pools where diving takes place from the permanent deck or bulkhead, where the height is not more than 0.35 metres from the water surface.

Water Depth	
Less than 1.2m	No diving; in water starts only
1.2m – 1.35m	Diving from the permanent deck or bulkhead where height is not more than 0.35m from water surface is permitted
1.35m (equal to or greater than)	Diving from starting platform (max 0.75m from water surface as per II.16.1.8)

C16.1.4.2 The water depth at the turn end for a sanctioned competition should comply with a minimum standard depth of 1.0 metre or a reasonable variance that would meet the approved rules, policies and standard of safety of the pool facility.

16.1.5 Walls

16.1.5.1 End walls shall be vertical, parallel and form 90-degree right angles to the swimming course and to the surface of the water. They shall be constructed of solid material, with a slip-resistant surface extending 0.8 metre below the water surface, so as to enable the competitor to touch and push off in turning without hazard.

The admissible tolerance in walls verticality will be ± 0.3 degrees.

16.1.5.2 Rest ledges along the pool walls are permitted; they must be not less than 1.2 metres below the water surface, and may be 0.1 metre to 0.15 metre wide. Both internal and external ledges are acceptable, however internal ledges are preferred.

16.1.5.3 Gutters may be placed on all four walls of the pool. If end wall gutters are installed, they must allow for attachment of touch panels to the required 0.3 metre above the water surface. They must be covered with a suitable grill or screen.

16.1.6 Lanes

There is no minimum number of lanes. Lanes shall be at least 2.5 metres wide, first and last lane may be 2.4 metres wide with two spaces of at least 0.1 metres wide outside of the first and the last lanes.

C16.1.6.1 Lanes should be at least 1.8 metres wide or a reasonable variance that would meet the approved rules, policies and standard of safety of the pool facility.

C16.1.6.2 Lanes should be at least 2.0 metres wide, or a reasonable variance that would meet the approved rules, policies and standard of safety of the pool facility, when swimming 2 swimmers per lane during distance freestyle events, 800 & 1500 metre free, as noted in II.C3.5.2.

16.1.8 Starting Platforms

Starting Platforms shall be firm and give no springing effect. The height of the platform above the water surface shall be from 0.5 metre to 0.75 metre. The surface area shall be at least 0.5 metre x 0.5 metre and covered with slip-resistant material.

Maximum slope shall not be more than 10 degrees. The starting platform may have an adjustable setting back plate. The platform shall be constructed so as to permit the gripping of the platform by the swimmer in the forward start at the front and the sides; it is recommended that, if the thickness of the starting platform exceeds 0.04 metre, grips of at least 0.1 metre width on each side and 0.4 metre width in the front be cut out to 0.03 metre from the surface of the platform.

Handgrips for the forward start may be installed on the sides of the starting platforms. Handgrips for backstroke starts shall be placed within 0.3 metre to 0.6 metre above the water surface both horizontally and vertically. They shall be parallel to the surface of the end wall, and must not protrude beyond the end wall.

A minimum depth of 1.35 metres, extending from 1.0 metre to at least 6.0 metres from the end wall is required for pools with starting blocks. Electronic read-out boards may be installed under the blocks. Flashing is not allowed. Figures must not move during a backstroke start.

Guidelines

Preamble:

The following Facility Guidelines for sanctioned competitions reference the corresponding World Aquatics Facility Rules found in section II.16 of the World Aquatics Competition Regulations and provide the minimum expectations for use in Canadian sanctioned competitions. Some competitions at the provincial and national level may have facility requirements above the minimums stated below, as outlined in Appendix A.

Walls – II.16.1.5 details the highest possible standard for pools for competition. Other variations are possible in Canadian facilities. World Aquatics Standards for dimensional tolerance and length of pool are the minimum standard required.

Lane Ropes – II.16.1.7. For Canadian competitions, a sufficient number of competition lane ropes, one for each lane are required, the colour of the lane ropes is of no consequence. Gutter lane ropes should be used when possible.

Numbering – II.16.1.9. Each starting block should be distinctly numbered for Canadian competitions. It is recommended that lane number 0 or 1, should be on the right hand side when facing the course from the starting end.

Backstroke Turn Indicators – II.16.1.10. Flagged ropes shall be suspended across the pool above the water surface, from fixed standards placed 5.0 metres from each end wall. When possible the ropes should be suspended 1.8m above the water surface.

Backstroke Ledges – will be used as per II.16.1.11 when available.

False Start Rope – II.16.1.12. May be suspended across the pool not less than 1.2 metres, where possible, above the water level from fixed standards placed 15.0 metres in front of the starting end. It should be attached to the standard by a quick release mechanism. The rope must effectively cover all lanes when activated.

Water Temperature and Movement – as per II.16.1.13 or a reasonable variance that would meet the approved rules, policies and standard of safety of the pool facility. For competitions purposes, maintaining the pool temperatures as per II.16.1.13.1 is recommended.

Lane Markings – II.16.1.15. Lane Markings shall be of a dark contrasting colour, placed on the floor of the pool in the center of each lane. Lane Markings should also be placed on the end wall in the centre of each lane or on the touchpad.

Bulkheads – II.16.1.16. Should be in place as per II.16.1.16.

Section 3: Canadian Facility Rules – Training

Preamble:

The following rule is in place for all training activities taking place by affiliated Swimming Canada clubs in Canada. Training activities are defined as any club training session, in-house unsanctioned competition, or any other non-sanctioned event where diving takes place. The purpose of the II.C16 – Dive Entries is to inform swimming clubs, swimming facilities owners/operators and swimming coaches of Swimming Canada’s position in relation to dive entry for swimming training.

Dive Entries

II.C16 –TR01 – Dive Entries

Diving – A minimum water depth of 1.35 metres, extending from 1.0 metre to at least 6.0 metres from the end wall is required for pools with starting platforms.

A minimum water depth of 1.20 metres, extending from 1.0 metre to at least 5.0 metres from the end wall is required for pools where diving takes place from the permanent deck or bulkhead, where the height is not more than 0.35 metres from the water surface.

When the water depth is less than 1.20 metres, no diving is permitted.

Water Depth	
Less than 1.2m	No diving, in water starts only
1.2m – 1.35m	Diving from the permanent deck or bulkhead where the height is not more than 0.35m from water surface is permitted
1.35m (equal to or greater than)	Diving from starting platform (max 0.75m from water surface as per II.16.1.8)

Appendix A: Facility Standard Comparison for Sanctioned Competitions

Preamble

The following table represents minimum facility standards for the hosting of international, national, provincial and club invitational/developmental level competitions in existing facilities across Canada. Some competitions and hosting agreements may require a higher standard than those outlined below in order to provide the best competitive environment.

	International	National	Provincial	Club Invitational Development
Water Depth for start (diving) from starting platform (max height 0.75m from water surface)	1.35m	1.35m	1.35m	1.35m
Water Depth for start (diving) from permanent deck or bulkhead (height not more than 0.35m from water surface)	Will not be used for international competition	Will not be used for national competition	Will not be used for provincial championship competitions	1.2-1.35m
Water Depth elsewhere	1.0m	1.0m or reasonable variance	1.0m or reasonable variance	1.0m or reasonable variance
Starting Platforms	Per II.16.1.8	Per II.16.1.8	Starting platforms available	Starting platforms or end wall starts
Backstroke Ledges	Per II.16.1.11	Per II.16.1.11	When available	When available
Length of Course	Per II.16.1.1	Per II.16.1.1	Per II.16.1.1	Per II.16.1.1 or II.C16.1.1.3
Warm-up/Warm down pool available	Additional 50m pool required	Additional 25m or 50m pool required	Per provincial requirements	As required

	International	National	Provincial	Club Invitational Development
Lane Width	2.5m	1.8m or a reasonable variance	1.8m or a reasonable variance	1.8m or a reasonable variance
Lane Width 2 per lane (distance events)	n/a	Minimum 2.0m or a reasonable variance	Minimum 2.0m or a reasonable variance	Minimum 2.0m or a reasonable variance
Lane Rope Colours	Per II.16.1.7	Colour of lane ropes is of no consequence	Colour of lane ropes is of no consequence	Colour of lane ropes is of no consequence
Pool Temperature	25-28C	25-28C	25-28C or a reasonable variance	25-28C or a reasonable variance

Appendix B: Swimming Canada Request for Bids (November 2024-2028)

Preamble

The following appendix includes event descriptions from the existing Swimming Canada Request for Bids (subject to change document used in the bidding process and RFP for all National events over the next quadrennial. Included below is the section relative to the facility requirements, for reference purposes only.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Swimming Canada prepares a bidding process and RFP for all National events for a quadrennial. The following information is included in the Swimming Canada Request for Bids and is specific to the facility requirements for hosting.

EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

A detailed list of the dates and specifics is included in the Bid Package Detailed Event Table within the most recent Request for Proposal document. This is a brief description of each.

Canadian Swimming Open – April 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028

A unique event offered as a preparation event for the annual Canadian Swimming Trials. This event offers a shorter competition schedule and international competition. A 50-meter competition with approximately 500 swimmers requires a minimum of a 50m competition pool with an additional 25-meter 6-8 lane warm-up/warm-down pool, an additional 50-meter pool is preferred.

Canadian Swimming Trials - June 2025, July 2026, June 2027

This is our highest profile domestic competition every year. It is where we select our National teams (Senior, Junior and Para) for that year's international competition(s). Two 50-meter pools are required to host this event.

Canadian Olympic & Paralympic Swimming Trials – June 2028

This is the premier event of the quadrennial where the competition is used as selection for the Canadian Olympic and Paralympic Teams heading to LA 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Two 50-meter, 8 or 10 lane, pools are required to host this event.

Speedo Canadian Masters Swimming Championships – May 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028

This event brings together Masters swimmers from across the country for this national championship event. The event could attract over 700 swimmers. It requires 2 x 25m competition pools with an additional 25-meter 6-8 lane warm-up/warm-down pool.

Speedo Canadian Swimming Championships – August 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028

This event will be an open event hosted over 4 days. The pool competition will be a short course, a 25-meter competition with approximately 700 swimmers and requires a minimum of 2 x 25m competition pools with an additional 25-meter 6-8 lane warm-up/warm-down pool.

Canadian Open Water Festival – August 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028

This is an open water event to take place over 2 days. Day 1 will be the Open Water National Championships with potential for selection to Team Canada. Day 2 will include mass participation events in multiple distances, i.e., 1.5km, 3km or 5km. As a festival event, the ability to set up space for local vendors of all kinds, including but not limited to food trucks, arts, crafts, sport vendors, etc. The mass participation event will offer a limited event registration category to allow competitors outside of Swimming Canada registered age group and masters swimmers.

Ken Demchuk International – November or December 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028

This event brings together para swimmers from across the country for the only Paralympic Program event offered in Canada. This event may include international classification. It could attract over 300 swimmers domestically as well as other international federations. It requires a minimum of a 50m competition pool with an additional 25-meter 6-8 lanes warm up/warm down pool.

Notes relating to facility selection when reviewing the event table:

1. Facility level required is as follows:
 - a. **2 x 50m pools +** : The facility has two 50 meter pools (8 lane minimum) available for competition, plus additional warm-up lanes available.
 - b. **2 x 50m pools**: The facility has two 50 meter pools (8 lane minimum) available for competition.
 - c. **1 x 50m Pool +** : The facility has a 50 meter pool (8 lane minimum) available for competition, plus a minimum of 6 additional 25 meter warm-up lanes available.
 - d. **2 x 25m Pool +** : The facility has two 25 meter pools (8 lane minimum) available for competition, plus a minimum of 6 additional 25 meter warm- up lanes available.
2. Additional considerations:
 - a. Swiss Timing Quantum Aquatics - Timing System as preferred system
 - b. Splash or Hytek Meet Management Software – whether owned by the facility or the LOC
 - c. Swiss Timing starting platforms/blocks with kick plates and backstroke ledges are an asset.

Event	Event Timing	Minimum Facility Level Required
Canadian Swimming Open	April 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028	a, b preferred or c
Canadian Swimming Trials	June 2025, July 2026, June 2027	a or b
Canadian Olympic & Paralympic Swimming Trials	June 2028	a or b
Speedo Canadian Masters Swimming Championships	May 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028	a, b, c or d
Speedo Canadian Swimming Championships	August 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028	a, b, c or d
Canadian Open Water Festival	August 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028	open water venue
Ken Demchuk International	November or December 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028	a, b or c

Appendix C: New Pool Construction Guidelines

All clubs, communities and outside partners looking to build a new aquatic facility should contact their Provincial Swimming office for further assistance in identifying the needs of the competitive swimming community in the development of their pool construction project. Any group looking to build a new aquatic facility to host national or international competitions should contact Swimming Canada directly.

Preamble

This section will provide guidelines for those clubs, communities and outside partners who are undertaking new pool construction. These standards have been developed with consideration of the standards set out in Appendix A and B in an effort to ensure new pool construction facilities meet and exceed the fast-paced changes occurring in the sport. This section will outline the needs for clubs and communities looking to host competitions and will also consider the daily training environment.

Conventional versus Leisure Facilities:

Conventional facilities are rectangular or square in shape with lane ropes, flags, starting blocks and lane markings. Conventional facilities are designed to accommodate a wide range of activities including swimming lessons, recreational classes, training and competitive sport. A conventional facility build would meet the demands of a broad range of participants including:

- *Infant and learn to swim participants;*
- *Recreational swimmers;*
- *Leisure and family activity participants;*
- *Masters swimmers;*
- *Aquafit participants;*
- *Lifesaving and lifesaving sport;*
- *Competitive swimmers, divers, artistic swimmers, water-polo players, swimmers with a disability.*

Leisure facilities, such as water features, wave pools or lazy rivers, are designed to accommodate leisure or recreational activities. Leisure facilities are in effect specialized facilities that only meet the needs of leisure swimmers and do not meet the needs of the wider, more diverse aquatic community.

When a facility is built with the intention of hosting swimming competitions, it can generally accommodate other user groups, sports and all aquatic participants given the parameters of the facility.

Competition Pool Requirements:

The chart below details the minimum competition pool requirements for clubs and communities looking to host the following level of competitions. Each province has different minimum requirements for hosting provincial competitions, contact the Provincial Swimming Office directly.

	Local/Regional Competitions	Provincial	National
Water Depth for start (diving) from starting platform (max height 0.75m from water surface)	2.0m (extending from 1.0 metre to at least 6.0 metres from the end wall)		
Water Depth elsewhere	1.25m	2.0m	
Starting Platforms	Per II.16.1.8		
Backstroke Ledges	Per II.16.1.11 preferred	Per II.16.1.11	
Length of Course	Per II.16.1.1		
Number of Lanes	6	8	10
Warm-up/Warm down pool available	n/a	Additional 25m pool required; 50m pool preferred	
Number of lanes in Warm-up pool	n/a	5	8
Lane Width	2.0 minimum and 2.5 preferred	2.5 preferred	2.5 required
Lane Rope Colour	Colour of lane ropes does not matter		
Deck Space	200	Minimum 700 people	
Deck Seating	100	Minimum 500 people	
Spectator Seating	200	Minimum 750 people	
Meeting Space	2-4 rooms varying size	4 rooms varying size	5 rooms varying size
Electronics/Timing Equipment	Electronic timing system (OMEGA) preferred	Electronic timing system required. Video back-up system with electronics (OMEGA) preferred	

	Local/Regional Competitions	Provincial	National
Scoreboard	Electronic Scoreboard preferred	Electronic Scoreboard required	Electronic Scoreboard required; Video board preferred
Change rooms	Male, Female, Family/Universal	Male, Female, Family, Officials, Universal	
On-deck equipment room	Preferred	Required	
Minimum lighting	Minimum 600 lux	Minimum 1000 lux	Minimum 1500 lux

Additional Considerations:

Useable deck space is an important consideration when building a new facility. Space for the swimmers on deck during the competition is crucial, but also important is the deck space required for officials. Ample space behind the starting platforms needs to accommodate up to 3 officials and 12 swimmers per lane.

As noted in the chart above, an on-deck equipment room will aid in the useable deck space during a competition as a way of storing lane line reels, and non-required facility equipment.

Daily Training Environment Requirements:

The following minimum requirements are necessary to allow for a facility to provide a daily training environment for club programs. The following requirements would not necessarily allow for the facility to also hold competitions. Considerations for the Daily Training Environment should consider the number of swimmers using the facility at one time. The preferred lane width for swimmers above the provincial level is 2.5m to ensure safe and quality training space is available, contact the Provincial Swimming Office to confirm the potential level of the swimmers training at the facility.

	Daily Training Environment
Water Depth for start (diving) from starting platform (max height 0.75m from water surface)	2.0m (extending from 1.0 metre to at least 6.0 metres from the end wall)
Water Depth elsewhere	1.25m minimum
Starting Platforms	Per II.16.1.8
Length of Course	Per II.16.1.1
Number of Lanes	6
Lane Width	2.0m minimum/2.25 preferred
Lane Rope Colours	Colour of lane ropes does not matter
Change rooms	Male, Female, Family/Universal