



**Effective 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

**SWIMMING RULES**

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## **SW 1 MANAGEMENT OF COMPETITIONS**

**SW 1.1** Swimming New Zealand Management shall have jurisdiction over all matters not assigned by the rules to the referee, judges or other officials and shall have power to postpone events and give directions consistent with rules adopted for conducting any event.

**Specific PARA Swimming rules are reference (page 18) and are used in events which may include Para athletes.** The referee is responsible for obtaining and implementing the rule exceptions for swimmers with disability competing in any competition.

**SW 1.2** For all National Championship Events, Swimming New Zealand will appoint the following minimum number of Technical Officials for the control of the competitions:

- referee (2)
- control-room supervisor (1)
- judges of stroke (4)
- starters (2)
- chief inspectors of turns (2, 1 at each end of the pool)
- inspectors of turns (1 at each end of each lane)
- chief recorder (1)
- clerks of course (1)
- Announcer (1)

**SW 1.2.1** For all other competitions, the event organiser shall appoint the number of officials, the number of officials will determine whether the results from the meet can be used as qualifying time for National Championships event (see SNZ Policy 007).

**SW 1.2.2** Where Automatic Officiating Equipment is not available, such equipment must be replaced by a chief timekeeper & three (3) timekeepers per lane

**SW 1.2.3** A Chief Finish Judge and finish judges may be used when Automatic Equipment and/or digital watches are not used.

**SW 1.3** The swimming pool and the technical equipment used at New Zealand Championship Events shall be inspected and approved in due course prior to the Swimming competitions by the Technical Director

**SW 1.4** Where underwater video equipment is used by television, the equipment must be operated by remote control and shall not obstruct the vision or path of swimmers and must not change the configuration of the pool or obscure the required FINA markings.

**SW 1.5** Swimwear worn by athletes at following New Zealand Championship events must be on the [FINA Approved Swimwear list](#)

- New Zealand Open Championships
- New Zealand Age Group Championships
- New Zealand Short Course Championships
- New Zealand Secondary School Championships
- New Zealand Division II Championships

## **SW 2 OFFICIALS**

### **SW 2.1 Referee**

**SW 2.1.1** The referee shall have full control and authority over all officials, approve their assignments, and instruct them regarding all special features or regulations related to the competitions. He/she shall enforce all rules and decisions and shall decide all questions relating to the actual conduct of the meet, and event or the competition, the final settlement of which is not otherwise covered by the rules.

**SW 2.1.2** The referee may intervene in the competition at any stage to ensure that the SNZ swimming rules are observed and shall adjudicate all protests related to the competition in progress.

**SW 2.1.3** When using finish judges without three (3) digital watches, the referee shall determine placing where necessary. Automatic Officiating Equipment, if available and operating shall be consulted as stated in SW 13.

**SW 2.1.4** The referee shall ensure that all necessary officials are in their respective posts for the conduct of the competition. He/she may appoint substitutes for any who are absent, incapable of acting or found to be inefficient. He/she may appoint additional officials if considered necessary.

**SW 2.1.5** At the commencement of each event, the referee shall signal to the swimmers by a short series of whistles inviting them to remove all clothing except for swimwear, followed by a long whistle indicating that they should take their 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 swimmer immediately to the starting position. When the swimmers and officials are prepared for the start, the referee shall gesture to the starter with a stretched out arm, indicating that the swimmers are under the starter's control. The stretched out arm shall stay in that position until the start is given.

**SW 2.1.6** A disqualification for starting before the starting signal must be observed and confirmed by both the starter and the referee.

**SW 2.1.7** The referee shall disqualify any swimmer for any other violation of the rules that he personally observes. The referee may also disqualify any swimmer for any violation reported to him by other authorised officials. All disqualifications are subject to the decision of the referee.

### **SW 2.2 Control-room Supervisor**

**SW 2.2.1** The Supervisor shall supervise the automatic timing operation including the review of video timing.

**SW 2.2.2** The supervisor is responsible for checking the results from computer printouts.

**SW 2.2.3** The supervisor is responsible for checking the relay exchange printout and reporting any early take-offs to the referee.

**SW 2.2.4** The supervisor shall control withdrawals after the heats or finals, enter results on official forms, list all new records established, and maintain scores where appropriate.

### **SW 2.3 Starter**

**SW 2.3.1** The starter shall have full control of the swimmers from the time the referee turns the swimmers over to him (SW 2.1.5) until the race has commenced. The start shall be given in accordance with SW 4.

**SW 2.3.2** The starter shall report a swimmer to the referee for delaying the start, for wilfully disobeying an order or for any other misconduct taking place at the start, but only the referee may disqualify a swimmer for such delay, wilful disobedience or misconduct.

**SW 2.3.3** The starter shall have power to decide whether the start is fair, subject only to the decision of the Referee.

**SW 2.3.4** When starting an event, the starter shall stand on the side of the pool within approximately five metres of the starting edge of the pool where the timekeepers can see and or hear the starting signal and the swimmers can hear the signal.

### **SW 2.4 Clerk of Course**

**SW 2.4.1** The clerk of course shall assemble swimmers prior to each event.

### **SW 2.5 Chief Inspector of Turns**

**SW 2.5.1** The chief inspector of turns shall ensure that inspectors of turns fulfil their duties during the competition.

### **SW 2.6 Inspectors of Turns**

**SW 2.6.1** An Inspector of Turns shall be assigned to each lane at each end of the pool, to ensure swimmers comply with the relevant rules after the start, for each turn, and at the finish.

**SW 2.6.2** Jurisdiction for the Inspector of Turns at the start end commences from the start signal until the completion of the first arm stroke, except in Breaststroke where it shall be the second arm stroke.

**SW 2.6.3** For each turn, jurisdiction for the Inspector of Turns commences from the beginning of the last arm stroke before touching and ending with the completion of the first arm stroke after the turn, except in Breaststroke where it shall be the second arm stroke.

**SW 2.6.4** Jurisdiction for the Inspector of Turns at the finish commences from the beginning of the last arm stroke before touching.

**SW 2.6.5** When a Backstroke ledge is being used, each inspector at the starting end shall install and remove the ledge.

**SW 2.6.6** In individual events of 800 and 1500 metres, each inspector of turns at the start and turning end of the pool shall record the number of laps completed by the swimmer in his/her lane. The swimmers shall be informed of the remaining number of laps to be completed by displaying "lap cards" showing odd numbers at the turning end of the pool. Electronic equipment may be used, including under water display.

**SW 2.6.7** Each inspector at the starting end shall give a warning signal when the swimmer in his lane has two lengths plus five (5) metres to swim to finish in individual events of 800 and 1500 metres. The signal may be repeated after the turn until the swimmer has reached the five (5) metres mark on the lane rope. The warning signal may be by whistle or bell.

**SW 2.6.8** Each inspector at the starting end shall determine, in relay events, whether the starting swimmer is in contact with the starting platform when the preceding swimmer touches the starting wall. When Automatic Equipment which judges relay take-offs is available, it shall be used in accordance with SW 13.1.

**SW 2.6.9** Inspectors of Turns shall report to the Referee any violation on signed cards detailing the event, lane number, and the infraction.

## **SW 2.7 Judges of Stroke**

**SW 2.7.1** Judges of stroke shall be located on each side of the pool.

**SW 2.7.2** Each judge of stroke shall ensure that the rules related to the style of swimming designated for the event are being observed, and shall observe the turns and the finishes to assist the inspectors of turns.

**SW 2.7.3** Judges of Stroke shall report to the Referee any violation on signed cards detailing the event, lane number, and the infraction.

## **SW 2.8 Chief Timekeeper**

**SW 2.8.1** The chief timekeeper shall assign the seating positions for all timekeepers and the lanes for which they are responsible. It is advisable that there shall be three (3) timekeepers for each lane. If Automatic Officiating Equipment is not used there shall be two (2) additional timekeepers designated, either of whom shall be directed to replace a timekeeper whose watch did not start or stopped during an event, or who for any other reason is not able to record the time. When using digital watches, final time and place is determined by time.

**SW 2.8.2** When only one (1) timekeeper per lane is available, an extra timekeeper must be assigned in case of a malfunction of a stopwatch. In addition the Chief Timekeeper must always record the time of the winner of each heat.

**SW 2.8.3** The chief timekeeper shall collect from the timekeepers in each lane a card showing the times recorded and, if necessary, inspect their watches.

**SW 2.8.4** The chief timekeeper shall record or examine the official time on the card for each lane.

### **SW 2.9 Timekeepers**

**SW 2.9.1** Each timekeeper shall take the time of the swimmers in the lane assigned to him in accordance with SW 11.3.

**SW 2.9.2** Each timekeeper shall start his watch at the starting signal and shall stop it when the swimmer in his lane has completed the race. Timekeepers may be instructed by the chief timekeeper to record times at intermediate distances in races longer than 100 metres.

**SW 2.9.3** Promptly after the race, the timekeepers in each lane shall record the times of their watches on the card, give them to the chief timekeeper, and if requested present their watches for inspection. Their watches must be cleared at the short whistle of the Referee announcing the following race.

**SW 2.9.4** Unless video timing is used, it may be necessary to use the full complement of timekeepers even when Automatic Officiating Equipment is used.

### **SW 2.10 Chief Finish Judge – if required**

**SW 2.10.1** The chief finish judge shall assign each finish judge his position and the placing to be determined.

**SW 2.10.2** After the race, the chief finish judge shall collect signed result sheets from each finish judge and establish the result and placing which will be sent directly to the referee.

**SW 2.10.3** Where Automatic Officiating Equipment is used to judge the finish of a race, the chief finish judge must report the order of finish recorded by the Equipment after each race.

### **SW 2.11 Finish Judges – if required**

**SW 2.11.1** Finish judges shall be positioned in elevated stands in line with the finish where they have at all times a clear view of the course and the finish line, unless they operate an Automatic Officiating device in their respective assigned lanes by depressing the "push-button" at the completion of the race.

**SW 2.11.2** After each event the finish judges shall decide and report the placing of the swimmers according to the assignments given to them. Finish judges other than push-button operators shall not act as timekeepers in the same event.

## **SW 2.12 Desk Control**

**SW 2.12.1** The chief recorder is responsible for checking results from computer printouts or from results of times and placing in each event received from the referee. The chief recorder shall witness the referee's signing the results.

**SW 2.12.2** The recorders shall control withdrawals after the heats or finals, enter results on official forms, list all new records established, and maintain scores where appropriate.

## **SW 2.13 Officials' Decision Making**

**SW 2.13.1** Officials shall make their decision autonomously and independently of each other unless otherwise provided in the Swimming Rules.

## **SW 3 SEEDING OF HEATS, SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS**

The starting stations for all events in SNZ Championship Events shall be by seeding as follows:

### **SW 3.1 Heats**

**SW 3.1.1** The best competitive times of all entrants for the announced qualifying period prior to the entry deadline of the competition shall be submitted on entry forms or on-line, as requested, and listed in order of time by the Management Committee. Swimmers who do not submit official recorded times shall be considered the slowest and shall be placed at the end of the list with a no time. Placement of swimmers with identical times or of more than one swimmer without times shall be determined by draw. Swimmers shall be placed in lanes according to the procedures set forth in SW 3.1.2 below. Swimmers shall be placed in trial heats according to submitted times in the following manner.

**SW 3.1.1.1** If one heat, it shall be seeded as a final and swum only during the final session.

**SW 3.1.1.2** If two heats, the fastest swimmer shall be seeded in the second heat, next fastest in the first heat, next fastest in the second heat, next in the first heat, etc.

**SW 3.1.1.3** If three heats, except 400m, 800m and 1500m events, the fastest swimmer shall be placed in the third heat, next fastest in the second, next fastest in the first. The fourth fastest swimmer shall be placed in the third heat, the fifth in the second heat, and the sixth fastest in the first heat, the seventh fastest in the third heat, etc

**SW 3.1.1.4** If four or more heats, except 400m, 800m and 1500m events, the last three heats of the event shall be seeded in accordance with SW 3.1.1.3 above. The heat preceding the last three heats shall consist of the next fastest swimmers; the heat preceding the last four heats shall consist of the next fastest swimmers, etc. Lanes shall be assigned in descend-ing order of submitted times within each heat, in accordance with the pattern outlined in SW 3.1.2 below.

**SW 3.1.1.5** For 400m, 800m and 1500m events, the last two heats of the event shall be seeded in accordance with SW 3.1.1.2.

**SW 3.1.1.6** Exception: When there are two or more heats in an event, there shall be a minimum of three swimmers seeded into any one preliminary heat, but subsequent scratches may reduce the number of swimmers in such heat to less than three.

**SW 3.1.1.7** Where a 10 lane pool is available and equal times are established for the 8<sup>th</sup> place in the heats of 800m and 1500m Freestyle events, lane 9 will be used with a draw for lane 8 and lane 9. In case of three (3) equal times for 8<sup>th</sup> place, lane 9 and 0 will be used with a draw for lane 8, 9 and 0.

**SW 3.1.1.8** Where a 10 lane pool is not available SW 3.2.3 will apply.



**SW 3.1.2** Except for 50 metre events in 50 metre pools, assignment of lanes shall be (number 1 lane being on the right side of the pool (0 when using pools with 10 lanes) when facing the course from the starting end) by placing the fastest swimmer or team in the centre lane in pool with an odd number of lanes, or in lane 3 or 4 respectively in pools having 6 or 8 lanes. In pools using 10 lanes, the fastest swimmer shall be placed in lane 4. The swimmer having the next fastest time is to be placed on his left, then alternating the others to right and left in accordance with the submitted times. Swimmers with identical times shall be assigned their lane positions by draw within the aforesaid pattern.

**SW 3.1.3** When 50 metre events are contested in 50 metre pools, the races may be swum, at the discretion of the Management Committee, either from the regular starting end to the turning end or from the turning end to the starting end, depending upon such factors as existence of adequate Automatic Equipment, starter's position, etc. The Management Committee should advise swimmers of their determination well before the start of the competition. Regardless of which way the race is swum, the swimmers shall be seeded in the same lanes in which they would be seeded if they were both starting and finishing at the starting end.

### **SW 3.2 Semi-Finals and Finals**

**SW 3.2.1** In the semi-finals heats shall be assigned as in SW 3.1.1.2.

**SW 3.2.2** Where no preliminary heats are necessary, lanes shall be assigned in accordance with SW 3.1.2 above. Where preliminary heats or semi-finals have been held, lanes shall be assigned as in SW 3.1.2 based, however, on times established in such heats.

**SW 3.2.3** In the event that swimmers from the same or different heats have equal times registered to 1/100 second for either the eighth/tenth place or sixteenth/twentieth place depending on the use of 8 or 10 lanes, there shall be a swim-off to determine which swimmer shall advance to the appropriate finals. Such swim-off shall take place after all involved swimmers have completed their heats at a time agreed between the event management and the parties involved. Another swim-off shall take place if equal times are registered again. If required, a swim off will take place to determine 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reserve if equal times are recorded.

**SW 3.2.4** Where one or more swimmers scratch from a semi-final or final reserves will be called in order of classifications in heats or semi-finals. The event or events must be re-seeded and supplementary sheets must be issued detailing the changes or substitutions, as prescribed in SW 3.1.2.

**SW 3.2.5** For heats self-marshalling maybe implemented and semi-finals & finals, swimmers shall report to the marshalling area at a time determined by the event management.

## **SW 4 THE START**

**SW 4.1** The start in Freestyle, Breaststroke, Butterfly and Individual Medley races shall be with a dive. On the long whistle (SW 2.1.5) from the referee the swimmers shall step onto the starting platform and remain there. On the starter's command "take your marks", they shall immediately take up a starting position with at least one foot at the front of the starting platforms. The position of the hands is not relevant. When all swimmers are stationary, the starter shall give the starting signal.

**SW 4.2** The start in Backstroke and Medley Relay races shall be from the water. At the referee's first long whistle (SW 2.1.5), the swimmers shall immediately enter the water. At the Referee's second long whistle the swimmers shall return without undue delay to the starting position (SW 6.1). When all swimmers have assumed their starting positions, the starter shall give the command "take your marks". When all swimmers are stationary, the starter shall give the starting signal.

**SW 4.3** In SNZ Championship Events the command "Take your marks" shall be in English and the start shall be by multiple loudspeakers.

**SW 4.4** Any swimmer starting before the starting signal has been given, shall be disqualified. If the starting signal sounds before the disqualification is declared, the race shall continue and the swimmer or swimmers shall be disqualified upon completion of the race. If the disqualification is declared before the starting signal, the signal shall not be given, but the remaining swimmers 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 SW 2.1.5.

## **SW 5 FREESTYLE**

**SW 5.1** Freestyle means that in an event so designated the swimmer may swim any style, except that in individual medley or medley relay events, freestyle means any style other than backstroke, breaststroke or butterfly.

**SW 5.2** Some part of the swimmer must touch the wall upon completion of each length and at the finish.

**SW 5.3** Some part of the swimmer must break the surface of the water throughout the race, except it shall be permissible for the swimmer 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 head must have broken the surface.

## **SW 6 BACKSTROKE**

**SW 6.1** Prior to the starting signal, the swimmers 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, the toes of both feet must be in contact with the end wall or face of the touchpad. Bending the toes over the top of the touchpad is prohibited.

**SW 6.2** At the signal for starting and after turning the swimmer shall push off and swim upon his back throughout the race except when executing a turn as set forth in SW 6.5. The normal position on the back can include a roll movement of the body up to, but not including 90 degrees from horizontal. The position of the head is not relevant.

**SW 6.3** Some part of the swimmer must break the surface of the water throughout the race. It is permissible for the swimmer to be completely sub-merged during the turn, and for a distance of not more than 15 metres after the start and each turn. By that point the head must have broken the surface.

**SW 6.4** When executing the turn there must be a touch of the wall with some part of the swimmer's body in his/her respective lane. During the turn the shoulders may be turned over the vertical to the breast after which an immediate continuous single arm pull or immediate continuous simultaneous double arm pull may be used to initiate the turn. The swimmer must have returned to the position on the back upon leaving the wall.

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

## **SW 7 BREASTSTROKE**

**SW 7.1** After the start and after each turn, the swimmer may take one arm stroke completely back to the legs during which the swimmer may be submerged. At any time prior to the first Breaststroke kick after the start and after each turn a single butterfly kick is permitted. The head must break the surface of the water before the hands turn inward at the widest part of the second stroke.

**SW 7.2** 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 arm stroke and one leg kick in that order. All movements of the arms shall be simultaneous and on the same horizontal plane without alternating movement.

**SW 7.3** The hands shall be pushed forward together from the breast on, under, or over the water. The elbows shall be under water except for the final stroke before the turn, during the turn and for the final stroke at the finish. The hands shall be brought back on or under the surface of the water. The hands shall not be brought back beyond the hip line, except during the first stroke after the start and each turn.

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

**SW 7.5** The feet must be turned outwards during the propulsive part of the kick. Alternating movements or downward butterfly kicks are not permitted except as in SW 7.1. Breaking the surface of the water with the feet is allowed unless followed by a downward butterfly kick.

**SW 7.6** At each turn and at the finish of the race, the touch shall be made with both hands separated and simultaneously at, above, or below the water level. At the last stroke before the turn and at the finish an arm stroke not followed by a leg kick is permitted. The head may be submerged after the last arm pull prior to the touch, provided it breaks the surface of the water at some point during the last complete or incomplete cycle preceding the touch.

## **SW 8 BUTTERFLY**

**SW 8.1** From the beginning of the first arm stroke after the start and each turn, the body shall be kept 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.

**SW 8.2** Both arms shall be brought forward simultaneously over the water and brought backward simultaneously under the water through-out the race, subject to SW 8.5.

**SW 8.3** All up and down movements of the legs must be simultaneous. The legs or the feet need not be on the same level, but they shall not alternate in relation to each other. A breaststroke kicking movement is not permitted.

**SW 8.4** At each turn and at the finish of the race, the touch shall be made with both hands separated and simultaneously, at, above or below the water surface.

**SW 8.5** At the start and at turns, a swimmer is permitted one or more leg kicks and one arm pull under the water, which must bring him to the surface. It shall be permissible for a swimmer to be completely submerged for a distance of not more than 15 metres after the start and after each turn. By that point, the head must have broken the surface. The swimmer must remain on the surface until the next turn or finish.

## **SW 9 MEDLEY SWIMMING**

**SW 9.1** In individual medley events, the swimmer covers the four swimming strokes in the following order: Butterfly, Backstroke, Breaststroke and Freestyle. Each of the strokes must cover one quarter (1/4) of the distance.

**SW 9.2** In Freestyle the swimmer must be on the breast except when executing a turn. The swimmer must return to the breast before any kick or stroke.

**SW 9.3** In Medley relay events, swimmers will cover the four swimming strokes in the following order: Backstroke, Breaststroke, Butterfly and Freestyle. Each of the strokes must cover one quarter (1/4) of the distance.

**SW 9.4** Each section must be finished in accordance with the rule which applies to the stroke concerned.

## **SW 10 THE RACE**

**SW 10.1** All individual races must be held as separate gender events.

**SW 10.2** A swimmer swimming over the course alone shall cover the whole distance to qualify.

**SW 10.3** The swimmer must remain and finish the race in the same lane in which he/she started.

**SW 10.4** In all events, a swimmer when turning shall make physical contact with the end of the pool or course. The turn must be made from the wall, and it is not permitted to take a stride or step from the bottom of the pool.

**SW 10.5** Standing on the bottom during freestyle events or during the freestyle portion of medley events shall not disqualify a swimmer, but he shall not walk.

**SW 10.6** Pulling on the lane rope is not allowed.

**SW 10.7** Obstructing another swimmer by swimming across another lane or otherwise interfering shall disqualify the offender. Should the foul be intentional, the referee shall report the matter to the Member promoting the race, and to the Member of the swimmer so offending.

**SW 10.8** No swimmer shall be permitted to use or wear any device or swimsuit that may aid his/her speed, buoyancy or endurance during a competition (such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, power bands, or adhesive substances, etc.). Goggles may be worn. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by The Technical Director for that competition.

**SW 10.9** Any swimmer not entered in a race, who enters the water in which an event is being conducted before all swimmers therein have completed the race, shall be disqualified from his next scheduled race in the meet.

**SW 10.10** For championship events there shall be four swimmers on each relay team. Mixed relays may be swum. Mixed Relays must consist of two (2) Men and two (2) Women. Split times achieved in mixed relay events cannot be used for records and/or entry purposes. Other relays with more than 4 swimmers maybe held at the event organisers discretion

**SW 10.11** In relay events, the team of a swimmer whose feet lose touch with the starting platform before the preceding team-mate touches the wall shall be disqualified.

**SW 10.12** Any relay team shall be disqualified from a race if a team member, other than the swimmer designated to swim that length, enters the water when the race is being conducted, before all swimmers of all teams have finished the race.

**SW 10.13** The members of a relay team and their order of competing must be nominated before the race. Any relay team member may compete in a race only once. The composition of a relay team may be changed between the heats and finals of an event, provided that it is made up from the list of swimmers properly entered by a Member for that event. Failure to swim in the order listed will result in disqualification. Substitutions may be made only in the case of a documented medical emergency.

**SW 10.14** Any swimmer having finished his race, or his distance in a relay event, must leave the pool as soon as possible without obstructing any other swimmer who has not yet finished his race. Otherwise the swimmer committing the fault, or his relay team, shall be disqualified.

**SW 10.15** Should a foul endanger the chance of success of a swimmer, the referee shall have the power to allow him to compete in the next heat or, should the foul occur in a final event or in the last heat, he/she may order it to be re-swum.

**SW 10.16** No pace-making shall be permitted, nor may any device be used or plan adopted which has that effect.

## **SW 11 TIMING**

**SW 11.1** The operation of Automatic Officiating Equipment shall be under the supervision of appointed officials. Times recorded by Automatic Equipment shall be used to determine the winner, all placing and the time applicable to each lane. The placing and times so determined shall have precedence over the decisions of 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 swimmer has failed to activate the Equipment, the recordings of the timekeepers shall be official (See SW 13.3).

**SW 11.2** When Automatic Equipment is used, the results shall be recorded only to 1/100 of a second. In the event of equal times, all swimmers who have recorded the same time at 1/100 of a second shall be accorded the same placing. Times displayed on the electronic scoreboard should show 1/100 of a second.

**SW 11.3** 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 1/100 of a second. Where no Automatic Equipment is used, official manual times shall be determined as follows:

**SW 11.3.1** 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.

**SW 11.3.2** If all three (3) watches disagree, the watch recording the intermediate time shall be the official time.

**SW 11.3.3** With only two (2) out of three (3) watches working the average time shall be the official time.

**SW 11.4** Should a swimmer be disqualified during or following an event, such disqualification should be recorded in the official results, but no time or place shall be recorded or announced.

**SW 11.5** In the case of a relay disqualification, legal splits up to the time of the disqualification shall be recorded in the official results.

**SW 11.6** All 50 metre and 100 metre splits shall be recorded for lead-off swimmers during relays and published in the official results.

## **SW 13 AUTOMATIC OFFICIATING PROCEDURE**

**SW 13.1** When Automatic Officiating Equipment (See FINA RULE FR4) is used in any competition, the placing and times so determined and relay take-offs judged by such Equipment shall have precedence over the timekeepers and inspectors of turns.

**SW 13.2** When the Automatic Equipment fails to record the place and/or time of one or more swimmers in a given race:

**SW 13.2.1** Record all available Automatic Equipment times and places,

**SW 13.2.2** Record all human times and places.

**SW 13.2.3** The official place will be determined as follows:

**SW 13.2.3.1** A swimmer with an Automatic Equipment time and place must retain his relative order when compared with the other swimmers having an Automatic Equipment time and place within that race.

**SW 13.2.3.2** A swimmer not having an Automatic Equipment place but having an Automatic Equipment time will establish his relative order by comparing his Automatic Equipment time with the Automatic Equipment times of the other swimmers.

**SW 13.2.3.3** A swimmer having neither an Automatic Equipment place nor an Automatic Equipment time shall establish his relative order by the time recorded by the Semi-Automatic Equipment or by three digital watches.

**SW 13.3** The official time will be determined as follows:

**SW 13.3.1** The official time for all swimmers having an Automatic Equipment time will be that time.

**SW 13.3.2** The official time for all swimmers not having an Automatic Equipment time will be the three digital watches or the Semi-Automatic Equipment time.

**SW 13.4** To determine the relative order of finish for the combined heats of an event, proceed as follows:

**SW 13.4.1** The relative order of all swimmers will be established by comparing their official times.

**SW 13.4.2** If a swimmer has an official time which is tied with the official time(s) of one or more swimmers, all swimmers having that time shall be tied in their relative order of finish in that event.



## PARA SWIMMING RULES

World Para Swimming Rules (Section 11)

For any discrepancy between the WPS Swimming Rules in effect and this document, you must use the aforementioned rules.

Complete WPS Rules and Regulations can be found at:

<http://www.paralympic.org/Swimming/RulesandRegulations/Rules>

**Note:** WPS Rules shall apply to all identified para-swimmers attending a meet. The Referee should not make a decision related to impairment if a technical advisor or a para-swimming official is attending the meet.

### The Start

1. At the commencement of each race, the Referee shall signal to the athletes by a short series of whistles inviting them to remove all clothing except swimwear, 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 athlete 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.
2. The start in Freestyle, Breaststroke, Butterfly and Individual Medley events [when Butterfly is the initial stroke] shall be with a dive. On the long whistle from the Referee (Rule [11.1.1](#)) the athletes shall step onto the starting platform and remain there. On the Starter's command "take your marks", they shall immediately take up a starting position with at least one (1) foot at the front of the starting platform. The position of the hands is not relevant. When all athletes are stationary, the Starter shall give the starting signal.
  - 2.1 For an athlete with a Vision Impairment, on the long whistle from the Referee the athlete shall be permitted to orientate themselves prior to the Starters command "take your marks".
  - 2.2 The athlete, who has balance problems (i.e. standing stationary), may have assistance to balance themselves on the starting platform (i.e. hold at the hips, hand, arm etc.), by one (1) Support Staff. Support Staff may aid the athlete to remain stationary at the start; however the Support Staff shall not allow the athlete unfair advantage by being held beyond the 90 degrees vertical position on the starting platform. Giving momentum to the athlete at the start is not permitted.
  - 2.3 An athlete with only one (1) fully functional leg does not need to have a foot at the front of the starting platform as long as he has one (1) hand or other part of the arm at the front of the starting platform.
  - 2.4 An athlete may be permitted to start beside the starting platform.
  - 2.5 An athlete may be permitted to take up a sitting position on the starting platform.
  - 2.6 An athlete may be permitted to start in the water but is required to have one (1) hand in contact with the starting place until the starting signal is

given. Standing in or on the gutter or on the bottom is prohibited.

- 2.7 Sport Class S/SB/SM1-3 athletes are permitted to have their foot/feet or the end of their limb/limbs held to the wall, until the starting signal is given. Giving momentum to the athlete at the start is not permitted.
- 2.8 Where an athlete is unable to grip the starting place in a water start, the athlete may be assisted by a Support Staff and/or starting device. The device shall be cleared and deemed safe by World Para Swimming prior to the commencement of the Competition. Giving momentum to the athlete at the start is not permitted. The athlete shall have some part of the body in contact with the wall until the starting signal is given.
- 2.9 To prevent abrasion, one (1) layer of towel, or the like, may be placed on the starting platform.
3. The start in Backstroke, 75m/150m Individual Medley events and Medley Relay events shall be from the water. At the Referee's first long whistle (Rule [11.1.1](#)), the athletes shall immediately enter the water. At the Referee's second long whistle the athletes shall return without undue delay to the starting position. When all athletes have taken their starting positions, the Starter shall give the command "take your marks". When all athletes are stationary, the Starter shall give the starting signal
4. In IPC Games, IPC Competitions and WPS Sanctioned Competitions the command "take your marks" shall be in English and the start shall be by multiple loudspeakers, mounted one at each starting platform.
5. Any athlete starting before the starting signal has been given shall 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](#).
6. For athletes with a hearing impairment, a strobe/starting light will be provided. If an athlete requires additional arm signals by the Starter, this must be requested by the responsible Team Leader at the Technical Meeting.
7. In the case of a Sport Class S1-10/SB1-9/SM1-10 and S/SB/SM14 athlete who additionally has a hearing Impairment, Support Staff shall be permitted to convey the starting signal to the athlete by the use of a non-verbal instruction, when no starting light is available.
8. In the case of an athlete with a Vision Impairment who additionally has a hearing Impairment, Support Staff shall be permitted to convey the starting signal to the athlete by the use of a non-verbal instruction.

## **Freestyle**

1. Freestyle means that in an event so designated the athlete may swim any style, except in Individual Medley or Medley Relay events where Freestyle means any style other than Backstroke, Breaststroke or Butterfly. For the 75m or 150m Individual Medley, Freestyle means any style other than Backstroke or Breaststroke.

2. Some part of the athlete must touch the wall upon completion of each length and at the finish.
3. Some part of the athlete must break the surface of the water throughout the race, except it shall be 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 head must have broken the surface.
  - 3.1 For S1-5 athletes, during each complete stroke cycle some part of the athlete must break the surface of the water. One (1) stroke cycle is defined as one full rotation of the shoulder joint(s) and/or one (1) complete up and down movement of the hip joint(s).
4. Standing on the bottom during Freestyle events or during the Freestyle portion of Medley events shall not disqualify an athlete, but they shall not walk.

## **Backstroke**

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, the toes (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.
  - 1.1 Where an athlete is unable to hold both starting grips, it is permissible to hold the grips with one hand only.
  - 1.2 Where an athlete is unable to hold either starting grip, it is permissible to hold the end of the pool.
  - 1.3 Where an athlete is unable to hold the starting grips or end of the pool, the athlete may be assisted by a Support Staff or starting device. The device shall be cleared and deemed safe by World Para Swimming prior to the commencement of the Competition. Giving momentum to the athlete at the start is not permitted. The athlete shall have part of the body in contact with the wall until the starting signal is given.
2. At the signal for starting and after turning the athlete shall push off and swim upon his back throughout the race except when executing a turn as set out in Rule [11.3.4](#). The normal position on the back can include a roll movement of the body up to, but not including 90 degrees from horizontal. The position of the head is not relevant.
3. Some part of the athlete must break the surface of the water throughout the race. It is 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 head must have broken the surface.
  - 3.1 For S1-5 athletes, during each complete stroke cycle some part of the athlete must break the surface of the water. One (1) stroke cycle is defined as one (1) full rotation of the shoulder joint(s) and/or one (1) complete up and down movement of the hip joint(s).
4. When executing the turn there must be a touch of the wall with some part of the athlete's body in his respective lane. During the turn the shoulders may be turned over the vertical to the breast after which an immediate continuous single arm pull or an immediate continuous simultaneous double arm pull may be used to initiate the turn. The athlete must have returned to a position on the back

upon leaving the wall.

- 4.1 For the athlete who has no arms or use of his arms during the turn, once the body has left the position on the back, the turn shall be initiated. The athlete must have returned to a position on the back upon leaving the wall.
5. Upon the finish of the race the athlete must touch the wall while on the back in his respective lane. It is not permissible to be completely submerged at the finish.

## **Breaststroke**

1. After the start and after each turn, the athlete may take one arm stroke completely back to the legs during which the athlete may be submerged. At any time prior to the first Breaststroke kick after the start and after each turn, a single Butterfly kick is permitted. The head must break the surface of the water before the hands turn inward at the widest part of the second stroke.
  - 1.1 After the start and after each turn, an athlete who is unable to push off with the leg/s, may perform one (1) arm stroke that may not be simultaneous or on the horizontal plane to attain the breast position.
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 and on the same horizontal plane without alternating movement.
  - 2.1 When an athlete does not have any legs or arms or parts thereof, either the kick or the respective arm stroke shall constitute a complete stroke cycle.

*Interpretation: The normal position on the breast can include a roll movement of the body up to, but not including ninety (90) degrees from horizontal. The position of the head is not relevant.*
3. The hands shall be pushed forward together from the breast on, under, or over the water. The elbows shall be under water except for the final stroke before the turn, during the turn and for the final stroke at the finish. The hands shall be brought back on or under the surface of the water. The hands shall not be brought back beyond the hip line, except during the first stroke after the start and each turn.
  - 3.1 Athletes with a Vision Impairment approaching a turn or finish may push their hands forward from any point in the stroke cycle immediately after they have been tapped.
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 and on the same horizontal plane without alternating movement.
  - 4.1 An athlete with a Lower Limb Impairment must show intent of simultaneous movement and show intent to kick in the same plane throughout the race or trail/drag the leg/s throughout the race.
5. The feet must be turned outwards during the propulsive part of the kick. Alternating movements or downward Butterfly kicks are not permitted except as in Rule [11.4.1](#). Breaking the surface of the water with the feet is allowed unless

followed by a downward Butterfly kick.

- 5.1 An athlete who is unable to use one (1) or both legs and/or foot/feet to gain normal propulsion shall not be required to turn the affected foot/feet outwards during the propulsive part of the kick.
6. At each turn and at the finish of the race, the touch shall be made with both hands separated and simultaneously at, above, or below the water level. At the last stroke before the turn and at the finish an arm stroke not followed by a leg kick is permitted. The head may be submerged after the last arm pull prior to the touch, provided it breaks the surface of the water at some point during the last complete or incomplete cycle preceding the touch.

*Interpretation: "Separated" means that the hands cannot be stacked one on top of the other. It is not necessary to see space between the hands. Incidental contact at the fingers is not a concern.*

- 6.1 At each turn and the finish of the race, where an athlete has different arm lengths only the longer arm must touch but both arms must be stretched forward simultaneously.
- 6.2 At each turn and at the finish of the race, an athlete with upper limbs too short to stretch above the head shall touch with any part of the upper body.
- 6.3 At each turn and the finish of the race, where an athlete can only use one (1) arm for the stroke cycle (as determined by the athlete's Code of Exception) the athlete must touch with the one (1) hand/arm that is used for the stroke. Where an athlete's Impairment results in only one (1) arm being used, the non- functioning arm shall be dragged or stretched forward.
- 6.4 At each turn and the finish of the race, where the athlete who uses both arms but has restriction in the shoulder/elbow, only the longer arm must touch, but both arms must be stretched forward simultaneously.
- 6.5 SB11-12 athletes may have difficulty making a simultaneous touch at the turn and the finish if they are restricted due to contact with the lane rope. The athlete shall not be disqualified provided that no advantage was gained.

## **Butterfly**

1. From the beginning of the first arm stroke after the start and each turn, the body shall be kept 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.
  - 1.1 After the start and after each turn, an athlete who is unable to push off with the leg/s may perform one (1) arm stroke that may not be simultaneous to attain the breast position.
2. Both arms must be brought forward simultaneously over the water and brought backward simultaneously under the water throughout the race, subject to Rule [11.5.5](#).

*Interpretation: "Both arms must be brought forward simultaneously over the water" means the entire arm from the shoulder to the wrist, not just part of it, must recover over the water. There is no requirement to see space between the arm and water.*

- 2.1 S11-12 athletes may have difficulty bringing both arms forward

simultaneously if they are restricted due to contact with the lane rope. The athlete shall not be disqualified provided that no advantage was gained.

- 2.2 Athletes with a Vision Impairment approaching a turn or finish may bring their arms forward under the water immediately after they have been tapped.
  - 2.3 Where part of an arm is missing, the remaining part of the arm shall be brought forward over the water simultaneously with the other arm.
  - 2.4 Where an athlete can only use one (1) arm for the arm stroke (as determined by the athlete's Code of Exception), the arm shall be brought forward over the water. The position of the body must remain in line with the normal water surface. Where an athlete's impairment results in only one (1) arm being used the non-functioning arm shall be dragged or stretched forward.
  - 2.5 At the turn and finish, athletes with no leg function may perform a half stroke with the arm/s recovering forward under the surface of the water, in order to contact the wall.
3. All up and down movements of the legs must be simultaneous. The legs or feet need not be at the same level, but no alternating movements are permitted. A Breaststroke kicking movement is not permitted.
    - 3.1 When an athlete's Impairment results in only one (1) leg being used, the non-functional leg shall drag.

*Interpretation: "shall drag" means that the leg is not providing any propulsion but may follow the undulating hip line and appear to be alternating.*

4. At each turn and at the finish of the race, the touch shall be made with both hands separated and simultaneously, at, above or below the water surface.

*Interpretation: "Separated" means that the hands cannot be stacked one on top of the other. It is not necessary to see space between the hands. Incidental contact at the fingers is not a concern.*

  - 4.1 At each turn and the finish of the race where an athlete has different arm lengths only the longer arm must touch, but both arms must be stretched forward simultaneously.
  - 4.2 At each turn and at the finish of the race, an athlete with no or non-functional upper limbs or upper limbs too short to stretch above the head, shall touch with any part of the upper body.
  - 4.3 At each turn and the finish of the race, where an athlete can only use one (1) arm (as determined by the athlete's Code of Exception) the athlete must touch with the one hand/arm that is used for the stroke.
  - 4.4 At each turn and the finish of the race, where the athlete who uses both arms but has restriction in the shoulder/elbow only the longer arm must touch, but both arms must be stretched forward simultaneously.
  - 4.5 S11-12 athletes may have difficulty making a simultaneous touch at the turn and finish if they are restricted due to contact with the lane rope. The athlete shall not be disqualified provided that no advantage was gained.

5. At the start and at turns, an athlete is permitted one (1) or more leg kicks and one (1) arm pull under the water, which must bring him to the surface. It shall be permissible for an athlete to be completely submerged for a distance of not more than 15 metres after the start and after each turn. By that point, the head

must have broken the surface. The athlete must remain on the surface until the next turn or finish.

## **Medley Swimming**

1. In Individual Medley events, the athlete covers the four (4) swimming strokes in the following order: Butterfly, Backstroke, Breaststroke and Freestyle. Each of the strokes must be used for one quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of the total distance.
  - 1.1 In the 150 metre and 75 metre individual medley events, the athlete covers three (3) swimming strokes in the following order: Backstroke, Breaststroke and Freestyle. Each of the strokes must cover one third ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ) of the total distance.
  - 1.2 In Medley Relay events, athletes will cover the four (4) swimming strokes in the following order: Backstroke, Breaststroke, Butterfly and Freestyle. Each of the strokes must be used for one quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of the total distance.
  - 1.3 In Freestyle the athlete must remain on his breast except when executing a turn. After executing a turn, the athlete must return to his breast before executing any kick or stroke.

*Interpretation: The normal position on the breast can include a roll movement of the body up to, but not including ninety (90) degrees from horizontal. The position of the head is not relevant.*

2. Each section must be finished in accordance with the rules which apply to the stroke concerned.

## **Relays**

1. For each Relay event, each NPC may enter only one (1) team. All athletes entered as per the applicable Classification system for the Competition take part in the relevant Relay event.
2. All members of any one (1) relay team must be of the same sport nationality.
3. The composition of a Relay team may be changed between heats and finals of an event. When heats are swum, medals shall be awarded to all those athletes who swam in the heats and/or the final event (i.e. maximum all 8 swimmers).
4. The names of the athletes, their respective Sport Classes and the order in which they are to swim must be submitted on the World Para Swimming Relay declaration form, a minimum of one (1) hour before the start of the session in which the event is to take place. Failure to do so will result in the team being withdrawn from the event and the NPC being penalised with a fee of fifty Euros (€50). The team will not be permitted to swim in that event.
5. The names must be listed in their order of competing and the athletes in Medley Relay events must be listed for their respective strokes.
  - 5.1 Failure to swim in the order listed will result in disqualification.
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.
7. Relay teams are based on a point score. The Sport Class of an individual athlete is worth the actual number value (i.e. Sport Class S6 is worth six (6) points;

Sport Class SB12 is worth twelve (12) points, etc.).

8. For Vision Impaired Relays (49 point relays) relay teams must include at least one (1) S/SB 11 athlete. The remaining three (3) athletes may be any Sport Class between S/SB 11-13.
9. There shall be four (4) athletes in each Relay team. Mixed Relays may be swum. Mixed Relays must consist of two (2) men and two (2) women. Split times achieved in these events cannot be used for records and/or entry purposes.
10. In Relay events, the team of an athlete whose feet/part of the body loses contact with the starting platform before the preceding team member touches the wall shall be disqualified.
  - 10.1 In a Relay event an athlete may commence in the water. The athlete may not lose contact with the starting place until such time as the preceding team member touches the wall otherwise the athlete shall be disqualified.
11. Any Relay team shall be disqualified from an event if a team member, other than the athlete designated to swim that length, enters the water when the race is being conducted, before all athletes of all teams have finished the race.
  - 11.1 An athlete, in a Relay event, who is to commence with a water start, may enter the water only when the preceding take off at the same end has been executed.
12. The Tapper is able to convey to the athlete the relay changeovers and convey the position/place of the relay. An extra Tapper may be required, one for tapping the athlete completing the leg of the relay and one Tapper for conveying the changeover. No coaching is permitted.
13. In Relay events each Inspector of Turns at the starting end shall determine, whether the starting athlete is in contact with the starting platform when the preceding athlete touches the starting wall. When AOE, (which judges relay take-offs) is available, it shall be used in accordance with Rule [10.10](#).
14. Any athlete having completed his leg in a relay event must exit the pool as soon as possible without obstructing any other athlete(s) who has not yet finished his leg.
  - 14.1 S/SB1-5 athletes may remain in their lanes until the last athlete of each team has completed the race. An athlete remaining in the water shall position himself away from the end of the pool, close to the lane rope but shall not obstruct any other athlete in another lane.

## **The Race**

1. All individual races must be held as separate gender events.
2. An athlete swimming over the course alone shall cover the whole distance to qualify.
3. An athlete must remain and finish the race in the same lane in which they started.
  - 3.1 If an athlete with a Vision Impairment, who has a Tapper for that event, surfaces in a lane not in use, the athlete shall be permitted to complete the race in that lane.
  - 3.2 If an athlete with a Vision Impairment surfaces in a lane that is in use, it is preferable for the athlete to return to the correct lane. The Tapper may give



verbal instructions, but only after clearly identifying the athlete by name to prevent distraction or interference to other athletes. If the athlete finishes the race in an occupied lane, without a foul, his result will be valid.

*Interpretation: This table assist to clarify Rules 11.8.3, 11.8.3.1 and 11.8.3.2*

Athlete with a Tapper	11.8.3.1	<i>Surfaces in an empty lane</i>	No DSQ
	11.8.3.2	<i>Surfaces in a lane in use, should try to get back, but will not be penalised if unable to do so.</i>	No DSQ
		<i>Surfaces in a lane in use, fouls the other athlete.</i>	See 11.8.7.1
Athlete without a Tapper	11.8.3	<i>Completes swim in their own lane</i>	No DSQ
	11.8.3	<i>Surfaces in another lane</i>	DSQ

6. In all events an athlete, when turning, shall make physical contact with the end of the pool or course. The turn must be made from the wall and it is not permitted to take a stride or step from the bottom of the pool.
7. Pulling on the lane rope is not allowed.
8. Obstructing another athlete by swimming across another lane or otherwise interfering shall disqualify the offender. Should the foul be intentional, the Referee shall report the matter to the host country NPC, to World Para Swimming and to the NPC of the athlete so offending.
9. Should a foul jeopardise the chance of success of an athlete, the Referee shall have the power to allow him to compete in the next heat or, should the foul occur in a final event or in the last heat, the Referee may order it to be re-swum.
  - 9.1 For athletes with Vision Impairment, should an accidental foul occur during a race, caused by an athlete either surfacing after the start or turn, in a lane that is in use by another athlete, or by swimming too close to the lane rope, etc., the Referee shall have the power to allow one (1) or all athletes to re-swim the event. If the foul occurs in a final, the Referee may order the final to be re-swum.
10. S11, SB11 and SM11 athletes with the exception of those with prosthetics in both eyes shall be required to wear opaque (blackened in) goggles for Competition. S11, SB11 and SM11 athletes whose facial structure will not support goggles shall be required to cover the eyes with an opaque covering. The goggles of the S11, SB11 and SM11 athletes shall be checked at the finish of the relevant event.
  - 10.1 In the event that the goggles accidentally fall off during the dive or break

during the race, the athlete shall not be disqualified.

11. No athlete shall be permitted to use or wear any device or swimsuit that may aid his speed, buoyancy or endurance during a Competition (such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, power bands, or adhesive substances, etc.). Goggles may be worn. Any kind of strapping or stabilising of limb(s) that limits unwanted movement is prohibited. Taping on the body is not permitted unless approved under Regulation [6.6.2](#).
  - 11.1 No athlete shall be permitted to use a prosthesis, except ocular, or orthoses during the race.
12. Any athlete not entered in an event, who enters the water while a race is being conducted before all athletes therein have completed the race, shall be disqualified from his next scheduled event.
13. Any athlete having finished his race may leave the pool as soon as possible without obstructing any other athlete who has not yet finished his race.
14. At the completion of each race, the Referee shall signal to the athletes by way of two (2) short whistle blasts that they are required to clear the water.
15. No pace making shall be permitted, nor may any device be used or plan adopted which has that effect.
16. If an error by an official follows a fault by an athlete, the fault by the athlete may be expunged by the Referee.