

2022 FINA SWIMMING RULES – EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

RULE N°	RULE	COMMENTARY
SW 1	MANAGEMENT OF COMPETITIONS	
SW 1.2	<p>At the Olympic Games and World Championships the FINA Bureau shall appoint the following minimum number of officials for the control of the competitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) • Clerk of course (2) • Announcer (1) <p><u>Organisers of swimming competitions shall appoint sufficient officials to ensure the fairness, integrity and safety of the competition.</u></p>	<p>Promoters and organisers of events must appoint sufficient officials to ensure that the competition is fair and safe</p> <p>The officials for World Championships and Olympic Games will now listed in the By-Laws</p>
SW 1.2.2	<p>Where Automatic Officiating Equipment is not available, such equipment must be replaced by a chief timekeeper. Wherever possible, <u>a minimum of</u> one (1) timekeeper per lane shall be appointed together and <u>with</u> one (1) additional timekeeper in case of a watch malfunction. <u>It is advisable that there shall be three (3) timekeepers for each lane.</u></p>	Good practice
SW 1.5	<p><u>The event management shall specify for heats, semi-finals, and finals the presentation and preparation protocol that the competitors must respect when they leave the last call-room.</u></p>	Formalisation of good practice, especially at events when BIBS are used

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SW 2	OFFICIALS	
SW 2.1	Referee	
SW 2.1.5	<p>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, <u>Once all swimmers have removed their clothing, except for swimwear, the Referee shall signal the commencement of an event by a short series of whistles inviting them to get ready at the starting end,</u> 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.</p>	Formalisation of good practice that competitors remove their clothing, except swimwear, before the referee starts the whistle blowing procedure
SW 2.1.6	<p>A disqualification for starting before the starting signal must be observed and confirmed by both the s Starter and the r Referee. <u>When video timing Automatic Officiating Equipment is available, it may be used to verify the disqualification.</u></p>	<p>Confirmation that AOE overhead cameras may be used to confirm a start infraction.</p> <p>Reaction times from starting blocks should not be used.</p>
SW 2.1.8	<p><u>All potential infractions shall be verbally reported to the Referee. Once confirmed by the Referee, a signed disqualification card shall be completed by the reporting official, detailing the event, lane number and the infraction.</u></p>	Good practice
SW 2.1.9	<p><u>The Referee shall appoint officials who shall determine, in relay events, whether the starting swimmer is in contact with the starting platform when the preceding swimmer touches the starting wall. When Automatic Officiating Equipment which judges relay take-offs is available, it shall be used in accordance with SW 13.1.</u></p>	The referee may appoint officials to judge relay takeovers

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SW 2.2	Control Room Supervisor	
SW 2.2.1	The Control Room Supervisor shall supervise the operation of the automatic timing Automatic Officiating Equipment , operation including the review of video timing.	
SW 2.2.5	The Control Room Supervisor shall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • control withdrawals after the heats and/or semi-finals or finals, • enter results on official forms, • list all new records established, and • maintain scores where appropriate. 	
SW 2.3	Starter	
<u>SW 2.3.5</u>	<u>The Starter shall report to the Referee any violation observed within their jurisdiction.</u>	
SW 2.4	Clerk of Course Call Room Supervisor	
SW 2.4.1	The clerk of course Call Room Supervisor shall assemble swimmers prior to each event.	Change of name for this important role
SW 2.4.2	The clerk of course Call Room Supervisor shall report to the r Referee any violation noted in regard to advertising (GR 6) with regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • swimwear • advertising and if a swimmer is not present when called.	Simplification of rule format

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SW 2.6	Inspector of Turns	
SW 2.6.5	When a Backstroke ledge is being used, each inspector at the starting end shall install and remove the ledge. <u>Once installed, the ledge shall be set at Zero (0).</u>	
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 <u>observed within their jurisdiction.</u>	
SW 2.7	Judges of Stroke	
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 <u>observed within their jurisdiction.</u>	
SW 2.8	Chief Timekeeper	
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 stop watch. In addition, the Chief Timekeeper must always record the time of the winner of each heat -race.	
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. The watches shall be certified correct to the satisfaction of the meet Management Committee.	
SW 2.10	Chief Finish Judge – if required	
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.	

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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 2.12	DESK CONTROL <u>Chief Recorder</u> (other than for Olympic Games and World Championships)	
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.	

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<p>SW 2.13 SW 2.16</p>	<p>Officials' Decision Making</p>	
<p>SW 2.13.1 SW 2.16.1</p>	<p>Officials shall make their decision autonomously and independently of each other unless otherwise provided in the Swimming Rules.</p>	
<p>SW 2.13</p>	<p><u>Recorder (other than for Olympic Games and World Championships)</u></p>	
<p>SW 2.13.1</p>	<p><u>The recorders shall control withdrawals after the heats or semi-finals, enter results on official forms, list all new records established, and maintain scores where appropriate.</u></p>	
<p>SW 2.14</p>	<p><u>Video Review Supervisor</u></p>	
<p>SW 2.14.1</p>	<p><u>The Video Review Supervisor shall ensure that Video Review Judges are in their respective posts and fulfil their duties during the competition.</u></p>	<p>Formalisation of new roles for video judging</p>
<p>SW 2.14.2</p>	<p><u>The Video Review Supervisor shall review and confirm all rule infractions reported to them by the Video Review Judges.</u></p>	
<p>SW 2.14.3</p>	<p><u>The Video Review Supervisor shall review and confirm all rule infractions reported to them at the request of the Referee.</u></p>	
<p>SW 2.14.4</p>	<p><u>The Video Review Supervisor shall report to the Referee any violation confirmed in the video review.</u></p>	

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SW 2.15	Video Review Judge	
SW 2.15.1	Each Video Review Judge 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 2.15.2	Video Review Judges shall report any violation observed to the Video Review Supervisor. If the infraction is confirmed, the Video Review Judge shall complete a disqualification card.	
SW 3	SEEDING OF HEATS, SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS	
SW 3.2	Semi-Finals and Finals	
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 may 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 may take place if equal times are registered again. If required, a swim off will take place to determine 1st and 2nd reserve if equal times are recorded.	No longer a specific requirement that a swim-off must be held if one or more competitors do not wish to swim
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. <u>Whenever possible, t</u> 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.	It may not be possible to re-seed an event due to lack of time

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SW 4	THE START	
SW 4.4	<p>Any swimmer starting before the starting signal has been given, shall be disqualified. After all swimmers are stationary, Any swimmer initiating a start before the signal may be disqualified. If the starting signal sounds before the disqualification is declared, the race shall continue and the 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.</p>	<p>Incorporating the rule interpretation. A swimmer may be disqualified if they initiate their start before the signal.</p> <p>An involuntary movement or twitch is not regarded as initiating the start</p>
SW 6	BACKSTROKE	
SW 6.1	<p>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, at least one toe the toes of each foot must be in contact with the end wall or face of the touchpad. Bending the toes over the top of the touchpad is prohibited.</p>	
SW 6.4	<p>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.</p>	
SW 6.5	<p>Upon the finish of the race the swimmer must touch the wall while on the back in his/her respective lane.</p>	

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SW 7	BREASTSTROKE	
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.	Whether a swimmer's arms are on the same horizontal plane is very difficult to judge. The more important aspect is the arm movements being simultaneous without alternating movement
SW 7.4	During each complete cycle, some part of the swimmer's head must break the surface of the water. All movements of the legs shall be simultaneous and on the same horizontal plane without alternating movement.	Whether a swimmer's legs are on the same horizontal plane is very difficult to judge. The more important aspect is the leg movements being simultaneous without alternating movement
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. <u>Leaving the wall on the back during the freestyle portion is permissible but no kicking action is permitted until the swimmer has returned past the vertical to the breast at which point kicking, including a butterfly kick(s) may commence.</u>	Incorporation of the previously published interpretation

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SW 10	THE RACE	
SW 10.2	A swimmer swimming over the course alone shall cover the whole distance to qualify. <u>A swimmer who does not complete the whole distance in accordance with the relevant FINA rules shall be disqualified.</u>	A swimmer who does not complete the course is disqualified and NOT listed as “Did not finish (DNF)”
<u>SW 10.3</u>	<u>On the deck, after respecting the presentation protocol outlined in SW 1.5, the competitors must immediately remove all clothing except for swimwear.</u>	Good practice
SW 10.9	No swimmer shall be permitted to use or wear any device or swimsuit that may aid his/her speed, buoyancy or endurance during a competition (such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, power bands, or adhesive substances, etc.). <u>The use of technology and automated data collection devices is permissible for the sole purpose of collecting data. Automated devices shall not be utilised to transmit data, sounds, or signals to the swimmer and may not be used to aid their speed.</u> Goggles may be worn. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by FINA Sport Medicine Committee.	This allows for one-way transmission from the swimmer of data during races. It may also, in the future, be used for sports presentation
<u>SW 10.12</u>	<u>Relay exchanges must commence from the starting platform. Running starts from pool deck are not permitted.</u>	Confirmation that relay exchanges must be made from the block and to ensure a safe competition, running take-overs are not allowed

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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). <u>In the event that there is failure of all timing devices in a lane then the swimmer may be offered a reswim.</u>	Confirmation of best practice that a swimmer may be offered a reswim in the event of a timing malfunction
SW 11.3.3	With only two (2) out of three (3) watches working the average time shall be the official time. <u>When this calculation results in a value that is expressed in thousandths of a second, the final digit shall be dropped without rounding.</u>	

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SW 12	WORLD RECORDS	
SW 12.5	All records must be made in scratch competition or an individual race against time, held in public and announced publicly by advertisement at least three days before the attempt is to be made. In the event of an individual race against time being sanctioned by a Member Federation , as a time trial during a competition, then an advertisement at least three (3) days before the attempt is to be made shall not be necessary.	
SW 12.6	The length of each lane of the course must be certified by a surveyor or other qualified official appointed or approved by the Member Federation in the country in which it is situated.	
SW 12.14	Applications for World Records and World Junior Records must be made on the FINA official forms (see next page) by the responsible authority of the organizing or management committee of the competition and signed by an authorized representative of the Member Federation in the country of the swimmer, certifying that all regulations have been observed including a certification of the pool measurement and a negative doping test certification (DC 5.3.3.2). The application form shall be forwarded to the Executive Director of FINA within fourteen (14) days after the performance.	
SW 12.15	A claim of a World Record or a World Junior Record performance shall be provisionally reported by e-mail or facsimile to the Executive Director of FINA within seven (7) days of the performance.	
SW 12.16	The Member Federation in the country of the swimmer should report this performance by letter to the Executive Director of FINA for information and action, if necessary, to assure that the official application has been properly submitted by the appropriate authority.	

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SW 12.17	On receipt of the official application, and upon satisfaction that the information contained in the application, including a certification of the pool measurement and a negative doping control test certificate, is accurate, the Executive Director of FINA shall declare the new World Record or World Junior Record, see that such information is published, and see that certificates are provided to those persons whose applications have been accepted.	
SW 12.19	If the procedure of SW 12.14 has not been followed, the Member Federation in the country of a swimmer can apply for a World Record or a World Junior Record in default thereof. After due investigation, the Executive Director of FINA is authorised to accept such record if the claim is found to be correct.	
SW 12.20	If the application for a World Record or a World Junior Record is accepted by FINA, a diploma, signed by the President of FINA shall be forwarded by the Executive Director to the Member Federation in the country of the swimmer for presentation to the swimmer in recognition of the performance. A fifth World Record diploma will be issued to all Members Federations whose relay teams establish a World Record or a World Junior Record. This diploma is to be retained by the Member Federation .	
	WORLD RECORD & WORLD JUNIOR RECORD APPLICATION FORM (APPENDIX I)	

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SW 13	AUTOMATIC OFFICIATING PROCEDURE	
SW 13.2.3.3	A swimmer having neither an Automatic Equipment place nor an Automatic Equipment time shall establish his <u>their</u> relative order by the time recorded by the Semi-Automatic Equipment or by three digital watches.	
SW 13.3.2	The official time for all swimmers not having an Automatic Equipment time will be the three-digital watches or <u>the times recorded by</u> Semi-Automatic Equipment time <u>or digital watches</u> .	