



**REFEREE BRIEFING NOTES ADDITION - FEBRUARY 2023
FINA RULES UPDATE (SELECTED RULES CONCERNING JUDGES)**

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. 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, 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 2.1.9	<p>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.</p>	The referee may appoint officials to judge relay takeovers
SW 2.3.5	<p>The Starter shall report to the Referee any violation observed within their jurisdiction.</p>	
SW 2.6.5	<p>When a Backstroke ledge is being used, each inspector at the starting end shall install and remove the ledge. Once installed, the ledge shall be set at Zero (0).</p>	
SW 2.6.9	<p>Inspectors of Turns shall report to the Referee any violation on signed cards detailing the event, lane number, and the infraction observed within their jurisdiction.</p>	
SW 2.7.3	<p>Judges of Stroke shall report to the Referee any violation on signed cards detailing the event, lane number, and the infraction observed within their jurisdiction.</p>	
SW 3.2.4	<p>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. Whenever possible, 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.</p>	It may not be possible to re-seed an event due to lack of time



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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 6.1	<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>	
SW 7.2	<p>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.</p>	<p>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</p>
SW 7.4	<p>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.</p>	<p>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</p>



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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. <i>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.</i>	Incorporation of the previously published interpretation
SW 10.2	A swimmer swimming over the course alone shall cover the whole distance to qualify. <i>A swimmer who does not complete the whole distance in accordance with the relevant FINA rules shall be disqualified.</i>	A swimmer who does not complete the course is disqualified and NOT listed as "Did not finish (DNF)"
SW 10.3	<i>On the deck, after respecting the presentation protocol outlined in SW 1.5, the competitors must immediately remove all clothing except for swimwear.</i>	
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.). <i>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.</i> 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
SW 10.12	<i>Relay exchanges must commence from the starting platform. Running starts from pool deck are not permitted.</i>	Confirmation that relay exchanges must be made from the block and to ensure a safe competition, running take-overs are not allowed
SW 11.3.3	With only two (2) out of three (3) watches working the average time shall be the official time. <i>When this calculation results in a value that is expressed in thousandths of a second, the final digit shall be dropped without rounding.</i>	