

Explanatory Memorandum for 2017 FINA Swimming Rule Changes

(Version 07.09.2017)

Rule Change	Explanation
<p>SW 1.2.2 Where Automatic Officiating Equipment is not available, such equipment must be replaced by <u>a</u> chief timekeeper, three (3) <u>one (1)</u> timekeepers per lane and two (2) <u>one (1)</u> additional timekeepers.</p> <p>SW 1.2.3 A Chief Finish Judge and finish judges may be used when Automatic Equipment and/or three (3) digital watches per lane are not used.</p>	<p>Consistency with SW 2.8.2, which already allows for one (1) timekeeper per lane.</p> <p>Please note that as per SW 2.8.1, when Automatic Officiating Equipment is not available, it remains advisable that there shall be three (3) timekeepers for each lane.</p>
<p>SW 2.2.1 The Supervisor shall supervise the automatic timing operation including the review of backup timing cameras <u>video timing</u>.</p> <p>SW 2.2.4 The supervisor may review the video used for backup timing to confirm early take-off.</p> <p>SW 2.9.4 Unless a-video <u>timing backup system</u> is used, it may be necessary to use the full complement of timekeepers even when Automatic Officiating Equipment is used.</p>	<p>Consistency of terminology for video timing.</p>
<p>SW 2.5.2 The chief inspector of turns shall receive the reports from the inspectors of turns if any infringement occurs and shall present them to the referee immediately.</p> <p>SW 2.6.9 Inspectors of Turns shall report <u>to the Referee</u> any violation on signed cards detailing the event, lane number, and the <u>infraction</u> infringement delivered to the chief inspector of turns who shall immediately convey the report to the referee.</p>	<p>For expediency of infraction reporting, Inspectors of Turns shall now report infractions directly to the Referee, rather than via the Chief Inspector of Turns.</p>

Rule Change	Explanation
<p>SW 2.6.1 One 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.</p> <p>SW 2.6.2 Each inspector of turns shall ensure that swimmers comply with the relevant rules for turning, commencing from the beginning of the last arm stroke before touching and ending with the completion of the first arm stroke after turning. The Inspector of Turns at the starting end of the pool, shall ensure that the swimmers comply with the relevant rules from the start and ending with completion of the first arm stroke. The inspectors of turns at the finish end shall also ensure that the swimmers finish their race according to the current rules. 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>SW 2.6.4 Jurisdiction for the Inspector of Turns at the finish commences from the beginning of the last arm stroke before touching.</p>	<p>Clarification of the roles and jurisdiction of Inspectors of Turns.</p>
<p>SW 2.6.5 When a Backstroke ledge is being used, each inspector at the starting end shall install and remove the ledge.</p> <p>SW 6.2 When a backstroke ledge is being used, each inspector at the starting end shall install and remove the ledge after the start.</p>	<p>Backstroke ledge installation & removal is a duty of the Inspector of Turns.</p>
<p>SW 2.7.3 Judges of Stroke shall report to the Referee any violation to the referee on signed cards detailing the event, lane number, and the infraction infringement.</p>	<p>Consistency of terminology for infraction reporting.</p>

Rule Change	Explanation
<p>SW 3.2.5 For heats, semi-finals and finals, swimmers must <u>shall</u> report to the First Call Room no later than 20 minutes at a time determined by the event management prior to the start of their event. After inspection, swimmers proceed to the final call-room.</p>	<p>Flexibility for event management to determine call room reporting times.</p>
<p>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. <u>The head must break the surface of the water before the hands turn inward at the widest part of the second stroke.</u></p> <p>SW 7.4 During each complete cycle, some part of the swimmer's head must break the surface of the water. The head must break the surface of the water before the hands turn inward at the widest part of the second stroke. All movements of the legs shall be simultaneous and on the same horizontal plane without alternating movement.</p>	<p>Sentence moved to more appropriate section of the rules.</p>
<p>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. Under water kicking on the side is allowed. 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.</p>	<p>Removal of confusion with the terminology. The rules still allow kicking underwater after the start and each turn, with the body to be kept on the breast.</p>
<p><u>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.</u></p>	<p>Clarification of the requirements when to be on the breast in the Freestyle section of medleys, to ensure each stroke covers $\frac{1}{4}$ of the distance.</p>
<p>SW 9.3 In Medley relay events, swimmers will cover the four swimming strokes in the following order: Backstroke, Breaststroke, Butterfly and Freestyle. <u>Each of the strokes must cover one quarter (1/4) of the distance.</u></p>	<p>Clarification of the requirement for each stroke in Medley Relays to cover $\frac{1}{4}$ of the distance, consistent with Individual Medley SW 9.1.</p>
<p>SW 11.2 When Automatic Equipment is used, the results shall be recorded only to 1/100 of a second. When timing to 1/1000 of a second is available, the third digit shall not be recorded or used to determine time or placement. 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 only to 1/100 of a second.</p>	<p>Terminology for 1/1000 of a second not required, with timing systems to only record 1/100 of a second.</p>

Rule Change	Explanation
<p>SW 12.8 World Records and World Junior Records will be accepted only when times are reported <u>recorded</u> by Automatic Officiating Equipment, or Semi-Automatic Officiating Equipment in the case of Automatic Officiating Equipment system malfunction.</p>	<p>Consistency of terminology.</p>
<p>SW 12.11 Worlds Records and World Junior Records can be established only in fresh water <u>water with less than 3 gr/litre of salt</u>. No World Records will be recognized in any kind of sea or ocean water.</p>	<p>Clarification of maximum salt content of pool water.</p>
<p>SW 13.1 When Automatic Officiating Equipment (See FR 4) 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 <u>and inspectors of turns</u>.</p>	<p>Clarification that relay take-offs judged by AOE takes precedence over the Inspectors of Turns.</p>