

2003 Proposed Swimming/Diving Rules Revisions

Rules Reference	Change	Passed	Failed	Discussed No Action
4-3-1 pg 18	<p>c. sound a warning signal over the lane of the lead swimmer during the 500 yard/meter freestyle event when that swimmer has two lengths plus 5 yards remaining to swim in the race (Donna O. McLaughlin, NY)</p> <p>Rationale: The use of a starting pistol should not be allowed to either start a swim meet or used as a warning signal at a high school swim meet. The way the rule reads now, the starting pistol is the only device that can be used as a warning signal for the 500 yard/meter freestyle. It is extremely disturbing in this day and age to go to a high school swim meet and watch the starter shot off a gun for the start of a race and then aim it at a child's head as a warning signal for the last lap of the 500. USAA swimming uses alternative devices for both starts and as warning signals. I believe, high school swimming must go one step further and band the use of the starting pistol. Students are forbidden, by law, to bring firearms to school. What kind of example are adults setting by using them at a swim meet? I have enclosed the USAA rules, plus a policy regarding firearms from the White Plains Public Schools.</p>			
4-3-C pg 18	<p>Discharge a sound device such as a gun, bell or air horn over the lane of the lead swimmer during the 500 yard/meter freestyle when that swimmer has two lengths plus five yards remaining to swim in the race. (David Heller, NY)</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Defines what may be considered as a sounding device. 2. Provides an alternate to the gun which has become persona non grata in many school districts. 3. Eliminates the need for the starter to purchase a gun and shells when in many instances an electronic beeper is used to start races. 			
4-8-3 pg 20	<p>Strike C. Observe whether each swimmer touches the finish pad. (Christi McCauley, OR)</p> <p>Rationale: The timing operator does not have adequate visibility of all lanes. They are not in a position or authority to judge a finish for technical rules compliance.</p>			
5-1-2(d) pg 22	<p>ADD: "d. by mutual consent of competing teams, a 5 minute break will be taken after the 500 freestyle and before the 200 freestyle relay." (Denarvise Thornton, FL)</p> <p>Rationale: Many of the same swimmers swim both 200 and 500 freestyle events. The 200 freestyle is after the 200 medley relay and the 500 freestyle is before the 200 freestyle relay. Distance freestyle swimmers (200 and 500) have a hard time swimming 2 relays since 200 freestyle comes after the medley relay and the 500 freestyle before the 200 freestyle relay. This would allow a swimmer in the 500 to warm down and have some rest to swim the 200 freestyle relay.</p>			
6-2-1 pg 25	<p>Put a period after the words...touches the finish end. (Christi McCauley, OR)</p> <p>Rationale: Swimmers that have completed the prescribed stroke and distance in accordance with the stroke rules should not be penalized for not touching the touch pads. There are appropriate back up</p>			

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	systems in place to determine the appropriate time for a swimmer even though they may not strike the touch pad. It is discriminatory to athletes in less affluent areas as they may not have any experience with touch pads until a championship meet.			
6-4-2 pg 28	<p>NEW The integration of backup times outlined in Article 1 above is mandatory for championship and invitational meets. For other meets, including dual meets, its use is optional. When computer systems allow for the integration of backup times easily and quickly, that system should be used. When such computer systems are unavailable, the referee shall determine official times when malfunctions occur. (Judy Barnett, CO)</p> <p>Rationale: The integration of backup times has been time consuming, tedious, and very unreliable in dual meets this year. Most of our pools are not equipped with computer equipment which could easily make these calculations. Thus, officials or coaches or table workers have been forced to try to quickly perform tedious mathematical calculations (by hand!) which generally result in time adjustments of a few tenths at most. This procedure is devastating when one is trying to expedite a meet. The rule may be great for national championships, but it is not feasible at most local meets.</p>			
8-1-1 Note pg 31	<p>With Referee/starter permission, a swimmer may start in the water. The swimmer must be motionless and have at least one hand in contact with the starting platform or end wall. For any in water starts the swimmer(s) shall enter the water by sitting on the deck and sliding into the pool. Jumping and/or diving into the water, subject to the discretion of the referee/starter, could result in a False Start/Infraction or Unsportsmanlike Conduct call being made against the swimmer(s). (Leslie Richards, PA)</p> <p>Rationale: In water starts are becoming very common due to water depth at the starting end of the pool and where starting platforms are not or can not be used for the meet.</p> <p>It is very easy for any swimmer to hurt themselves by jumping or diving into the pool for an in-water start.</p> <p>Besides this safety factor it goes without saying that in Relay events any swimmer jumping or diving into the pool to assume an In-water start could easily, just by their motion, cause another swimmer(s) to leave early thus causing an infraction call.</p> <p>By “making” all swimmers use an in-water start to sit on the deck and slide into the water it would benefit everyone concerned and eliminate any possible injury.</p>			
8-1-2 pg 31	<p>In the backstroke start the starter will say to the swimmers: “Place your feet” then when all swimmers have placed their feet, including the toes under the surface of the water and against the starting wall (pad), the starter will issue the command “Take your mark”. (Leslie Richards, PA)</p> <p>Rationale: With the new start in backstroke it would be in the interest and safety of the swimmers to first issue the command “Place your feet”. Swimmers would then have time to get comfortable with their starting position and not have to hurry to place their feet. This would prevent unnecessary slipping on the part of the swimmer,</p>			

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	which in itself could cause an injury.			
8-1-6 pg 31	The swimmer is charged with a false start at the finish of the swim. If there is no dual confirmation, no one is charged with a false start (Jim Gordon, AK) Rationale: Helps in the interest of time, and all swimmers are not penalized by having to re-start because one swimmer made an error.			
8-1-7 pg 31	Delete ...“When automatic timing/judging equipment is used, the swimmer must contact the touch pad to finish the race. (Christi McCauley, OR) Rationale: Swimmers that have completed the prescribed stroke and distance in accordance with the stroke rules should not be penalized for not touching the touch pads. There are appropriate back up systems in place to determine the appropriate time for a swimmer even though they may not strike the touch pad. It is discriminatory to athletes in less affluent areas as they may not have any experience with touch pads until a championship meet.			
8-2-1g 2h 3g 4e pg 32-34	Strike “finish pad (when automatic timing is used) or” (Christi McCauley, OR) Rationale: Swimmers that have completed the prescribed stroke and distance in accordance with the stroke rules should not be penalized for not touching the touch pads. There are appropriate back up systems in place to determine the appropriate time for a swimmer even though they may not strike the touch pad. It is discriminatory to athletes in less affluent areas as they may not have any experience with touch pads until a championship meet.			
8-2-5 pg 34	ADD: “On the turn from the backstroke to breaststroke, the swimmer must touch the wall with at least one hand while remaining on the back and not past the vertical plane. Any manner of turn can be made but once the feet leave the wall the swimmer must be on the back past the vertical plane.” (Denarvise Thornton, FL) Rationale: Puts this IM turn in line with other swimming governing bodies.			
8-3-6 pg 35	Strike “finish pad (when automatic timing is used) or” (Christi McCauley, OR) Rationale: Swimmers that have completed the prescribed stroke and distance in accordance with the stroke rules should not be penalized for not touching the touch pads. There are appropriate back up systems in place to determine the appropriate time for a swimmer even though they may not strike the touch pad. It is discriminatory to athletes in less affluent areas as they may not have any experience with touch pads until a championship meet.			
	Allow the use of automatic relay judging equipment during high school meets. (Jim Gordon, AK) Rationale: Swimming is looking for changes that incorporate new technology and decrease the chance for human error in judgment.			
9-6-3 pg 42	b. announce the award given the dive by each judge. (Pat Kirk, WY) Rationale: Some pools now have scoreboards capable of providing a visual of the score of each diver from each judge. For these pools, the announcing of the score becomes unnecessary.			

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9-7-4d pg 43	<p>d. a diver does not come out from the tuck or pike position. (NYSPHSAA Staff)</p> <p>Rationale: The words ATTEMPT TO have been eliminated. This recommendation is being made because, in judging a diver, you are judging physical accomplishment or lack of same. What you are not judging are the divers intentions. Therefore, the work attempt should be eliminated.</p>			
	<p>Elimination of the recall on a false start. (Peter Crosby, AK)</p> <p>Rationale: The recall penalizes swimmers who are stoked for the first start and burn several yards or a length before being aware of the recall and don't have as good a second start. Also, doing away with it eliminates the problem with some of the systems which occasionally give long signals or added noises that are misinterpreted by some of the swimmers in the heat as a recall.</p>			