



## 2019-20 and 2020-21 Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Rules Changes

*The following rules changes were approved by the NCAA Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Rules Committee and the Playing Rules Oversight Panel. They will be incorporated into the rules book for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 seasons.*

Rule	Rules Change, Rationale
Lap Counting (Rule 2-3-1)	<p>A visual count of the lengths completed by each swimmer <del>must</del> <u>may</u> be given above and/or below the water every two lengths in freestyle races 16 lengths or longer.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> This would allow the use of a lap counter to be optional instead of required. Doing so will help avoid situations where a meet is unnecessarily delayed waiting for a lap counter to be identified or an official disqualifying a swimmer whose lap counter is not on the lane prior to the dive. Further, lap counters are not required by FINA, and therefore many international student-athletes are not accustomed to this requirement.</p>
Lap Counters (Rule 2-3-2)	<p><del>Visual counters must be used within the limits of each lane at the opposite end of the racing course from the start (above and/or below the water).</del> <u>If visual counters are used, they may be stationed at the end or either side of the pool, beyond the halfway point toward the end of the course opposite the starting end.</u></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> This allows flexibility in the placement of the visual counter and aligns with the current FINA rule.</p>
Interference (Rule 2-5-1-a)	<p>Any competitor who interferes with another swimmer during a race shall be disqualified from that race, subject to the discretion of the referee. If a swimmer is fouled <u>by another swimmer, including interference by an outside entity, or due to facility equipment failure</u>, during a preliminary heat of an event, the referee may allow that swimmer to repeat the race at a time not later than 30 minutes after the last heat of the last event in which the swimmer is competing during that session of the meet.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> To clarify what may constitute a foul.</p>
Number of Officials (Rule 4-1)	<p>For dual, double-dual, triangular and quadrangular meet competition, <del>it is recommended that a minimum of two, three or four officials be used</del> <u>a minimum of two (2) officials must be used; however, the use of three or four officials is recommended</u> to properly observe all competitors equally and enforce the playing rules.</p> <p>For championship and invitational competition, <del>it is recommended that a minimum of six officials be used</del> <u>a minimum of four (4) officials must be used; however, the use of six (6) officials is recommended</u> to properly observe all competitors equally and enforce the playing rules.</p>

Rule	Rules Change, Rationale
	<p>Note: The effective date for Division I is 2019-20 and the effective date for Divisions II and III is 2020-21.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> The current rule <i>recommends</i> two, three or four, with no actual minimum for dual, double-dual, triangular and quadrangular meets. One could technically be used, and that is not adequate for enhancing the opportunity for the meet to be officiated appropriately. Similarly, a minimum of six officials is recommended for invitationals and championships, but there is no mandated minimum. No fewer than four should be utilized to help ensure the meet is officiated appropriately.</p>
<p>15-meter cameras (Rule 4-10)</p>	<p><u>To determine if an official's call of a 15-meter violation is accurate, video review may be utilized at championship or invitational competitions, governed by a meet or games committee composed of representatives of multiple institutions. Prior to the beginning of the competition, a decision should be made by the meet committee as to when video reviews will be conducted, and all participants should be informed. (e.g., after each heat where review is needed or after the final heat of a multiple heat event). All reviews must be conducted before qualifiers/results are announced. If video review is in place for the championships, all disqualifications must be reviewed to evaluate if the 15-meter violation should be upheld. The referee shall review the video to determine if clear video evidence exists to overturn the call. The referee has sole jurisdiction over the review and their decision is a judgment call not subject to further review or appeal. Only the referee and a conference or NCAA meet committee representative – with no participating institutional affiliation may view the video that is being used for review. Challenges by coaches are not permitted as part of this rule and coaches are not permitted to view the video being used at any time. To use such equipment, the meet committee (in consultation with the meet referee) must set up a system before the event aligned with a direct side view(s) of the 15-meter line, end and maintain a speed of at least 25 frames/second. The result of the video review is merely to determine if the infraction is confirmed. The video shall not be used to detect any other rule infractions. If conclusive video evidence exists that the swimmer did not cross the 15-meter mark, the referee may overturn the disqualification. Any obstruction to the view of the 15-meter mark is sufficient to void the video from evidence.</u></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Fifteen-meter video cameras are used at major USA Swimming meets, with positive results, and this rule allows the use of this technology. This rule would make the use of video at the 15-meter mark permissible, but not mandatory.</p>

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Video Review (Rule 4-14-7)	<p>Prior to the beginning of the competition, a decision should be made by the meet committee as to when video reviews will be conducted and all participants should be informed (e.g., after each heat where review is needed or after the final heat of a multiple heat relay). <u>In combined events, the review may occur after the completion of both the women's and men's relays.</u></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> This change allows video review to occur after completion of both men's and women's relays, instead of after each gender, to help maintain the flow of the meet.</p>
Integration of Official Results (Rule 4-21-4)	<p>When the referee confirms that there is a malfunction of the primary (automatic) timing system, <del>the backup time(s) shall be adjusted for the timing system difference before integrating them with the accurate primary times in establishing the integrated official times and determining the order of finish. The adjustment shall be determined by calculating the consistent average difference between the primary system and the backup system used in that heat. the backup time(s) shall be calculated and integrated with the accurate primary times to determine the official times and order of finish.</del></p> <p>a. Malfunction on a Lane. When a malfunction is confirmed on a lane, <del>the backup times for that lane shall be adjusted by calculating the average difference between valid primary and valid backup times of the other lanes in that heat. This shall be done by adding, or subtracting when appropriate, that average difference to the valid backup time of the lane in which the malfunction occurred. (See table that follows.) In doing the calculations, any backup time with a discrepancy of greater than 0.3 shall be dropped. the backup times for that lane shall be calculated as follows:</del></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>1. If two of the three valid button or watch times agree, that shall be the time for that timing system.</u></li> <li><u>2. If three valid button or watch times disagree, the time of the intermediate button or watch shall be the time for that timing system.</u></li> <li><u>3. If only two valid button or watch times are available, the time shall be the average of those two buttons or the average of the two watch times. The digits representing thousandths of a second shall be dropped with no rounding.</u></li> <li><u>4. If only one valid button or watch time is available, the time of that button or watch shall be the time for that timing system, provided it is supported by other information.</u></li> </ol>

Rule	Rules Change, Rationale
	<b>Rationale:</b> FINA, USA Swimming, and NFHS have dropped the adjustment for a lane malfunction and adopted the above process, thereby simplifying the process to determine an official time for the lane.
Lane Assignments (Rule 5-7-4-b)	<p>Lane assignments must be done the same for all timed final events. Lane assignments must be done the same for all final events that require a preliminary qualifying heat. <u>Preliminary heats may be contested in a greater number of lanes than final heats and the number of lanes must be consistent throughout the meet.</u> However, lane assignments for timed final events and events with qualifying heats (i.e. preliminaries) can be determined differently as long as each type of event is assigned consistently for the entire meet.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> For meets that have a large number of teams and participants, it would be permissible to utilize ten lanes in preliminary heats (if available), while still only utilizing eight lanes in the final heat. This scenario would provide a better experience for student-athletes, coaches and spectators by reducing the amount of time to complete the event. Additionally, increasing the number of lanes utilized in preliminary heats has been done on a number of occasions at USA Swimming competitions, particularly when the number of participants is high.</p>
Diving Ties – Championships (Rule 6-2-3)	<p><u>In the event of a tie in non-NCAA and NCAA Championship meets for 8th place in the prelims of diving 1-meter, 3-meter or platform events, the tie-breaking method is to take all nine (9) divers to the final. The consolation finals will thus have seven (7) competitors in the event, none finishing higher than 10th place in the final standings. In the final, the nine competitors will do a six-dive list. The highest-place finisher of the tied divers will remain in the place they finished, while the other diver will place 9th.</u></p> <p><u>In the event of a tie in non-NCAA and NCAA Championship meets for 16th place in the prelims of the diving 1-meter, 3-meter or platform events, the tiebreaking method is to take all nine (9) divers to the consolation final. In the consolation final the nine competitors will do a six-dive list. The highest place finisher of the tied divers will remain in the place they finished, while the other diver will place 17th overall in the contest and not awarded any team points.</u></p> <p><u>Note: If there are more than two divers tied for 8th or 16th, all tied dives will move into the appropriate final.</u></p>

Rule	Rules Change, Rationale
	<b>Rationale:</b> There is currently no rule in the book for ties in championship meets, although this method is currently utilized in some instances and this would formalize the rule.