



MEMORANDUM

September 17, 2020

TO: Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Conference Commissioners and Head Coaches.

FROM: Greg Lockard, secretary-rules editor,
NCAA Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Rules Committee.

SUBJECT: UPDATED NCAA Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Rules Updates and Preseason Reminders.

With the new playing season upon us, I would like to wish the entire membership the best of luck during the coming season.

NCAA swimming and diving rules were adopted, and the new rule book was published on Sept. 1, 2019. The rule book will be in effect through the completion of the 2020-2021 season.

The items presented in this communication include recent updates on virtual meets, bona fide competition, commemorative/memorial patches and reminders of key pre-season items and deadlines that may be applicable to you or your institution.

I look forward to working closely with the membership to continue to improve and elevate the sport of swimming and diving. Throughout the year, if you have questions or need to request an interpretation, please contact me via email at greg@swimdiverules.com or by phone at 973-486-5501.

Recent Updates

Virtual Meets: Based on a recent decision by NCAA Academic and Membership Affairs (AMA) staff at the national office, which regulates NCAA bylaws, including countable competition and sport sponsorship, virtual meets will not meet the requirements of bylaw 20 to count toward sports sponsorship.

UPDATE 9/17/20: Previous guidance that virtual competition would count toward individual and team dates of competition for bylaw 17 was incorrect. Virtual competition does NOT count toward individual and team dates of competition, sport sponsorship or bona fide competition as indicated below.

In addition, virtual meets do not meet bona fide competition per playing rule 9 as stated below:

- “Competition is between two or more teams of the same gender at the same time and site, from different collegiate institutions;”

Interpretation – Rule 9, Bona Fide Competition

An interpretation for Rule 9, Bona Fide Competition has been posted on ncaa.org and is included below:

N a t i o n a l C o l l e g i a t e A t h l e t i c A s s o c i a t i o n

Creating a pathway to opportunity for college athletes

The NCAA is an equal opportunity employer that values inclusive excellence in the workplace.

Bona fide competition is defined as an event that conforms to all NCAA rules relevant to swimming and diving performances, including the following:

- Meet is open to the public (spectators);
- Competition is between two or more teams of the same gender at the same time and site, from different collegiate institutions;
- All NCAA competitors must be eligible by NCAA standards;
- Meets must be in institutions' approved competition schedule;
- Meets must have published results; and
- Depending on the governing body, meet official(s) must be qualified and/or certified.

Or

- Any bona fide meet as defined above and that is sanctioned or approved by USA Swimming and USA Diving that follows NCAA rules and regulations.
- The FINA Short Course World Championships provided the student athlete who is representing his/her national team is currently an eligible student-athlete at his/her institution at the time of this event.

Interpretation:

The following USA Swimming and Diving Meets, are acceptable for achievement of *time standards, consideration standards and optional-entry standards*:

- USA Swimming National Championship,
- USA Swimming Winter Open Championship,
- FINA Short Course World Championship, and
- USA Swimming Pro Series Meets.

Rationale:

The intent of the interpretation is to clarify which USA Swimming and Diving meets are acceptable for achievement of time standards, consideration standards and optional-entry standards. It is the intent that participation in any of the designated USA Swimming and Diving Meet(s) is a formal part of the institutional schedule with student-athletes representing their institution.

Commemorative/Memorial Patches:

In an effort to allow student-athletes the opportunity to use the uniform to voice their opinions and/or express support of racial and social justice, the Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) reviewed the current uniform rules across all sports. Although the rules currently vary from sport-

to-sport, PROP voted to direct all playing rules committees to implement the following policies for all sports effective with the 2020-21 seasons:

- As authorized by the institution or conference, allow a commemorative/memorial patch (e.g., names, mascots, nicknames, logos, and marks intended to celebrate or memorialize persons, events, or other causes).
- The patch must not exceed 2¼-square inches and must be placed on the front or sleeve of the uniform and may not interfere with any required markings. For swimming and diving, a commemorative/memorial logo/patch may be placed either on their suit or on their cap. If placed on the suit, as stipulated in Rule 3.1.d.3 in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 NCAA Swimming and Diving Rules Book, the additional logo/patch placed on the suit must be permeable. Per rule 3.2 in the rules book, rules relating to permeability of suits for swimmers does not apply for competitors in diving events.
- While not all team members are required to wear the patch, the patch must be identical for those who choose to wear the patch.

Pre-Season Review Items

Sept. 1: Deadline for host institutions to notify opponents that they are required to eliminate diving at home meets because of a facility that does not conform to minimum depth standards (Rule 6-1-3-c). Under these circumstances, diving must be eliminated from all home competition during the current academic year, and no points will be awarded for diving events.

Sept. 1: If an institution not having three-meter equipment does not wish to compete in three-meter events at away meets, it must notify each host institution at the time of contract or not later than Sept. 1 of that academic year (Rule 6-1-2-b). In this case, two one-meter events shall be held as prescribed in Rule 6-1-2-a.

Sept. 1: If a host institution has no three-meter equipment available, it must notify all opponents of the facility limitations at the contracted time of the agreement, or not later than Sept. 1 of the academic year Rule 6-1-2-c). In this case, two, one-meter events shall be held as prescribed in Rule 6-1-2-a.

Please Note: If the host institution fails to notify the visiting team as prescribed (by Sept. 1) that it does not have a one-and/or three-meter facility, then the visiting team shall be awarded the maximum number of points any one team could score in both events had both events been held. The host institution shall receive no points for either the one-meter or three-meter events (6-1-2-d).

Additionally, the choice to not have divers or a diving program is an individual institutional decision, but, does not automatically eliminate the diving events when an institution travels to an away contest or at a conference championship meet. The events are still conducted for any institutions with divers entered.

Seven Days Prior to First Competition: Per rule 3.1.1.d.6, swimmers or divers with physical disabilities or with a need for a religious exception from the swimsuit rule may request a waiver for customization from the NCAA swimming and diving secretary-rules editor at least one week before the individual's first competition.

cc: Mr. Greg Earhart
NCAA Swimming and Diving Rule Committee
Selected NCAA staff