



2023-24 and 204-25 Approved NCAA Swimming and Diving Rules Changes

The following rules changes were approved by the NCAA Swimming and Diving Rules Committee and the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel. All rule changes are effective with the 2023-24 season, unless otherwise noted.

Rule	Rules Change, Rationale
<p>2-9-b Use of Underwater Cameras</p>	<p>Permit the use of underwater cameras to confirm swimming infractions (stroke and turn violations) called by an official.</p> <p>ARTICLE 9. Violations of any of the provisions in Section 2 must result in disqualification. <u>When underwater cameras are available, video review may be used to confirm violations called by an official.</u></p> <p>Rationale: This permissive change would align the NCAA with World Aquatics and USA Swimming. This would not allow for calls to be made with video, only to be confirmed.</p>
<p>3-4 Artificial Aides and Tape</p>	<p>Revise Article 4 to provide clearer guidance on how athletic or kinesiology tape, or other aides can be used.</p> <p>ARTICLE 4.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. No swimmer is permitted to wear or use any device or foreign substances, including kinesiology tape, to help their speed, pace, buoyancy, or body compression in competition. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>The use of tape, kinesiology tape, and compression sleeves is permitted to treat a documented medical condition, but not to gain an advantage over the remainder of the field. The prescribed course of treatment must describe a minimally invasive plan identifying the necessary placement of tape, kinesiology tape or compression sleeves to support the athlete’s medical condition. Documentation must be presented to the referee and must come from a physician or certified athletic trainer to be considered.</u> b. Tape, kinesiology tape and/or wrist guards may be used by divers in a preventative manner without medical documentation. Divers are permitted to use temporarily applied adhesives for safety in performing dives in competition. c. Temporarily applied adhesives to improve grips shall not be used. Host institutions are encouraged to have all end walls and touch pads finished with a permanent nonslip surface. d. Rubdown oil may be applied if not considered excessive by the referee.

Rule	Rules Change, Rationale
	<p>e. The use of technology and automated data collection devices is permissible for the sole purpose of collecting data. Automated devices shall not be utilized to transmit data, sounds, or signals to the athlete and may not be utilized to effect pace or tempo. The device(s) may be worn in any fashion, including on the wrist.</p> <p>Rationale: This reorganization of the Article, as well as the new language of Article 4-a-1, is intended to provide clearer guidance on what type of tape or aides can be used, and for what reason. The additional language in Article 4-a-1 is intended to ease the process for institutions requesting a waiver from the NCAA for the use of tape when a medical professional recommends it.</p>
<p>3-1-1 and 3-2 Swimwear for Swimmers and Divers</p>	<p>Uniforms and Swimsuits Article 1. All student-athletes are subject to the swimwear standards that apply to the specific event in which they are participating.</p> <p>Article 2. Swimsuits for Swimmers and Divers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Swimmers and divers must wear a swimsuit and it must be specific for the respective event. That is, a suit conforming to Rule 3-1-1-b-4 must be worn in women’s competition and a suit conforming to Rule 3-1-1-b-3 must be worn in men’s competition, inclusive of all warmups, trials, finals, and any time trial sessions. 2. Swimwear for divers is bound by the same articles as swimsuits for swimmers regarding institutional and manufacturer’s logos as it applies to NCAA Bylaw 12.5.4. Rules relating to permeability and number of suits for swimmers does not apply for competitors in diving events. <p>Rationale: This change is intended to provide clear guidance for the requirements for swimwear for swimmers and divers.</p>
<p>3-1-1-f Caps</p>	<p>Establish a playing rule regarding the use of swim caps.</p>

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	<p>f. Swimmers shall not wear more than two swim caps during competition. Swim caps shall include no more than one (1) institutional logo, one (1) conference logo, the student-athlete’s name, and one (1) manufacturer’s logo on each side of the swim cap.</p> <p>Rationale: The playing rules currently do not have established guidelines for the number of swim caps or what identifying marks are permitted on swim caps during competition.</p>
<p>4-14-6-a and 4-16-1 Eliminate required human relay takeoff judges and backup timers – overhead cameras</p>	<p>Eliminate the requirement for human relay takeoff judges and human backup timers when using an electronic timing and judging system with fully integrated stationary overhead cameras recording 100 images per second.</p> <p>4-14-6-a</p> <p>a. In nonchampionship meets, at least one human takeoff judge must be assigned to observe the relay exchange in all lanes. In championship meets two human takeoff judges must be assigned this responsibility. <u>When championship meets utilize an electronic timing and judging system with fully integrated stationary overhead cameras recording 100 images per second, the use of human relay takeoff judges is not required.</u></p> <p>4-16-1 Article. It is recommended...</p> <p>When stationary overhead cameras recording 100 images per second and that are fully integrated into the primary electronic timing system are in place at a competition, it is permissible to use the system as the primary back-up system. <u>When utilizing a timing and judging system with fully integrated stationary overhead cameras recording 100 images per second, the use of human back-up timers is not required.</u></p> <p>Rationale: As timing systems with this level of technological advancement are available at the national and conference level, permitting the use of the overhead camera system to serve as the relay takeoff judge and backup timers will alleviate congestion on the pool deck.</p>
<p>4-31-1-b-7 Repeated dive</p>	<p>Permit a re-dive request to be made by the diver or the diver’s coach.</p>

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	<p>7. Repeated Dive – Upon request, decide whether a dive may be repeated. The referee is authorized to have a dive repeated when, in the referee’s opinion, the execution of the dive was influenced by exceptional circumstances. The request for such repetition must be made by the diver <u>or the diver’s coach</u> immediately after the execution of the dive. Exceptional circumstances include only the most unusual happenings.</p> <p>Rationale: Currently a re-dive request may only come from the diver. Permitting the request to come from the diver or their coach would align the NCAA with World Aquatics and USA Diving.</p>
<p>4-31-1-b-1-e During the event</p>	<p>Change language from “more than 90 degrees” to “90 degrees or more.”</p> <p>e. If the amount of twist is greater or less by more than 90 degrees 90 degrees or more of that written on the scoresheet. The decision will be based on the last part of the body to enter the water.</p> <p>Rationale: This change would align the language with World Aquatics and USA Diving.</p>
<p>5-2-2 and 5-3-2 Removal of Championship procedures for Entries and Events</p>	<p>Remove specific criteria regarding the number of entries per team and the number of entries per competitor from the playing rules. The following information will remain for guidance to conferences and hosts.</p> <p><i>Detailed administrative procedures, such as entry and qualifying procedures, for conducting NCAA championship meets are contained in the current divisional NCAA Men’s and Women’s Swimming and Diving Pre-championships Manual.</i></p> <p>Rationale: The change is intended to allow the appropriate governing committee or conference to establish their own administrative policies regarding entries and number of events.</p>
<p>5-8-3 Swim-Offs</p>	<p>Allow ties to be decided by a method other than a swim-off, such as a coin toss, if agreed upon by both coaches in consultation with the athlete(s). If there is no agreement, a swim-off will be held.</p>

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	<p>Article 3. <u>If a tie occurs during preliminary heats, ties may be decided by a method other than a swim-off, such as a coin toss, if agreed upon by both coaches in consultation with the athlete(s). If there is no agreement, a swim-off will be held. A swim-off is considered....</u></p> <p>Rationale: Using a method other than a swim-off would allow the student-athletes involved relief from additional competition in the qualification/advancement process.</p>
<p>6-1-6 and 8-1-a Note 3; 8-1-b Note 4; 8-1-c Note 3 (NEW); 8-1-2 Note 2; 8-2 Note 2; Team diving event</p>	<p>Establish a permissive/optional “team diving” event under the meet programs within the playing rules.</p> <p>The team diving event would consist of three divers per team completing no more than two dives each. Each team must do one dive from each dive group for a total of six (6) dives.</p> <p>Championship and non-championship meets with platforms: Teams must compete no more than two dives on 1M, 3M and platform (5M, 7M, 10M).</p> <p>Championship and non-championship meets without platforms: Teams must compete no more than three dives on 1M and 3M.</p> <p>Championship and non-championship meets when only 1M springboard is available: Teams compete all six divers on 1M.</p> <p>In all rules referenced, the Note would read as follows:</p> <p><u>Note: If the team diving event is substituted in non-championship events, it shall appear in the position of the event it is being substituted for and shall consist of three divers per team completing no more than two dives each. Each team must do one dive from each dive category for a total of six (6) dives.</u></p> <p>Rationale: This event would provide an additional type of opportunity for divers to compete during a meet and would provide additional representation of the sport of diving across the combined NCAA sport.</p>

Rule	Rules Change, Rationale
<p>6-3 2-j and 6-3-2-k Use of video review during diving events</p>	<p>To allow the use of video review to confirm the diver completed the proper dive.</p> <p>j. In the case of an error on the diving sheet, the official description of a dive shall be the international dive number and position letter. <u>The diving referee may use video review to confirm that the diver completed the proper dive.</u></p> <p>k. In the event that a submitted and checked diving sheet does not have the proper number of dives listed, a failed dive shall be assessed for each dive not listed. <u>The diving referee may use video review to confirm that the diver completed the proper dive.</u></p> <p>Rationale: Permitting the use of video review will ensure that the diver has completed the proper dive and expands the opportunity for the use of technology beyond what is currently permitted, which is only for swimming events.</p>
<p>6-4-1-d and 6-4-2-g Balk judge</p>	<p>Permit the use of video when a balk judge is not available on 10M platform to determine if a balk occurred during the Starting Position and Approach and Takeoff.</p> <p>Rationale: Permitting the use of video to assist in determining whether a balk occurred on 10M platform would align NCAA diving with other federations.</p>
<p>9-1 Bona fide competition – Collegiate only</p>	<p>Revise the standard for bona fide competition to clearly define competition criteria during a non-championship, non-NCAA Championship, or invitational meet.</p> <p>Bona Fide Competition Detailed administrative procedures, such as entry and qualifying procedures, for conducting NCAA championships are contained in the current NCAA Men’s and Women’s Swimming and Diving Pre-championships Manual.</p> <p>Section 1. Bona Fide Competition Time standards, consideration standards and optional-entry standards for swimming (individual and relay) events and diving events must be achieved in bona fide competition.</p>

Rule	Rules Change, Rationale
	<p>ARTICLE 1. Bona fide competition is defined as an event that conforms to all NCAA rules relevant to swimming and diving performances. They include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. All NCAA competitors must be eligible by NCAA standards; b. Competition is between two or more teams of the same gender at the same time and site, from different collegiate institutions; c. Meet officials must be qualified and/or certified; d. Meets must be in institutions' approved competition schedule; e. Meets must have published results; f. Meet is open to the public (spectators); <p>USA Swimming Meets are not allowed; however, select USA Swimming and USA Diving meets that are acceptable for achievement of time standards, consideration standards, and optional entry standards may be designated each year by the respective divisional NCAA Championship Committee.</p> <p>Non-collegiate athletes may not participate in collegiate meets in any form. Non-collegiate athletes may compete in exhibition events conducted outside of the meet program.</p> <p>Rationale: Defining bona fide competition as collegiate only competition provides a clear definition to the membership as to whether a time standard achieved in competition can be used for qualification to NCAA Championships.</p>