



MEMORANDUM

December 3, 2019

VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Head Coaches and Registered Officials.

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

SUBJECT: Rules Review.

The following information is intended to serve as a review of the pertinent playing rules and operational issues in order to provide a consistent standard of enforcement and compliance.

Lap Counting: A visual count of the lengths completed by each swimmer may be given above and/or below the water every two lengths in freestyle races 16 lengths or longer. If visual counters are utilized, the count must begin at the start of the race and may be given in ascending or descending order of lengths completed and/or lengths remaining until the end of the race. The final visual count, to be given when the swimmer has one length to complete, shall be of fluorescent orange color. The visual count may be supplemented with a verbal count. If visual counters are utilized, competitors must provide their own counting personnel, not to exceed one. Length counts shall not be given in relay races. (Rule 2-3-1)

Note: It is recommended that the lap counter change the visual counter as the competitor makes each turn at the starting end of the racing course.

Position: 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. Visual counters may only be presented below the water when utilized at the end of the pool, and not on the side of the pool. (Rule 2-3-2)

Suit Logos: One post-construction impermeable institutional marking or logo that does not exceed 9-square inches may be applied to the swimsuit. Additional or alternate logos (e.g., national flags, national team emblems) are not permitted. If a student-athlete competes in an illegal swimsuit, that student-athlete shall be disqualified from that event. In the event of a relay, the rule shall apply to the disqualification of the relay. (Rule 3-1-1-d)

Swimsuit Waivers: There have been two waivers granted this year by me (on behalf of the Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Rules Committee) for medical and religious exceptions to the swimsuit rule. These institutions have received a written copy of the waiver, with instructions to present it to the referee at each respective competition. If a coach presents one of these written waivers exempting the student-athlete from the conditions of the swimsuit rule, it must be honored. (Rule 3-1-1-d-6)

Permissible Use of Tape: The use of tape, kinesiology tape, and compression sleeves are

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permitted to treat a documented medical condition to allow a student-athlete to compete, but not gain an advantage over the remainder of the field. The referee must be presented with documentation from a designated health official before certifying the student-athlete eligible to compete with tape. If no documentation is presented, the student-athlete must remove the tape or be disqualified from the event. Tape and/or wrist guards may be used by divers to support the wrists in a preventative manner without documentation. (Rule 3-1-4)

The use of technology and automated data collection devices is permissible for the sole purpose of collecting data. Automated devices shall not be utilized during competition 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. (Rule 3-1-4)

Timing Priority: For a time to be considered for entry into an NCAA championship it must have been achieved using priority level one equipment (automatic equipment). If a malfunction is confirmed by the head judge, with priority level one equipment, then priority level two equipment (two-button semiautomatic equipment) is acceptable. If a malfunction is confirmed by the head judge with priority level two equipment, then priority level three equipment (two manual watches per lane) is acceptable. No other priority level is acceptable for NCAA championships time qualification. (Rule 4-21-2-c)

Mixing Genders: It is not permissible to mix genders in any individual or relay event, non-championships, championships and/or time trial heats. (Rule 5)

Please send any questions by email to me, Greg Lockard (greg@swimdiverules.com). We will continue to publish relevant questions and answers and communicate any clarifications to the membership.

The dates and locations for the 2020 NCAA Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving championships are as follows:

- Division II Men and Women – Geneva, Ohio (March 11-14, 2020)
- Division III Men and Women – Greensboro, North Carolina (March 18-21, 2020)
- Division I Women – Athens, Georgia (March 18-21, 2020)
- Division I Men – Indianapolis (March 25-28, 2020)

GL:bh

cc: NCAA Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Rules Committee
Selected NCAA Staff Members