



MEMORANDUM

February 6, 2019

VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Swimming and Diving Conference Commissioners, Head Coaches and Registered Officials.

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

SUBJECT: Pre-Championships 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.

- **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. Bona fide competition is defined as an event that conforms to all NCAA rules relevant to swimming and diving performances. They include 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, the meet official(s) must be qualified and/or certified. (Rule 9 of the 2017-18 and 2018-19 NCAA Swimming and Diving Rules Book)
- **Event Day Questions** – If there is a question during the respective championships, the meet referee shall be the singular point of contact to the secretary-rules editor. This policy is intended to prevent multiple contacts for a singular issue.
- **Meet Committee** – A meet committee shall be designated for each championship meet. This committee shall be responsible for the conduct of the meet and serves as the protest committee if such a situation should arise. An appeal before, during or immediately after a race should be resolved at the earliest opportunity, but not later than immediately following the current session; and the decision of the meet committee shall be final. (Rule 4-2)
- **Failure to Compete:** Failure to compete in a preliminary heat of a prelim/finals event is simply a disqualification and a charged event with no further penalty. Failure to compete in a timed final or in a final that had preliminary qualification remains a disqualification and prohibits further competition in the meet. (Rule 5-1-1a)

- **Medical Scratches** – All requests for a medical scratch must include a written certification from a physician or a certified athletic trainer. A written certified request must be made to enable a student-athlete to be reinstated to compete in the same competition. (Rule 5-1-1d)
- **Declared False Start vs. Scratching:** Scratching is when a swimmer is eliminated by the coach following normal scratch protocol, is relieved of the requirement to swim, and is not charged with an event swum. A declared false start is actually a disqualification and counts as an event contested for the student-athlete. Since a declared false start doesn't take place until the heat of the race occurs, a coach can rescind a declared false start without penalty. If a relay should take a declared false start, they **must** turn in an entry card listing four eligible athletes and they are all in turn charged with an event. (Rule 5-3-4)
- **Relay Entries/Changes:** If a relay event has preliminary qualification heats and finals, changes can be made in the relay line-up between preliminary and final heats (or between preliminary heats and swim-offs when applicable). If a relay event is a timed final, a student-athlete may swim on only one relay team even if they are swum with some heats in the morning and some in the afternoon, or even if some relays are non-scoring. A student-athlete can only compete on one relay – it is not permissible to swim on both an exhibition and a scoring relay in the same event. (Rule 5-7-1g)
- **Seeding vs. Reseeding:** A heat cannot be seeded with less than three swimmers in it. However, once a heat is seeded, if declared false starts cause the heat to go below three swimmers, the heat may be swum because the declared false starts are disqualifications and the rule only speaks to seeding with a minimum of three swimmers. Since a coach can rescind the declared false starts, under current rules you **DO NOT** reseed when the heat goes below three swimmers. (Rule 5-7-3d)
- **Use of Lanes for Finals:** Lane assignments must be done the same for all timed final events (i.e. distance events, relays). Lane assignments must be done the same for all final events that require a preliminary qualifying heat. 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. Therefore, if you are competing in a nine- or ten-lane pool, you could swim eight in the prelims/finals of those events and expand to nine or ten for the 1650-yard freestyle and relay timed finals. (Rule 5-7-4)
- **Appeals** – Must be submitted in writing within 15 minutes after the finish of the final heat of the event in question. Appeals may only be lodged for errors in the recording of data, scoring and nonjudgmental errors in application of rules. The use of video is not permitted during the appeal process. If the referee uses video to review relay judging platforms, his/her decision is a judgement call and cannot be appealed. The decision of a meet committee is final. (Rule 8-4-9)

- **Time Trials:** Each competitor or relay team is limited to one time-standard trial per event per meet. (Rule 9, Note 1)
- **National Collegiate Records** - National collegiate men's and women's records will be registered only when established by student-athletes who are members of a collegiate swimming team and who are representing their institutions in bona fide competition. The completed form should be returned within 14 days of the record performance along with the required supporting data to the NCAA Swimming and Diving Secretary-Rules Editor. (Appendix A-1-3 and Appendix A-2-1)
- **Bulkhead Measurement:** When bulkheads are used, the referee must verify the course measurement by laser before and after each day of competition. The host facility should provide the laser and conduct the measurement which is observed by the referee. If an NCAA record is set, the lane involved must be laser measured no later than the end of the session involved. Failure to properly measure bulkheads could nullify any performance recorded at the competition. (Appendix A-2-2)
- **End-Of-Season-Competitions** - Division I institutions choosing to participate in end-of-season swimming and diving competitions that are held within the last 10 days of the qualifying period, with the exception of conference championships, must ensure that the meet host completes the [2019 End of Season Meet Competition Form](#). The form must be submitted to the following NCAA staff member: Liz Homrig at lhomrig@ncaa.org; 317-917-6245 (men's) or Carol A. Reep at careep@ncaa.org; 317-917-6678 (women's) by no later than noon Central time Monday, March 4, 2019 for women and Monday, March 11, 2019 for men.

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

The dates and locations for the 2019 NCAA men's and women's swimming and diving championships are as follows:

- Division II Men and Women – Indianapolis (March 13-16, 2019)
- Division III Men and Women – Greensboro, North Carolina (March 20-23, 2019)
- Division I Women – Austin, Texas (March 20-23, 2019)
- Division I Men – Austin, Texas (March 27-30, 2019)

GL:bh

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