



MEMORANDUM

February 8, 2021

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: Rules Review and Clarifications.

As the winter season and the NCAA qualifying period is coming close to the end, 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.

Clarification – Backup Timing Requirements with Overhead Cameras:

Rule 4-21-2-c-2: 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 camera system as the primary backup system, and no other backup system is necessary.

Clarification: Backup timers are not required for championship meets if a fully integrated overhead camera system, that operates with 100 fps cameras, is being utilized. In addition, NCAA qualifying times may be achieved in competitions utilizing this timing protocol.

Social Distancing: In the event backup timers are not utilized as the second and third level of backup times (semi-automatic and watch times), and there is a malfunction with the automatic timing system and the overhead camera system, NCAA qualifying standards and or records may not be achieved for the respective swim(s). **Rule 4-16-2:** For an NCAA championship qualification standard, two human timers, each with a manual watch, are required if there is a malfunction with priority level one or two equipment.

Rule Reminders.

- **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:
 - o Meet is open to the public (spectators), waived for 2020-2021 season;
 - o Competition is between two or more teams of the same gender at the same time and site, from different collegiate institutions;
 - o All NCAA competitors must be eligible by NCAA standards;
 - o Meets must be in institutions' approved competition schedule;
 - o Meets must have published results; and
 - o Depending on the governing body, meet official(s) must be qualified and/or certified; OR

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- o 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 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.
- **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 Versus Scratching:** Scratching is when a swimmer is eliminated by the coach following normal scratch protocol and 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 does not 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 lineup 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 Versus Reseeding:** A heat cannot be seeded with less than three competitors in it. However, once a heat is seeded, if declared false starts cause the heat to go below three, the heat may be swum because the declared false starts are disqualifications and the rule only speaks to seeding with a minimum of three participants. Since a coach can rescind the declared false starts, under current rules you DO NOT reseed when the heat goes below three. (Rule 5-7-3d)
- **Appeal Procedure:** 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 or her decision is a judgement call and cannot be appealed. The decision of a meet committee is final. (Rule 8-4-3)

- **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 end of season meet competition form (<http://www.ncaa.org/championships/division-i-mens-and-womens-swimming-and-diving>) and submits to the following NCAA staff member: Michelle Perry at mperry@ncaa.org (men's); or John Bugner at jbugner@ncaa.org (women's), by no later than noon (Central time) Monday, March 1, 2021, for women and Monday, March 8, 2021, for men.

Rules Process.

The NCAA swimming and diving rules change process occurs every two years. The call for suggested discussion items for the NCAA Swimming and Diving Rules Committee annual meeting was distributed in January to the membership. A non-binding survey will be distributed to the entire NCAA membership, and the results will be discussed at the College Swimming Coaches Convention, followed by consideration for adoption by the Swimming and Diving Rules Committee in May 2021. Newly adopted rules will be included in the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 rules book that will be published in September 2021.

Please send any questions by email to me, Greg Lockard (greg@swimdiverules.com). Relevant questions and clarifications will be communicated to the membership.

The dates and locations for the 2021 NCAA Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Championships are as follows:

- Division II Men's and Women's – Birmingham, Alabama (March 17-20, 2021).
- Division I Women's – Greensboro, North Carolina (March 17-20, 2021).
- Division I Men's – Greensboro, North Carolina (March 24-27, 2021).
- Division III Men's and Women's – Federal Way, Washington – **CANCELED.**

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