



## MEMORANDUM

January 16, 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: 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.

**Crossing Occupied Lanes:** Rule 2-5-1-d references that one of the first three swimmers on a relay cannot cross an occupied lane to exit the pool or the relay team is disqualified. It may be beneficial to remind coaches (during the pre-meet meeting or reference in information sent) that this differs from FINA rules and could cause their teams to be disqualified.

**Seeding:** When eight lanes are available, all eight lanes should be used in seeding preliminary heats, finals and time standard trials. A full complement of entries shall be placed in all heats starting with the fastest heat. However, no *timed final or preliminary heat* may contain less than three competitors. So, with nine individuals and/or teams you would seed three in the first heat and six in the second heat. In an event with a prelim and final (8-lane pool); for finals, you would seed as they qualify one in the first heat and eight in the second heat. This same seeding pattern should be followed for time trials. (Rule 5-6-5)

**Suits and Logos:** The only responsibility that a meet referee has regarding logos is to ensure that there is no more than a single manufacturer's logo on a swimsuit and a single post-construction institutional logo (that does not exceed 9 square inches). The size of the manufacturer's logo is no longer a playing rules issue; and while potentially a bylaw issue, falls outside of the jurisdiction of meet officials. The meet officials have no jurisdiction over logos or markings on any other piece of apparel such as caps or warm-ups, etc. (Rule 3-1)

**Record Application:** The NCAA now recognizes records across all three divisions for non-national championships meets. The form can be downloaded from the NCAA website and completed and returned along with meet result for that event, timing tape from the heat involved, and a copy of the bulkhead laser measurements for that day and for the lane where the record was set. Materials need to be submitted within 14 days of the performance. If an American or US Open record is set outside of the NCAA national championships, application must be made to USA Swimming, . (Appendix A; Sections 2.1 and 2.2)

**Referee Jurisdiction:** The referee shall have final authority to overrule a call that he/she did not observe personally but was improperly recorded or reported to them. (Rule 4-6-1)

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**Disqualification Announcement:** Notification for a disqualification requires the referee to notify the swimmer/coach of a disqualification before the next heat proceeds. The referee shall inform the table of the disqualification and have the public address announcer announce the disqualification. (Rule 4-6-1e)

**EXCEPTION:** When video review is used for a championship meet relay event, notification can be delayed until such time of the video review, but the disqualification announcement procedures listed above must be observed at the conclusion of the video review. The meet committee has the ability in the interest of keeping a proper flow to the meet to delay video reviews until after the final heat of the relay.

**Turn Judges:** When not specifically instructed otherwise by the referee, jurisdiction for the Turn Judge for each turn, if positioned at the end of the pool at either end and having no more than two lanes of coverage responsibility, commences from the beginning of the last arm stroke before touching and ends with the completion of the first arm stroke after the turn; except in breaststroke where it shall be the second arm stroke. Jurisdiction for the Turn Judge at the finish, if positioned at the end of the pool, commences from the beginning of the last arm pull before finishing the race. (Rule 4-12)

**Relay Disqualification and Video Review: (Rule 4-14-7)**

- Video review may be used at championship or invitational competitions governed by a meet or games committee composed of representatives of multiple institutions to determine if the electronic judging equipment has failed. Prior to the beginning of the competition a decision should be made by the meet committee as to when video reviews will be conducted, and all participants should be informed (e.g., after each heat where review is needed or after the final heat of a multiple heat relay, etc.) All reviews must be conducted before qualifiers/results are announced. If video review is in place for the championships all disqualifications must be reviewed to evaluate whether the electronic system failed. The referee shall review the video to determine if there was a machine malfunction and clear video evidence exists to overturn the call. The referee has sole jurisdiction over the review and their decision is a judgement call not subject to further review or appeal. Only the referee and a conference or NCAA meet committee representative – with no participating institutional affiliation may view the video that is being used for review. Challenges by coaches are not permitted as part of this rule and coaches are not permitted to view the video being used at any time.
- **The result of the video review is merely to determine if the electronic judging equipment has failed. The video shall not be used to detect early takeoffs or any other rule infractions.**

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- When stationary overhead cameras recording 100 images per second and that are fully integrated into the primary electronic system are in place at a competition, it is permissible to use the system as the primary secondary backup system. If the referee and head timer determine a discrepancy between the primary electronic touchpad system and the back-up camera, they may use the camera's time to establish the correct time. (Rule 4-21-2-c-2)

Please send any questions by email to me, Greg Lockard ([greg@swindiverules.com](mailto:greg@swindiverules.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, IN (March 13-16, 2019)
- Division III Men and Women – Greensboro, NC (March 20-23, 2019)
- Division I Women – Austin, TX (March 20-23, 2019)
- Division I Men – Austin, TX (March 27-30, 2019)

GL:bh

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