



MEMORANDUM

January 17, 2020

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: The first three swimmers on a relay cannot cross an occupied lane to exit the pool or the relay team is disqualified. Swimmers should exit the pool directly at the end of their lane. Since this rule differs from FINA rules, it may be beneficial to remind coaches of this rule during the pre-meet meeting or in distributed meet information. (Rule 2-5-1-d)

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)

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 4-6-1-e)

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 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. (Rule 4-14-7)

15-Meter Video Review: If video review is in place for the championships, all 15-meter disqualifications must be reviewed to evaluate if the violation should be upheld. The referee shall review the video to determine if clear video evidence exists to overturn the call. The referee has sole jurisdiction over the review and their decision is a judgment 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. To use such equipment, the meet committee (in consultation with the meet referee) must confirm the video equipment is in place, before the respective event, and it must be aligned with a direct side view(s) of the 15-meter mark, and

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maintain a speed of at least 25 frames/second. The result of the video review is merely to determine if the infraction is confirmed. The video shall not be used to detect any other rule infractions. If conclusive video evidence exists that the swimmer did not cross the 15-meter mark, the referee may overturn the disqualification. Any obstruction to the view of the 15-meter mark is sufficient to void the video from evidence. (Rule 4-10)

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 replay 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 (i.e., after each heat where review is needed or after the final heat of a multiple heat relay). All reviews must be conducted before qualifiers/results are announced. If video replay 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.

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)

Exhibition Performances: An exhibition performance is one for time or score that is performed by a competitor who has been designated by his or her coach to be a non-scoring contestant in a regularly scheduled and scored event that is an accepted part of a bona fide non-NCAA

championship or non-championship meet. Exhibition competitors may be used only by mutual consent (unanimous consent) of the head coaches in dual meets, or if published in advance in the meet information for invitational meets and non-NCAA championship meets. In meets that include trials and finals, any competitor designated exhibition in trials may not become a scoring performer in the finals of that same event. NCAA conduct rules and NCAA-approved starting, judging and timing procedures must be applied to each exhibition performance. (Rule 5-5-1)

Seeding: Lane assignments must be done in the same fashion for all events as follows: Lane assignments must be done the same for all timed final events. Lane assignments must be done the same for all final events that require a preliminary qualifying heat. Preliminary heats may be contested in a greater number of lanes than final heats and the number of lanes must be consistent throughout the meet. 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. (Rule 5-7-4-b)

As a reminder, the Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Committee is currently accepting your rules change proposals to be considered for discussion at its annual meeting in May. Please use this [link](#) to record your proposal and rationale. This form must be fully completed in order for the proposal to be accepted. **All proposals must be received by February 10.**

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 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