



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING RULES COMMITTEE
MAY 21-22, 2019, ANNUAL MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative items. The NCAA Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Rules Committee approved the following rules change proposals for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 seasons. The committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) for the following items:

a. Lap counting (Rule 2-3-1).

- (1) Recommendation. Change the requirement to have a visual count of the lengths completed by each swimmer to permissible.
- (2) Effective date. Immediately.
- (3) Rationale. This allows the use of a lap counter to be optional instead of required. Doing so will help avoid situations where a meet is unnecessarily delayed waiting for a lap counter to be identified or an official disqualifying a swimmer whose lap counter is not on the lane prior to the start of the event.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Same as stated rationale.

b. Lap counters (Rule 2-3-2).

- (1) Recommendation. To allow lap counters to 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. Currently the rule states they must be at the end of the lane.
- (2) Effective date. Immediately.
- (3) Rationale. This allows flexibility in the placement of the visual counter and aligns with the current FINA rule.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Same as stated rationale.

c. Interference (Rule 2-5-1-a).

- (1) Recommendation. Add definition of a foul by adding the following to Article 1: "...by another swimmer, including interference by an outside entity, or due to facility equipment failure..."
- (2) Effective date. Immediately.
- (3) Rationale. To clarify what constitutes a foul.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

d. Number of Officials (Rule 4-1).

- (1) Recommendation. Change the number of recommended officials to required number of officials. For dual, double-dual, triangular and quadrangular meets, the required number would be two. For championship and invitational competition, the required number of officials would be four.
- (2) Effective date. The effective date for Division I is 2019-20 and the effective date for Divisions II and III is 2020-21..
- (3) Rationale. The current rule only recommends two, three or four, with no actual minimum for dual, double-dual, triangular and quadrangular meets. One official could technically be used and that is not adequate for enhancing the opportunity for the meet to be officiated appropriately. Similarly, a minimum of six officials is currently recommended for invitationals and championships, but there is no mandated minimum. No fewer than four should be utilized to help ensure the meet is officiated properly.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. Potential budget impact depending on the number of officials currently being utilized. The financial impact will depend on the number of meets hosted by the institution and the fee being paid to the official.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Same as stated rationale.

e. Fifteen-meter cameras (Rule 4-10).

- (1) Recommendation. To allow the use of 15-meter cameras. This would allow for video review to determine if an official's call of a 15-meter violation is accurate.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. Fifteen-meter video cameras are used at major USA Swimming meets, with positive results, and this rule allows the use of this technology. This rule would make the use of video at the 15-meter mark permissible, but not mandatory.

(4) Estimated budget impact. Since this rules change is not required, the only budget impact would be if an institution elected to purchase additional equipment.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

f. Video review (Rule 4-14-7).

(1) Recommendation. This rule allows for video review to occur after the completion of both the women's and men's relays, instead of after each gender's relay.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. To help maintain the flow of the meet.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

g. Integration of official results (Rule 4-21-4).

(1) Recommendation. Change the process for determining an official time for a lane when there is a malfunction of the primary (automatic) timing system. When the referee confirms that there is a malfunction of the primary (automatic) timing system, the backup time(s) shall be calculated and integrated with the accurate primary times to determine the official times and order of finish. When a malfunction is confirmed on a lane, the backup times for that lane shall be calculated as follows:

1. If two of the three valid button or watch times agree, that shall be the time for that timing system.
2. If three valid button or watch times disagree, the time of the intermediate button or watch shall be the time for that timing system.
3. If only two valid button or watch times are available, the time shall be the average of those two buttons or the average of the two watch times. The digits representing thousandths of a second shall be dropped with no rounding.

4. If only one valid button or watch time is available, the time of that button or watch shall be the time for that timing system, provided it is supported by other information.
- (2) Effective date. Immediately.
- (3) Rationale. FINA, USA Swimming and NFHS have dropped the adjustment for a lane malfunction and adopted the recommended process, thereby simplifying the process.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

h. Lane assignments (Rule 5-7-4-b).

- (1) Recommendation. Change current rule to allow preliminary heats to be contested in a greater number of lanes than final heats.
- (2) Effective date. Immediately.
- (3) Rationale. To provide a better experience for student-athletes, coaches and spectators by reducing the amount of time to complete the event. This would allow for more flexibility in managing the meet when there is a large number of participants.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

i. Diving Ties – Championships (Rule 6-2-3).

- (1) Recommendation. Add the following tie-break rule:

In the event of a tie in non-NCAA and NCAA Championship meets for 8th place in the prelims of diving 1-meter, 3-meter or platform events, the tie-breaking method is to take all nine (9) divers to the final. The consolation finals will thus have seven (7) competitors in the event, none finishing higher than 10th place in the final standings. In the final, the nine competitors will do a six-dive list. The highest-place finisher of the tied divers will remain in the place they finished, while the other diver will place 9th.

In the event of a tie in non-NCAA and NCAA Championship meets for 16th place in the prelims of the diving 1-meter, 3-meter or platform events, the tiebreaking method

is to take all nine (9) divers to the consolation final. In the consolation final the nine competitors will do a six-dive list. The highest place finisher of the tied divers will remain in the place they finished, while the other diver will place 17th overall in the contest and not awarded any team points.

- (2) Note: If there are more than two divers tied for 8th or 16th, all tied dives will move into the appropriate final.
- (3) Effective date. Immediately.
- (4) Rationale. There is currently no rule in the book for ties in championship meets, although the recommended method is currently utilized in some instances, and this would formalize the rule.
- (5) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (6) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome, introductions and announcements.** The chair welcomed the committee members and guests and thanked them for their time. All attendees introduced themselves and provided a brief overview of their background.
2. **Review schedule, agenda and committee operations manual.** The committee reviewed the meeting schedule, agenda and the committee operations manual. The committee operations manual included the NCAA conflict of interest policy, guidance for committee members regarding meeting reports, notes and email, voting procedures, principles for rules writing, and experimental playing rules guidelines.
3. **Approval of report from April 15, 2019, teleconference.** The committee reviewed and approved the report from the April 15, 2019, teleconference, as written.
4. **Playing Rules Oversight Panel report.** The committee reviewed the report from PROP's annual meeting in January. Topics of interest included a reminder on the PROP directive from 2014 that encouraged committees to strongly consider providing at least a one-year delay before implementing any rules changes with financial or facility implications, the agreement that the respective PROP liaison will attend a portion of the rules committee's annual meeting, receive pertinent correspondence during the year, and participate in the teleconference when the comment period results are reviewed. The PROP liaison for swimming and diving attended the meeting.

- 5. NCAA Injury Surveillance Program data and report.** The committee reviewed swimming and diving injury data provided by the Datalys Center for Sports Injury Research and Prevention. The committee requested specific data on head and face injuries for 2019-20 and information regarding the number of trainers designated for swimming and diving.
- 6. Communications to the membership and officials.** The committee discussed the effectiveness of newsletters to communicate to coaches, officials and conference commissioners. The committee agreed that this new method provided consistent communication in a timely manner and provided a resource to reference. The content was relevant, and a few suggested additions were given.
- 7. Secretary-rules editor report.** The committee heard a report from the secretary-rules editor which included a review of the types of clarifications and questions addressed in 2018-19. He also provided the committee feedback from his attendance at several conference championships and national championships.
- 8. Review of 2018-19 rules survey results.** The committee reviewed the 2018-19 rules survey in conjunction with the rules proposals discussion.
- 9. Diving/Facility Standards.** The committee reviewed the standards that are currently in the rules book for diving facilities and compared them to the rules currently in place for FINA and US Diving. The committee noted there are notable differences in some of the standards that are likely be due to conversion errors. The secretary-rules editor will contact FINA and US Diving to confirm standards and editorial adjustments will be made where necessary.
- 10. Rules proposals and discussion items.** The committee reviewed and considered multiple rules proposals. The committee approved nine major rules changes for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 swimming and diving seasons, as noted above in the Action Items section. The major rules changes included making lap counters optional instead of required and allowing the counters to be placed along the side of the pool, making 15-meter cameras permissible, defining what constitutes interference with a swimmer, requiring a minimum of two officials for all dual, double-dual, triangular and quadrangular meets and a minimum of four officials for all invitationals and championships. The committee also approved rules changes that would designate a diving tie-break process and a new process for determining an official time for a lane when there is a malfunction of the primary (automatic) timing system.
- 11. Future annual meeting, teleconference, call for proposals and survey dates.** The committee agreed to conduct a teleconference Thursday, June 20, to discuss the comment period results.
- 12. Selection of chair.** The committee re-elected Dan Gelderloss, Calvin College, as chair for the 2019-20 academic year.

13. Other business. The committee had no other business.

Committee Chair: Dan Gelderloos, Calvin College, Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association

Staff Liaison: Barb Hallam, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Rules Committee May 21-22, 2019, Annual Meeting	
Attendees:	
Dan Gelderloos, Calvin College.	
Matt Gianiodis, Michigan State University.	
James Graves, King University.	
Greg Lockard, Secretary-Rules Editor.	
Chuck LoCurto, Bryant University.	
Lindsie Micko, Augustana University (South Dakota).	
Joe Nicastro, Providence College.	
Peter Solomon, Wesleyan University (Connecticut).	
Mary Ellen Wydan, La Salle University.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Dave Roach, Fordham University.	
Erin Wasserman, Datalys Center for Sports Injury Research and Prevention.	
NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:	
Barb Hallam.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Dan Calandro, LaGwyn Durden and Greg Johnson.	