



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA SWIMMING AND DIVING RULES COMMITTEE
MAY 10, 2021 ANNUAL MEETING VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative items. The NCAA Swimming and Diving Rules Committee approved the following rules change proposals for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 seasons. The committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) for the following items:

a. Rule 1.6 – Pool markings.

- (1) **Recommendation.** To standardize the size and distance of pool lines on the bottom of new facilities to match USA Swimming and FINA rules. Specifically, the “T” will be marked at 2 meters (6’7”) from the end wall.
- (2) **Effective date.** Immediately for newly constructed or facilities renovated after September 1, 2021.
- (3) **Rationale.** For new facilities to have standard markings consistent with the USA Swimming technical rules officials use to officiate competition.
- (4) **Estimated budget impact.** Minimal. The cost of pool markings would be included in the cost of new facility construction. Because this proposal is not a required change for existing facilities, additional research on the cost of the change was not conducted.
- (5) **Student-athlete impact.** Minimal.

b. Rule 3.4 – Artificial aids.

- (1) **Recommendation.** To permit the use of kinesiology tape for divers during competition.
- (2) **Effective date.** Immediately.
- (3) **Rationale.** To ease the current restriction on common practice for divers that is currently permitted in USA Diving and FINA competition.
- (4) **Estimated budget impact.** Minimal.

(5) Student-athlete impact. Minimal.

c. Rule 4.1 – Minimum number of officials.

(1) Recommendation. To clarify that it is the host institution or conference meet committee's responsibility to ensure compliance for the minimum number of officials have been contracted for each meet. However, a meet may be conducted with less than the minimum number of officials in the event of unforeseen circumstances, if mutual consent among the competing institutions.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. To allow relief in the event the number of officials falls below the minimum required number of officials due to unforeseen circumstances.

(4) Estimated budget impact. Minimal.

(5) Student-athlete impact. Minimal.

d. Rule 6.3.4.b – Diving practice.

(1) Recommendation. To remove the words "at least" from the number of practice attempts before the start of the diving competition. The divers shall be allowed ~~at least~~ one practice forward approach or one back takeoff approach before the start of the diving competition.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. To create consistent warm-up opportunities for all individual events, both swimming and diving, during the competition.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. Minimal.

e. Rule 9 – Bona fide competition.

(1) Recommendation. To clarify the criteria referring to USA Swimming and USA Diving meets that satisfy the definition of bona fide competition. The criteria for bona fide competition would read as follows:

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Original language:

- 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 FINA Short Course World Championships, provided the student-athlete who is representing his/her national team is currently an eligible student-athlete at his/her institution at the time of this event.

Proposed language:

- Competition is between two or more teams of the same gender at the same time and site, from different collegiate institutions;
- 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.

Select USA Swimming and Diving Meets which are acceptable for achievement of time standards, consideration standards and optional-entry standards, may be designated each year by the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championship Committee.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. This proposal is intended to clarify that participation in any of the designated USA Swimming and USA Diving meets is done so when the meet is on the institution's competition schedule and student-athletes are competing representing the institution, not competing independently to achieve a qualifying time or standard.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Opening remarks and review of agenda and meeting schedule.** Committee chair, Lindsie Micko welcomed the committee and expressed appreciation for the committee members service during this challenging year. Staff reviewed the Committee Operations manual and annual meeting agenda.
2. **Approval of February 9, 2021 videoconference report.** The committee reviewed and approved the February 9, 2021 videoconference meeting report as written.

3. **Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) update.** The committee heard a report from the swimming and diving PROP liaison, Valerie Cleary, and from staff regarding the directive to rules committees to understand the financial impact of playing rules proposals.
4. **Report from the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).** The committee heard a report from the NFHS swimming and diving rules committee liaison. The report included a summary of rules actions taken by the NFHS committee, including the elimination of requiring a waiver request for swimsuit modifications based on religious reasons.
5. **Report of the NCAA Injury Surveillance Program.** The committee reviewed the report provided from the Datalys Center for the NCAA Injury Surveillance program. The committee is interested to see a comparison with the 2020-21 data due to the impact of COVID-19 on the overall training of student-athletes this academic year. The committee requested more defined breakdown between swimming injuries and diving injuries. Due to the impact with the water in diving events, particularly platform diving practice and events, the committee believes separate reporting for swimming and diving injuries would be appropriate for the purpose of this report to the committee.
6. **Secretary-Rules Editor report.** The committee heard a report from the secretary-rules editor. The report included a review of the rules newsletters and communication provided to the membership and a review of the rules related questions received throughout the year. The report also included a review of all COVID-19 related waivers that were approved for 2020-21. The committee discussed the potential of extending these waivers outside of the normal rules process to maintain that these are intended only to provide relief when necessary due to the pandemic.
7. **Review of 2021 rules survey.** The committee review the results of the 2021 rules surveys in conjunction with rules proposal discussion. Of note, 68 percent of head coaches supported a proposal standardizing the “T” pool marking to 2 meters, while 85 percent of head coaches opposed a proposal permitting athletes to compete in an unlimited number of events during a dual, double-dual, triangular or quadrangular meet.
8. **Review of proposed rules proposals.** The committee reviewed the proposed rules changes and recommended five changes for approval by the Playing Rules Oversight Panel (see Action Items 2.a – 2.e). The proposals include changing the location for required pool markings for new facilities, permitting divers to use kinesiology tape during competition and limiting divers to one practice attempt prior to the start of the diving competition when competition is occurring in a shared water facility. The committee discussed the impact of potential unforeseen circumstances and the minimum number of required officials. The committee recommended changes to the current rule to allow, for unforeseen circumstances, mutual agreement to use less than the minimum number of officials for a particular meet format. The

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committee also recommended revisions to Rule 9, bona fide competition to clarify the criteria referring to USA Swimming and USA Diving meets that satisfy the definition of bona fide competition.

9. Election of chair. The committee selected Jessen Book, Kenyon College, to serve as chair for the 2021-22 academic year.

10. Future teleconference and meeting dates. The committee will meet via videoconference, if necessary, Tuesday, June 15 to review the comment period results.

Committee Chair: *Lindsie Micko, Augustana University (South Dakota).*

Staff Liaison(s): *Ben Brownlee, Championships and Alliances*

Swimming and Diving Rules Subcommittee May 10, 2021, Annual Meeting Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Matthew Barany, University of Richmond.	
Jessen Book, Kenyon College.	
Mariah Chappel, Southern Methodist University.	
Dave Gayer, Louisiana State University.	
James Graves, King University.	
Hongping Li, University of Southern California.	
Greg Lockard, secretary-rules editor.	
Lindsie Micko, Augustana University (South Dakota).	
Tammy Swearingen, Westminster College (Pennsylvania).	
Guests in Attendance:	
Valerie Cleary, Portland State University, Playing Rules Oversight Panel.	
Sandy Searcy, National Federation of State High School Associations.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Ben Brownlee.	