MEMORANDUM

October 26, 2021

VIA EMAIL

TO: Men’s and Women’s Swimming and Diving Conference Commissioners and Head Coaches

FROM: Greg Lockard, Secretary Rules Editor, NCAA Men’s and Women’s Swimming and Diving Rules Committee

SUBJECT: NCAA Men’s and Women’s Swimming and Diving Rules Review

NCAA Rules Process:

- Waiver Requests – Institutions requesting a waiver of the NCAA Swimming and Diving playing rules must submit the request in writing to the NCAA Secretary-Rules Editor, Greg Lockard (greg@swimdiverrules.com). Waiver requests must include the name(s) of the student-athlete, rationale for requesting a waiver of the specific playing rule and any other pertinent documentation (e.g. medical documentation), if necessary.

- The NCAA Swimming and Diving Rules change process occurs every two years, and began in January 2021, with a call for suggested items for consideration. A non-binding survey was distributed to the entire NCAA membership, and the results were discussed at the College Swimming Coaches Convention, followed by consideration for adoption by the Swimming and Diving Rules Committee, in May. The newly adopted rules were included in the 2021-2022, 2022-2023 rule book that was released on September 1, 2021.

- The current rules book is available to be downloaded or purchased from NCAA publications (www.ncaapublications.com).

NCAA Officials Program:

- All officials that wish to be NCAA registered officials are required to take the new test, which updated and released on September 1, 2021

- Most conferences mandate the use of NCAA registered officials, and only registered officials can be selected to officiate at the NCAA Championships, in the three divisions.

Rule Changes:

1. 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 2 meters (6’7” from the end wall, not 5’). (Rule 1-3-6)

2. Permit the use of kinesiology tape for divers during competition. (Rule 3-1-4)

3. In non-championship meets, divers will be allowed one practice forward approach or one back takeoff approach before the start of the diving competition. (Rule 6-3-4-b)
Rule Reminders:

Kinesiology Tape (Rule 3-1-4)

The use of tape, kinesiology tape, and compression sleeves are permitted to treat a documented medical condition to allow swimmers to compete. Requests for use must be submitted to the Secretary Rules Editor, with a letter and documentation from a designated health official. Upon approval, the referee must be presented with documentation before each subsequent meet.

Alternatively, divers are permitted to compete with tape, kinesiology tape and/or wrist guards without medical documentation.

Bona Fide Competition (Rule 9)

Select USA Swimming and USA 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.

The meets which may be selected include USA Swimming National Championships, FINA Short Course World Championships and USA Swimming Pro Series meets. No other USA Swimming meets may be utilized for NCAA achievement of NCAA qualification standards.

COVID-19 Waivers for 2021-2022 Season:

1. When electronic judging equipment is being used in championship meets, in conjunction with stationary overhead cameras recording 100 images per second and that are fully integrated into the primary electronic timing system, relay takeoff judges are not required. (Rule 4.14.6.a)

2. Eliminate the use of human timers from all individual and relay events when overhead cameras are in place that measure 100 images per second. (Rule 4.16.1.)

3. Waive the prohibition on intentionally leaving a lane open between competing teams during relay events only. Current rule: "Note: When seeding the swimmers, intentionally leaving empty lanes between them is not permitted." (Rule 5.7)

4. Waive the bona fide competition requirement that the meet be open to the public. Current rule: "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: Meet is open to the public (spectators). (Rule 9)
2022 NCAA Championships:

- Division II Men and Women – Greensboro, NC (March 9-12, 2022)
- Division III Men and Women – Indianapolis, IN (March 16-19, 2022)
- Division I Women – Atlanta, GA (March 16-19, 2022)
- Division I Men – Atlanta, GA (March 23-26, 2022)

I look forward to working closely with the membership to continue to improve and elevate the sport of swimming and diving. Throughout the year, if you have questions or need to request an interpretation, please contact me via email at greg@swimdiverules.com or by phone at 973-486-5501.

Greg Lockard, Secretary-Rules Editor
NCAA Swimming & Diving Rules Committee
(973) 486-5501
greg@swimdiverules.com

cc: NCAA Swimming and Diving Rule Committee
Selected NCAA staff