



MEMORANDUM

September 18, 2019

TO: Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Conference Commissioners, Head Coaches, and registered officials.

FROM: Greg Lockard, Secretary-Rules Editor,
NCAA Swimming and Diving Rules Committee.

SUBJECT: Playing Rules Update.

The NCAA publishes a rules book every two years, and the current rules book took effect September 1, 2019, following the recent rules change process.

Listed below are several key rules and highlights from the new rules book. In addition, you may click [here](#) to view the rules interpretations that have been issued to date for 2019-20. We will continue to include issued rules interpretations in future newsletters.

Rule 2-3-1: Counting - A visual count of the lengths completed by each swimmer may be given above and/or below the water every two lengths in freestyle races 16 lengths or longer. If visual counters are utilized, the count must begin at the start of the race and may be given in ascending or descending order of lengths completed and/or lengths remaining until the end of the race. The final visual count, to be given when the swimmer has one length to complete, shall be of fluorescent orange color. The visual count may be supplemented with a verbal count. If visual counters are utilized, competitors must provide their own counting personnel, not to exceed one. Length counts shall not be given in relay races.

Note: It is recommended that the lap counter change the visual counter as the competitor makes each turn at the starting end of the racing course.

Rule 2-3-1: Position - If visual counters are used, they may 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. Counters may only be presented below the water, when utilized at the end of the pool, and not on the side of the pool.

Rule 2-5-1: Interference - Any competitor who interferes with another swimmer during a race shall be disqualified from that race, subject to the discretion of the referee. If a swimmer is fouled by another swimmer, including interference by an outside entity, or due to facility equipment failure during a preliminary heat of an event, the referee may allow that swimmer to repeat the race at a time not later than 30 minutes after the last heat of the last event in which the swimmer is competing during that session of the meet.

Rule 3-2-4: Data Collection Devices - The use of technology and automated data collection devices is permissible for the sole purpose of collecting data. Automated devices shall not be

N a t i o n a l C o l l e g i a t e A t h l e t i c A s s o c i a t i o n

Creating a pathway to opportunity for college athletes

The NCAA is an equal opportunity employer that values inclusive excellence in the workplace.

utilized to transmit data, sounds, or signals to the athlete and may not be utilized to effect pace or tempo. The device(s) may be worn in any fashion, including on the wrist.

Rule 4-1: Number of Officials - For each meet, there shall be a sufficient number of officials to properly conduct the meet. For dual, double-dual, triangular and quadrangular meet competition, a minimum of two (2) officials must be used; however, the use of three (3) or four (4) officials is recommended to properly observe all competitors equally and enforce the playing rules. For championship and invitational competition, a minimum of four (4) officials must be used; however, the use of six (6) officials is recommended to properly observe all competitors equally and enforce the playing rules.

Rule 4-10: 15-Meter Video Review - To determine if an official's call of a 15-meter violation is accurate, video review may be utilized at championship or invitational competitions, governed by a meet or games committee composed of representatives of multiple institutions. 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 event). 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 if the 15-meter 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 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 4-21-4: Integration of Times - 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.

Rule 5-7-4b: Seeding Preliminary Heats - 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.

Rule 6-2-3: Diving Championship Ties - In non-NCAA and NCAA championship meets, in the event of a tie for 8th place in the prelims of diving one-meter, three-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 non-NCAA and NCAA championship meets in the event of a tie for 16th place in the prelims of the diving one-meter, three-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 be awarded any team points. *Note: If there are more than two divers tied for 8th or 16th, all tied divers will move into the appropriate final.*

2020 NCAA Championships:

- 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)

I look forward to working with you throughout the upcoming season. If you have any questions, or need to request an interpretation, please contact me via email at greg@swimdiverules.com or by phone at 973-486-5501.

GLL:bh

cc: NCAA Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Rules Committee
Select NCAA staff members