



RULE CONSIDERATION GUIDELINES

Adopted or Amended	By Whom	Date
Adopted	Board of Directors	29 th May 2012
Amended	Executive Committee	24 th May 2024

SNSW Rule Consideration Guidelines

Aim

The SNSW Rule Consideration Guidelines provide an outline for Swimming NSW technical officials what rule considerations are and how these can be applied at swim meets.

The objectives of all swimming clubs are to promote and encourage the sport of swimming. When considering the number of competing junior sports in NSW, it is crucial to the future of the sport that policies/guidelines are developed to retain and grow our participants.

These Guidelines help create an environment which fosters a positive and constructive approach and ensures that the younger swimmers are encouraged at every step with guidance and constructive developmental feedback. Where a young swimmer is disqualified at an early stage of development, it may ultimately discourage them from continuing in the sport.

Although the rules of swimming are applicable to all levels of competition, rule considerations allow for a less stringent application of the rules (i.e. fewer disqualifications). The Rule Consideration Guidelines will provide guidance for referees regarding disqualification of developing or novice swimmers.

Implementation

At all development events, SNSW referees will make every effort to avoid disqualifying swimmers 8 year olds and under, or novice swimmers by applying rule considerations to the swimming rules. This may also occur at qualifying meets if the host Club or Area has designated certain events where Rule Considerations apply.

Swimmers who participate in events where rule considerations apply may be given a Swimming Stroke Correction Form, when they infringe the rules of swimming. This form outlines what the Referee or other authorised Officials observed of the swimmers actions that under normal circumstances may have resulted in disqualification. This enables coaches to specifically address stroke correction for the swimmer.

The Swimming Stroke Correction Form should be completed and given to the swimmer at the conclusion of the race. Where multiple corrections could be applied, only one (1) correction should be noted. The referee or judge of strokes who observed the infringement should wait until the swimmer has left the water to do this. The official should speak to the swimmer in a friendly, helpful and non-intimidating manner. Please also offer words of encouragement.

SNSW Referees must be consistent in the application of rules considerations throughout the competition.

Times recorded where Rule Considerations are applied cannot be used to qualify for meets conducted by Swimming NSW, Championship Meets run by the Area or for the Australian Junior Excellence Program. Times may be used for qualifying purposes only if the Referee deems the stroke to be correct.

The host Club/Area should decide whether awards/medals will be given for events where Rules Considerations apply, and if medals are to be given, how the result for the event will be determined.

The host Club may choose to provide a development meet where rule considerations apply to older swimmers. The Swimming NSW Competition Strategy Policy provides a guideline for Development Meets. It specifies the recommended event and age group matrix. Using this guideline the host Club/Area will determine the events to be provided within the meet program. The host Club/Area should identify the specific events where rules consideration will be applied. For example, 25m events for all strokes. This same program could offer 50m events for 9 years and 10 years applying full rules to allow more capable junior swimmers to achieve qualifying times. It is recommended that when meet programs are advertised that the program identifies the specific events where rule considerations will apply.

Swimming Stroke Correction Forms are available from Swimming NSW.

Conclusion

Implementation of the Rules Consideration Guidelines will ensure the provision of quality sport experiences for young people and will continue to encourage the development of young swimmers.