



**SWIMMING AUSTRALIA
SWIMMING RULES**

2019

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Swimming Rules

These swimming rules shall apply in all events conducted by Swimming Australia including Australian championships, international competitions in Australia and Australian inter-state meets conducted by affiliated associations.

NOTE: The alpha notation after a SW rule number indicates a modification to a FINA rule or the addition of an applicable Swimming Australia rule.

NOTE: The MC rule number indicates the addition of an applicable World Para Swimming (WPS) rule or the addition of or modification to an applicable Swimming Australia rule relating to Multi Class (MC) competition for classified with an impairment. Applicable WPS rules are referenced with the corresponding WPS rule number according to the World Para Technical Swimming Rules and Regulations.

Commented [L&R1]: Updated references to relevant organisations and regulations

SW 1 Management of Competitions

SW 1.1A The management committee consisting of a representative of Swimming Australia and the Technical Manager appointed by Swimming Australia, shall have jurisdiction over all matters not assigned by the rules to the Referee, Judges or other officials and shall have power to postpone events and give directions consistent with the rules adopted for conducting any event.

SW 1.1.1A The Technical Manager shall be appointed by the controlling body and be responsible for the conduct of all technical aspects of the meet. The Technical Manager shall ensure the decisions of the controlling body, which do not come within the jurisdiction of the Referee, are carried out and performed.

SW 1.2.A At all swimming events conducted by Swimming Australia where video timing is used, Swimming Australia shall appoint the following number of Technical Officials for the control of the competition:

Commented [L&R2]: Revised number of Technical Officers for events "where video timing is used"

Referee	2
Control-room Supervisor	1
Judges of Stroke	4
Starter	2
Chief Inspector of Turns	2
(One at each end of the pool)	
Inspector of Turns – per lane.....	2
(One at each end of each lane)	
Recorder	1 or as required
Clerk of Course	4
Check Starter	4
Operator – Automatic Officiating Equipment.....	1
Operator – computer	1
Operator – video timing	1
Reserve Technical Officials.....	6 or as required
Announcer.....	1

SW 1.2.1A At all swimming events conducted by Swimming Australia where Automatic Officiating Equipment is used without video timing, Swimming Australia shall appoint the following number of Technical Officials for the control of the competition:

Commented [L&R3]: Revised number of Technical Officers for all other events

Referee	2
Control-room Supervisor	1
Judge of Stroke	4
Starter	2
Chief Inspector of Turns	2
(One at each end of the pool)	
Inspector of Turns – per lane.....	2
(One at each end of each lane)	
Recorder	1 or as required
Chief Timekeeper	1
Timekeeper – per lane	3
Chief Finish Judge (if required)	1
Finish Judges (if required)	3
Clerk of Course	4
Check Starter	4
Operator – Automatic Officiating Equipment.....	1
Operator – Semi-Automatic Timing	1
Operator – computer.....	1
Reserve Technical Officials.....	6 or as required
Announcer.....	1

SW 1.2.2A For meets conducted by affiliated associations the same or fewer number of Technical Officials may be appointed, subject to the approval of the respective association authorities, where appropriate.

SW 1.2.3A Where Automatic and Semi-Automatic Officiating Equipment is not available such equipment must be replaced by a Chief Timekeeper and three Timekeepers per lane.

SW 1.2.4A A Chief Finish Judge and Finish Judges may be used when automatic equipment and/or digital watches are not used.

SW1.3A The swimming pool and the technical equipment for all swimming events conducted by Swimming Australia shall be inspected and approved in due course prior to the swimming competitions by the Technical Manager.

SW1.4 Where underwater video equipment is used by television, the equipment must be operated by remote control and shall not obstruct the vision or path of swimmers and must not change the configuration of the pool or obscure the required FINA markings.

SW 2 Officials

SW 2.1 Referee

SW 2.1.1A The Referee shall have full control and authority over all officials, approve their assignments and instruct them regarding all special features or regulations related to the competition. The Referee shall enforce all rules and decisions of FINA, WPS and Swimming Australia, and shall decide all questions relating to the actual conduct of the meet, the event or the competition, the final settlement of which is not otherwise covered by the rules.

SW 2.1.2A The Referee may intervene in the competition at any stage to ensure that the FINA, WPS and Swimming Australia regulations are observed and shall adjudicate all protests related to the competition in progress.

SW 2.1.3 When using Finish Judges without three digital watches, the Referee shall determine placing where necessary. Automatic Officiating Equipment, if available and operating, shall be consulted as stated in SW 13.

Commented [L&R4]: - Now references all swimming events conducted by Swimming Australia (previously just Olympic Games and World championships)
- inspection now done by a Technical Manager without a FINA Delegate

SW 2.1.4 The Referee shall ensure that all necessary officials are in their respective posts for the conduct of the competition. The Referee may appoint substitutes for any who are absent, incapable of acting or found to be inefficient. The Referee may appoint additional officials if considered necessary.

SW 2.1.5 At the commencement of each event, the Referee shall signal to the swimmers by a short series of whistles inviting them to remove all clothing except for swimwear, followed by a long whistle indicating that they should take their positions on the starting platform (or for backstroke swimming and medley relays to immediately enter the water). A second, long whistle shall bring the backstroke and medley relay swimmer immediately to the starting position. When the swimmers and officials are prepared for the start, the Referee shall gesture to the Starter with a stretched out arm, indicating that the swimmers are under the Starter's control. The stretched out arm shall stay in that position until the start is given.

SW 2.1.6 A disqualification for starting before the starting signal must be observed and confirmed by both the Starter and the Referee.

SW 2.1.7 The Referee shall disqualify any swimmer for any violation of the rules that the Referee personally observes. The Referee may also disqualify any swimmer for any violation reported to them by other authorised officials. All disqualifications are subject to the decision of the Referee.

SW 2.1.8A The Referee shall have the authority to commence a race prior to the swimmers in the previous race leaving the water.

MC 2.1.9 At the completion of each race, the Referee shall signal to the athletes by way of two short whistle blasts that they are required to clear the water. **(WPS 11.8.12)**

Commented [L&R5]: New rule

MC 2.1.10A The Referee is responsible for obtaining and implementing the rule exceptions for athletes with an impairment competing in the competition.

Commented [L&R6]: New rule

SW 2.2 Control Room Supervisor

SW 2.2.1 The supervisor shall supervise the automatic timing operation including the review of video timing.

SW 2.2.2 The supervisor is responsible for checking the results from computer printouts.

SW 2.2.3 The supervisor is responsible for checking the relay exchange printout and reporting any early take-offs to the Referee.

SW 2.2.4 The supervisor may review the video timing to confirm early take-off.

SW 2.2.5 The supervisor shall control withdrawals after the heats or finals, enter results on official forms, list all new records established, and maintain scores where appropriate.

SW 2.3 Starter

SW 2.3.1 The Starter shall have full control of the swimmers from the time the Referee turns the swimmers over to the Starter (SW 2.1.5) until the race has commenced. The start shall be given in accordance with SW 4.

SW 2.3.2 The Starter shall report a swimmer to the Referee for delaying the start, for wilfully disobeying an order or for any other misconduct taking place at the start, but only the Referee may disqualify a swimmer for such delay, wilful disobedience or misconduct.

Commented [L&R7]: The previous rule stated that "such disqualification shall not be counted as a false start".

SW 2.3.3 The Starter shall have power to decide whether the start is fair, subject only to the decision of the Referee.

SW 2.3.4 When starting an event, the Starter shall stand on the side of the pool within approximately 5m of the starting edge of the pool where the Timekeepers can see and or hear the starting signal and the swimmers can hear the signal.

SW 2.4 Clerk of Course

SW 2.4.1 The Clerk of Course shall assemble swimmers prior to the event.

SW 2.4.2 The Clerk of Course shall report to the Referee any violation noted in regard to advertising (GR 6) and if a swimmer is not present when called.

SW 2.5 Chief Inspector of Turns

SW 2.5.1 The Chief Inspector of Turns shall ensure that Inspectors of Turns fulfil their duties during the competition.

MC 2.5.2 The Chief Inspector of Turns shall ensure that Inspectors of Turns fulfil their duties during the event and shall observe the starts, turns and finishes to assist the Inspectors of Turns. (WPS 10.2.6.1)

MC 2.5.3 The Chief Inspector of Turns shall report any breach of these Competition Rules to the Referee on a disqualification (DSQ) form that details the event, lane number, and the alleged infraction. (WPS 10.2.6.2)

SW 2.6 Inspector of Turns

SW 2.6.1 One Inspector of Turns shall be assigned to each lane at each end of the pool, to ensure swimmers comply with the relevant rules after the start, for each turn, and at the finish.

SW 2.6.2 Jurisdiction for the Inspector of Turns at the start end commences from the start signal until the completion of the first arm stroke, except in Breaststroke where it shall be the second arm stroke.

SW 2.6.3 For each turn, jurisdiction for the Inspector of Turns commences from the beginning of the last arm stroke before touching and ending with the completion of the first arm stroke after the turn, except in Breaststroke where it shall be the second arm stroke.

SW 2.6.4 Jurisdiction for the Inspector of Turns at the finish commences from the beginning of the last arm stroke before touching.

SW 2.6.5 When a Backstroke ledge is being used, each Inspector at the starting end shall install and remove the ledge.

SW 2.6.6 In individual events of 800m and 1500m, each Inspector of Turns at the start and turning end of the pool shall record the number of laps completed by the swimmer in their lane and keep the swimmer informed of the remaining number of laps to be completed by displaying "lap cards" showing odd numbers at the turning end of the pool. Electronic equipment may be used, including under water display.

SW 2.6.7 Each Inspector at the starting end shall give a warning signal when the swimmer in their lane has two lengths plus 5m to swim to finish in individual events of 800m and 1500m. The signal may be repeated after the turn until the swimmer has reached the 5m mark on the lane rope. The warning signal may be by whistle or bell.

MC 2.6.7 For athletes with a hearing impairment, the Inspector of Turns shall use a visual cue to indicate to the athlete that they have two lengths to swim to finish in individual events of 800m and 1500m. (WPS 10.2.7.6.2)

Commented [L&R8]: The Chief Inspector now has the obligation to actively ensure the Inspectors fulfill their duties. Previously, the Chief Inspector was only required to receive reports from the Inspectors.

Commented [L&R9]: Now prescribes the form and manner in which a breach is reported to the referee

Commented [L&R10]: New addition

Commented [L&R11]: New addition

MC 2.6.7.1 For athletes with hearing and visual impairment, the Inspector of Turns shall notify the tapper 15m and two lengths before the completion of the 800m and 1500m events. It shall be the responsibility of the tapper to indicate to the athlete that they are commencing the final two lengths. **(WPS 10.2.7.6.3)**

SW 2.6.8 Each Inspector at the starting end shall determine, in relay events, whether the starting swimmer is in contact with the starting platform when the preceding swimmer touches the starting wall. When automatic equipment which judges relay take-offs is available, it shall be used in accordance with SW 13.1.

SW 2.6.9 Inspectors of Turns shall report to the Referee any violation on signed cards detailing the event, lane number and the infraction.

Commented [L&R12]: Inspectors of Turns now report directly to the Referee rather than to the Chief Inspector of Turns

SW 2.7 Judges of Stroke

SW 2.7.1 Judges of Stroke shall be located on each side of the pool.

SW 2.7.2 Each Judge of Stroke shall ensure that the rules related to the style of swimming designated for the event are being observed and shall observe the turns to assist the Inspectors of Turns.

MC 2.7.2 Judges of Stroke shall ensure that Rule MC 10.8 is upheld. **(WPS 11.8.8)**

Commented [L&R13]: New rule

SW 2.7.3 Judges of Stroke shall report to the Referee any violation on signed cards detailing the event, lane number and the infraction.

SW 2.8 Chief Timekeeper

SW 2.8.1 The Chief Timekeeper shall assign the seating positions for all Timekeepers and the lanes for which they are responsible. It is advisable that there shall be three Timekeepers for each lane. If Automatic Officiating Equipment is not used there shall be two additional Timekeepers designated, either of whom shall be directed to replace a Timekeeper whose watch did not start or stopped during an event, or who for any other reason is not able to record the time. When using digital watches, final time and place is determined by time.

SW 2.8.2 When only one Timekeeper per lane is available, an extra Timekeeper must be assigned in case of a malfunction of a stopwatch. In addition, the Chief Timekeeper must always record the time of the winner of each heat.

SW 2.8.3 The Chief Timekeeper shall collect from the Timekeepers in each lane a card showing the time recorded and, if necessary, inspect their watches.

SW 2.8.4 The Chief Timekeeper shall record or examine the official time on the card for each lane.

SW 2.9 Timekeeper

SW 2.9.1 Each Timekeeper shall take the time of the swimmers in the lane assigned to them in accordance with SW 11.3. The watches shall be certified correct to the satisfaction of the meet management committee.

SW 2.9.2 Each Timekeeper shall start their watch at the starting signal, and shall stop it when the swimmer in their lane has completed the race. Timekeepers may be instructed by the Chief Timekeeper to record times at intermediate distances in races longer than 100m.

- SW 2.9.3** Promptly after the race, the Timekeepers in each lane shall record the times of their watches on the card, give them to the Chief Timekeeper, and if requested present their watches for inspection. Their watches must be cleared at the short whistle of the Referee announcing the following race.
- SW 2.9.4** Unless video timing is used, it may be necessary to use the full complement of Timekeepers even when Automatic Officiating Equipment is used.
- SW 2.10 Chief Finish Judge - if required**
- SW 2.10.1** The Chief Finish Judge shall assign each Finish Judge their position and the placing to be determined.
- SW 2.10.2** After the race, the Chief Finish Judge shall collect signed result sheets from each Finish Judge and establish the result and placing which will be sent directly to the Referee.
- SW 2.10.3** Where Automatic Officiating Equipment is used to judge the finish of a race, the Chief Finish Judge must report the order of finish recorded by the equipment after each race.
- SW 2.11 Finish Judge - if required**
- SW 2.11.1** Finish Judges shall be positioned in elevated stands in line with the finish where they have at all times a clear view of the course and the finish line, unless they operate an automatic officiating device in their respective assigned lanes by depressing the "push-button" at the completion of the race.
- SW 2.11.2** After each event the Finish Judges shall decide and report the placing of the swimmers according to the assignments given to them. Finish Judges other than push-button operators shall not act as Timekeepers in the same event.
- SW 2.12A Desk Control (other than for Australian swimming events)**
- SW 2.12.1A** The Chief Recorder is responsible for checking results from computer printouts or from results of times and placing in each event received from the Referee. The Chief Recorder shall witness the Referee's signing of the results.
- SW 2.12.2A** The Recorders shall control withdrawals after the heats or finals, enter results on official forms, list all new records established, and maintain scores where appropriate.
- SW 2.13 Officials' Decision Making**
- SW 2.13.1** Officials shall make their decision autonomously and independently of each other unless otherwise provided in the Swimming Rules.
- SW 2.14A Check Starters**
- SW 2.14.1A** The Check Starters shall receive the swimmers from the Clerks of Course and direct them to their starting positions in heats, semi-finals and finals.
- SW 2.15A Announcer**
- SW 2.15.1A** The announcer shall keep swimmers, officials and spectators informed in such a manner as to maintain a high level of interest in all aspects of the meet. All announcements shall be made at the direction of Swimming Australia or their authorised representative.
- SW 2.16A Automatic Officiating Equipment Operators**

Commented [L&R14]: Includes an express references to semi-finals

The Automatic Officiating Equipment Operator shall operate the automatic timing and judging equipment at the direction of the Referee, provide the times and placings recorded by the equipment and inform the Control Room Supervisor of any recording malfunction.

MC 2.17 Support Staff (WPS 10.7)

MC 2.17.1 Support Staff are not permitted to coach or massage athletes. When on deck or in the call room, Support Staff are not permitted to use or visibly carry stopwatches, radio communication devices, back packs or bags. (WPS 10.7.1)

Commented [L&R15]: New rule

MC 2.17.2 Support Staff are only permitted to assist an athlete on deck if such a requirement is recorded for that athlete in the World Para Swimming Classification Master List or if Rule MC 10.2.1.2 is implemented. (WPS 10.7.2)

Commented [L&R16]: New rule

MC 2.17.3 Support Staff may be required to assist an athlete with a vision impairment that the athlete is approaching the end of the pool by a single or double tap. This procedure is called tapping and the Support Staff is referred to as a 'Tapper'. If tapping is required at both ends of the pool, two separate Tappers shall be used, one at each end of the pool. (WPS 10.7.3)

MC 2.17.4 For sport classes S11, SB11 and SM11 athletes' Tapper(s) and tapping are mandatory for every turn and finish. (WPS 10.7.3.1)

MC 2.17.5A All Tapping Devices must be prior approved, recorded, and deemed safe for use (in both construction and length) by the Technical Manager. (WPS 10.7.3.2)

Commented [L&R17]: Tapping devices must now be approved and recorded.

SW 3 Seeding of Heats, Semi-Finals and Finals

SW 3A The starting positions for all events, heats, semi-finals and finals at Australian swimming events, international contests in Australia, Australian inter-state contests and meets conducted by affiliated member organisations shall be by seeding as follows, unless otherwise determined and advised by Swimming Australia.

Commented [L&R18]: Provides Swimming Australia with the discretion to change the rules

SW 3.1 Heats

SW 3.1.1 The best competitive times of all entrants for the announced qualifying period prior to the entry deadline of the competition shall be submitted on entry forms or online, as requested, and listed in order of time by the Management Committee. Swimmers who do not submit times shall be considered the slowest and shall be placed at the end of the list with a no time. Placement of swimmers with identical times or of more than one swimmer without times shall be determined by draw. Swimmers shall be placed in lanes according to the procedures set forth in SW 3.1.2. below. Swimmers shall be placed in trial heats according to submitted times in the following manner:

SW 3.1.1.1A If one heat, it shall be seeded as a final and swum only during the final session. This may be changed at the direction of the management committee.

Commented [L&R19]: Provides the management committee with the discretion to change the rule

SW 3.1.1.2 If two heats, the fastest swimmer shall be seeded in the second heat, next fastest in the first heat, next fastest in the second heat, next in the first heat, etc.

SW 3.1.1.3 If three heats, except 400m, 800m, and 1500m events, the fastest swimmer shall be placed in the third heat, next fastest in the second, next fastest in the first. The fourth fastest swimmer shall be placed in the third heat, the fifth in the second heat, and the sixth fastest in the first heat, the seventh fastest in the third heat, etc.

SW 3.1.1.4 If four or more heats, except 400m, 800m, and 1500m events, the last three heats of the event shall be seeded in accordance with SW 3.1.1.3. above. The heat preceding

the last three heats shall consist of the next fastest swimmers; the heat preceding the last four heats shall consist of the next fastest swimmers, etc. Lanes shall be assigned in descending order of submitted times within each heat, in accordance with the pattern outlined in SW 3.1.2 below.

- SW 3.1.1.5** For 400m, 800m, and 1500m events, the last two heats of the event shall be seeded in accordance with SW 3.1.1.2.
- SW 3.1.1.6** Exception: When there are two or more heats in an event, there shall be a minimum of three swimmers seeded into any one preliminary heat, but subsequent scratches may reduce the number of swimmers in such heat to less than three.
- SW 3.1.1.7** Where a ten lane pool is available and equal times are established for the eighth place in heats of 800m and 1500m Freestyle events, lane nine will be used with a draw for lane eight and nine. In case of three equal times for eighth place, lane nine and zero will be used with a draw for lane eight, nine and zero.
- SW 3.1.1.8** Where a ten lane pool is not available SW 3.2.3 will apply.
- SW 3.1.2** Except for 50m events in 50m pools, assignment of lanes shall be (number one lane being on the right side of the pool (zero when using pools with 10 lanes) when facing the course from the starting end) by placing the fastest swimmer or team in the centre lane, in pools with an odd number of lanes, or in lane three or four respectively in pools having six or eight lanes. In pools using 10 lanes, the fastest swimmer shall be placed in lane four. The swimmer having the next fastest time is to be placed on the swimmer's left, then alternating the others to right and left in accordance with the submitted times. Swimmers with identical times shall be assigned their lane positions by draw within the aforesaid pattern.
- SW 3.1.3** When 50m events are contested in 50m pools, the races may be swum, at the discretion of the Management Committee, either from the regular starting end to the turning end or from the turning end to the starting end, depending upon such factors as existence of adequate automatic timing equipment, Starter's position, etc. The management committee should advise swimmers of their determination well before the start of the competition. Regardless of which way the race is swum, the swimmers shall be seeded in the same lanes in which they would be seeded if they were both starting and finishing at the starting end. ~~Handling intelligence and leg~~

EXAMPLE: (Entrants Nos. 1 - 41 in numerical time order fastest to slowest)

LANE NO.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1st Heat	-	-	41	39	40	-	-	-
2nd Heat	-	37	35	33	34	36	38	-
3rd Heat	31	29	27	25	26	28	30	32
4th Heat	21	15	9	3	6	12	18	24
5th Heat	20	14	8	2	5	11	17	23
6th Heat	19	13	7	1	4	10	16	22

SW 3.2 Semi-finals and Finals:

- SW 3.2.1** In the semi-finals, heats shall be assigned as in SW 3.1.1.2.
- SW 3.2.2** Where no preliminary heats are necessary, lanes shall be assigned in accordance with SW 3.1.2 above. Where preliminary heats or semi-finals have been held, lanes shall be assigned as in SW 3.1.2 based however, on times established in such heats.
- SW 3.2.3A** In the event that swimmers from the same or different heats have equal times registered to 1/100 of a second for either 8th / 10th place or 16th / 20th place depending on the use of eight or 10 lanes, there shall be a swim-off to determine which swimmer

shall advance to the appropriate finals. Such swim-offs shall take place after all involved swimmers have completed their heat at a time agreed between the Technical Manager and the parties involved. Another swim-off shall take place if equal times are registered again. If required a swim-off will take place to determine first and second reserve if equal times are recorded.

SW 3.2.4 Where one or more swimmers scratch from a semi-final or final event, reserves will be called in order of classifications in heats or semi-finals. The event or events must be re-seeded and supplementary sheets must be issued detailing the changes or substitutions, as prescribed in SW 3.1.2.

SW 3.2.5A For heats, semi-finals and finals, swimmers shall report to the marshalling area at a time determined by the management committee.

SW 3.3 In other competitions, the draw system may be used for assigning lane positions.

SW 4 The Start

SW 4.1 The start in Freestyle, Breaststroke, Butterfly and Individual Medley races shall be with a dive. On the long whistle (SW 2.1.5) from the Referee the swimmers shall step onto the starting platform and remain there. On the Starter's command "take your marks", they shall immediately take up a starting position with at least one foot at the front of the starting platforms. The position of the hands is not relevant. When all swimmers are stationary, the Starter shall give the starting signal.

MC 4.1.1 For an athlete with a vision impairment, on the long whistle from the Referee the athlete shall be permitted to orientate themselves prior to the Starters command "take your marks". (WPS 11.1.2.1)

MC 4.1.2 The athlete who has balance problems i.e. standing stationary, may have assistance to balance themselves on the starting platform i.e. hold at the hips, hand, arm etc., by one Support Staff. Support Staff may aid the athlete to remain stationary at the start; however the Support Staff shall not allow the athlete unfair advantage by being held beyond the 90 degrees vertical position on the starting platform. Giving momentum to the athlete at the start is not permitted. (WPS 11.1.2.2)

MC 4.1.3 An athlete with only one fully functional leg does not need to have a foot at the front of the starting platform as long as they have one hand or other part of the arm at the front of the starting platform. (WPS 11.1.2.3)

MC 4.1.4 An athlete may be permitted to start beside the starting platform. (WPS 11.1.2.4)

MC 4.1.5 An athlete may be permitted to take up a sitting position on the starting platform. (WPS 11.1.2.5)

MC 4.1.6 An athlete may be permitted to start in the water but is required to have one (1) hand in contact with the starting place until the starting signal is given. Standing in or on the gutter or on the bottom is prohibited. (WPS 11.1.2.6)

MC 4.1.7 Sport class S/SB/SM1-3 athletes are permitted to have their foot/feet or the end of their limb/limbs held to the wall, until the starting signal is given. Giving momentum to the athlete at the start is not permitted. (WPS 11.1.2.7)

MC 4.1.8A Where an athlete is unable to grip the starting place in a water start, the athlete may be assisted by a Support Staff and/or starting device. The device shall be cleared and deemed safe by the Technical Manager prior to the commencement of the competition. Giving momentum to the athlete at the start is not permitted. The athlete

Commented [L&R20]: New rule

Commented [L&R21]: Removal of the rule allowing spectators to be requested to remain silent until the swimmers have passed the false start rope to ensure a satisfactory start for S11 swimmers

Commented [L&R22]: New rule

Commented [L&R23]: Removal of the requirement for approval to be determined during classification

shall have some part of the body in contact with the wall until the starting signal is given. (WPS 11.1.2.8)

MC 4.1.9 To prevent abrasion, one layer of towel, or the like, may be placed on the starting platform. (WPS 11.1.2.9)

Commented [L&R24]: Removal of the requirement for the article not to "dramatically increase the height of the starting platform"

SW 4.2 The start in Backstroke and Medley Relay races shall be from the water. At the Referee's first long whistle (SW 2.1.5), the swimmers shall immediately enter the water. At the Referee's second long whistle the swimmers shall return without undue delay to the starting position (SW 6.1). When all swimmers have assumed their starting positions, the Starter shall give the command "take your marks". When all swimmers are stationary, the Starter shall give the starting signal.

MC 4.2 The start in Backstroke, 75m/150m Individual Medley events and Medley Relay events shall be from the water. At the Referee's first long whistle (WPS 11.1.1), the athletes shall immediately enter the water. At the Referee's second long whistle the athletes shall return without undue delay to the starting position. When all athletes have taken their starting positions, the Starter shall give the command "take your marks". When all athletes are stationary, the Starter shall give the starting signal. (WPS 11.1.3)

SW 4.3A At Australian swimming events, the command "take your marks" shall be in English and the start shall be by multiple loudspeakers, mounted one at each starting platform.

SW 4.4 Any swimmer starting before the starting signal has been given, shall be disqualified. If the starting signal sounds before the disqualification is declared, the race shall continue, and the swimmer or swimmers shall be disqualified upon completion of the race. If the disqualification is declared before the starting signal, the signal shall not be given, but the remaining swimmers shall be called back and start again. The Referee repeats the starting procedure beginning with the long whistle (the second one for Backstroke) as per SW 2.1.5.

MC 4.4A For athletes with a hearing impairment, a strobe/starting light will be provided. If an athlete requires additional arm signals by the Starter this must be requested by the responsible Team Leader prior to the start of the meet. (WPS 11.1.6)

Commented [L&R25]: Mandatory requirement for a strobe/starting light to be provided (previously only provided when available)

MC 4.5 In the case of a sport class S1-10/SB1-9/SM1-10 and S/SB/SM14 an athlete who additionally has a hearing impairment, Support Staff shall be permitted to convey the starting signal to the athlete by the use of a non-verbal instruction, when no starting light is available. (WPS 11.1.7)

MC 4.6 In the case of an athlete with a vision impairment who additionally has a hearing impairment, Support Staff shall be permitted to convey the starting signal to the athlete by the use of a non-verbal instruction. (WPS 11.1.8)

SW 5 Freestyle

SW 5.1 Freestyle means that in an event so designated the swimmer may swim any style, except that in Individual Medley or Medley Relay events, Freestyle means any style other than Backstroke, Breaststroke or Butterfly.

MC 5.1 Freestyle means that in an event so designated the athlete may swim any style, except in Individual Medley or Medley Relay events where Freestyle means any style other than Backstroke, Breaststroke or Butterfly. For the 75m or 150m Individual Medley, Freestyle means any style other than Backstroke or Breaststroke. (WPS 11.2.1)

Commented [L&R26]: New rule

- SW 5.2** Some part of the swimmer must touch the wall upon completion of each length and at the finish.
- SW 5.3** Some part of the swimmer must break the surface of the water throughout the race, except it shall be permissible for the swimmer to be completely submerged during the turn and for a distance of not more than 15m after the start and each turn. By that point, the head must have broken the surface.
- MC 5.3** For S1-5 athletes, during each complete stroke cycle some part of the athlete must break the surface of the water. One stroke cycle is defined as one full rotation of the shoulder joint(s) and/or one complete up and down movement of the hip joint(s). (WPS 11.2.3.1)
- MC 5.4** Standing on the bottom during Freestyle events or during the Freestyle portion of Medley events shall not disqualify an athlete, but they shall not walk. (WPS 11.2.4)
- SW 6** **Backstroke**
- SW 6.1** Prior to the starting signal, the swimmers shall line up in the water facing the starting end, with both hands holding the starting grips. Standing in or on the gutter or bending the toes over the lip of the gutter is prohibited. When using a backstroke ledge at the start, the toes of both feet must be in contact with the end wall or face of the touchpad. Bending the toes over the top of the touchpad is prohibited.
- MC 6.1.1** Where an athlete is unable to hold both starting grips, it is permissible to hold the grips with one hand only. (WPS 11.3.1.1)
- MC 6.1.2** Where an athlete is unable to hold either starting grip, it is permissible to hold the end of the pool. (WPS 11.3.1.2)
- MC 6.1.3A** Where an athlete is unable to hold the starting grips or end of the pool, the athlete may be assisted by a Support Staff or starting device. This device shall be cleared and deemed safe by the Technical Manager prior to the commencement of the competition. Giving momentum to the athlete at the start is not permitted. The athlete shall have part of the body in contact with the wall until the starting signal is given. (WPS 11.3.1.3)
- SW 6.2** At the signal for starting and after turning the swimmer shall push off and swim upon their back throughout the race except when executing a turn as set forth in SW 6.4. The normal position on the back can include a roll movement of the body up to, but not including 90 degrees from horizontal. The position of the head is not relevant.
- SW 6.3** Some part of the swimmer must break the surface of the water throughout the race. It shall be permissible for the swimmer to be completely submerged during the turn and for a distance of not more than 15m after the start and each turn. By that point the head must have broken the surface.
- MC 6.3** For S1-5 athletes, during each complete stroke cycle some part of the athlete must break the surface of the water. One stroke cycle is defined as one full rotation of the shoulder joint(s) and/or one complete up and down movement of the hip joint(s). (WPS 11.3.3.1)
- SW 6.4** When executing the turn, there must be a touch of the wall with some part of the swimmer's body in their respective lane. During the turn, the shoulders may be turned over the vertical to the breast after which an immediate continuous single arm pull or immediate continuous simultaneous double arm pull may be used to initiate the turn. The swimmer must have returned to the position on the back upon leaving the wall.

Commented [L&R27]: Includes a definition of "one stroke cycle"

Commented [L&R28]: Definition included

- MC 6.4** For the athlete who has no arms or use of their arms during the turn, once the body has left the position on the back, the turn shall be initiated. The athlete must have returned to a position on the back upon leaving the wall. **(WPS 11.3.4.1)**
- SW 6.5** Upon the finish of the race the swimmer must touch the wall while on the back in their respective lane.
- SW 7** **Breaststroke**
- SW 7.1** After the start and after each turn, the swimmer may take one arm stroke completely back to the legs during which the swimmer may be submerged. At any time prior to the first Breaststroke kick after the start and after each turn a single Butterfly kick is permitted. The head must break the surface of the water before the hands turn inward at the widest part of the second stroke.
- MC 7.1** After the start and after each turn, an athlete who is unable to push off with the leg/s, may perform one arm stroke that may not be simultaneous or on the horizontal plane to attain the breast position. **(WPS 11.4.1.1)**
- SW 7.2** From the beginning of the first arm stroke after the start and after each turn, the body shall be on the breast. It is not permitted to roll onto the back at any time except at the turn after the touch of the wall where it is permissible to turn in any manner as long as the body is on the breast when leaving the wall. From the start and throughout the race the stroke cycle must be one arm stroke and one leg kick in that order. All movements of the arms shall be simultaneous and in the same horizontal plane without alternating movement.
- MC 7.2** When an athlete does not have any legs or arms or parts thereof, either the kick or the respective arm stroke shall constitute a complete stroke cycle. **(WPS 11.4.2.1)**
- SW 7.3** The hands shall be pushed forward together from the breast on, under, or over the water. The elbows shall be under water except for the final stroke before the turn, during the turn and for the final stroke at the finish. The hands shall be brought back on or under the surface of the water. The hands shall not be brought back beyond the hip line, except during the first stroke after the start and each turn.
- MC 7.3** Athletes with a vision impairment approaching a turn or finish may push their hands forward from any point in the stroke cycle immediately after they have been tapped. **(WPS 11.4.3.1)**
- SW 7.4** During each complete cycle, some part of the swimmer's head must break the surface of the water. All movements of the legs shall be simultaneous and on the same horizontal plane without alternating movement.
- MC 7.4** An athlete with a lower limb impairment must show intent of simultaneous movement and show intent to kick in the same plane throughout the race or trail/drag the leg/s throughout the race. **(WPS 11.4.4.1)**
- SW 7.5** The feet must be turned outwards during the propulsive part of the kick. Alternating movements or downward Butterfly kicks are not permitted except as in SW 7.1 Breaking the surface of the water with the feet is allowed unless followed by a downward Butterfly kick.
- MC 7.5** An athlete who is unable to use one or both legs and/or foot/feet to gain normal propulsion shall not be required to turn the affected foot/feet outwards during the propulsive part of the kick. **(WPS 11.4.5.1)**

- SW 7.6** At each turn and at the finish of the race, the touch shall be made with both hands separated and simultaneously at, above, or below the water level. At the last stroke before the turn and at the finish an arm stroke not followed by a leg kick is permitted. The head may be submerged after the last arm pull prior to the touch, provided it breaks the surface of the water at some point during the last complete or incomplete cycle preceding the touch.
- MC 7.6** At each turn and the finish of the race, where an athlete has different arm lengths only the longer arm must touch, but both arms must be stretched forward simultaneously. **(WPS 11.4.6.1)**
- MC 7.6.1** At each turn and at the finish of the race, an athlete with upper limbs too short to stretch above the head shall touch with any part of the upper body. **(WPS 11.4.6.2)**
- MC 7.6.2** At each turn and the finish of the race, where an athlete can only use one arm for the stroke cycle (as determined by the athlete's Code of Exception) the athlete must touch with the one hand/arm that is used for the stroke. Where an athlete's impairment results in only one arm being used, the non-functioning arm shall be dragged or stretched forward. **(WPS 11.4.6.3)**
- MC 7.6.3** At each turn and the finish of the race, where the athlete who uses both arms but has restriction in the shoulder/elbow, only the longer arm must touch, but both arms must be stretched forward simultaneously. **(WPS 11.4.6.4)**
- MC 7.6.4** SB11-12 athletes may have difficulty making a simultaneous touch at the turn and the finish if they are restricted due to contact with the lane rope. The athlete shall not be disqualified provided that no advantage was gained. **(WPS 11.4.6.5)**
- SW 8** **Butterfly**
- SW 8.1** From the beginning of the first arm stroke after the start and each turn, the body shall be kept on the breast. It is not permitted to roll onto the back at any time, except at the turn after the touch of the wall where it is permissible to turn in any manner as long as the body is on the breast when leaving the wall.
- MC 8.1** After the start and after each turn, an athlete who is unable to push off with the leg/s may perform one arm stroke that may not be simultaneous to attain the breast position. **(WPS 11.5.1.1)**
- SW 8.2** Both arms must be brought forward simultaneously over the water and brought backward simultaneously under the water throughout the race, subject to SW 8.5.
- MC 8.2** S11-12 athletes may have difficulty bringing both arms forward simultaneously if they are restricted due to contact with the lane rope. The athlete shall not be disqualified provided that no advantage was gained. **(WPS 11.5.2.1)**
- MC 8.2.1** Athletes with a vision impairment approaching a turn or finish may bring their arms forward under the water immediately after they have been tapped. **(WPS 11.5.2.2)**
- MC 8.2.2** Where part of an arm is missing, the remaining part of the arm shall be brought forward over the water simultaneously with the other arm. **(WPS 11.5.2.3)**
- MC 8.2.3** Where an athlete can only use one arm for the arm stroke (as determined by the athlete's Code of Exception), the arm shall be brought forward over the water. The position of the body must remain in line with the normal water surface. Where an athlete's impairment results in only one arm being used the non-functioning arm shall be dragged or stretched forward. **(WPS 11.5.2.4)**

Commented [L&R29]: New rule

Commented [L&R30]: New rule

- MC 8.2.4** At the turn and finish, athletes with no leg function may perform a half stroke with the arm/s recovering forward under the surface of the water, in order to contact the wall. **(WPS 11.5.2.5)**
- SW 8.3** All up and down movements of the legs must be simultaneous. The legs or the feet need not be on the same level, but they shall not alternate in relation to each other. A Breaststroke kicking movement is not permitted.
- MC 8.3** When an athlete's impairment results in only one leg being used, the non-functional leg shall drag. **(WPS 11.5.3.1)**
- SW 8.4** At each turn and at the finish of the race, the touch shall be made with both hands separated and simultaneously at, above or below the water surface.
- MC 8.4.1** At each turn and the finish of the race where an athlete has different arm lengths only the longer arm must touch, but both arms must be stretched forward simultaneously. **(WPS 11.5.4.1)**
- MC 8.4.2** At each turn and at the finish of the race, an athlete with no or non-functional upper limbs or upper limbs too short to stretch above the head, shall touch with any part of the upper body. **(WPS 11.5.4.2)**
- MC 8.4.3** At each turn and the finish of the race, where an athlete can only use one arm (as determined by the athlete's Code of Exception) the athlete must touch with the one hand/arm that is used for the stroke. **(WPS 11.5.4.3)**
- MC 8.4.4** At each turn and the finish of the race, where the athlete who uses both arms but has restriction in the shoulder/elbow only the longer arm must touch, but both arms must be stretched forward simultaneously. **(WPS 11.5.4.4)**
- MC 8.4.5** S11-12 athletes may have difficulty making a simultaneous touch at the turn and finish if they are restricted due to contact with the lane rope. The athlete shall not be disqualified provided that no advantage was gained. **(WPS 11.5.4.5)**
- SW 8.5** At the start and at turns, a swimmer is permitted one or more leg kicks and one arm pull under the water, which must bring the swimmer to the surface. It shall be permissible for a swimmer to be completely submerged for a distance of not more than 15m after the start and after each turn. By that point, the head must have broken the surface. The swimmer must remain on the surface until the next turn or finish.
- SW 9 Medley Swimming**
- SW 9.1** In Individual Medley events, the swimmer covers the four swimming strokes in the following order: Butterfly, Backstroke, Breaststroke and Freestyle. Each of the strokes must cover one quarter (1/4) of the distance.
- MC 9.1** In the 150m and 75m Individual Medley events, the athlete covers three swimming strokes in the following order: Backstroke, Breaststroke and Freestyle. Each of the strokes must cover one third (1/3) of the total distance. **(WPS 11.6.1.1)**
- SW 9.2** In Freestyle the swimmer must be on the breast except when executing a turn. The swimmer must return to the breast before any kick or stroke.
- SW 9.3** In Medley Relay events, swimmers will cover the four swimming strokes in the following order: Backstroke, Breaststroke, Butterfly and Freestyle. Each of the strokes must cover one quarter (1/4) of the distance.

Commented [L&R31]: New rule

- SW 9.4** Each section must be finished in accordance with the rule which applies to the stroke concerned.
- SW 10 The Race**
- SW 10.1** All individual races must be held as separate gender events.
- SW 10.2** A swimmer swimming over the course alone shall cover the whole distance to qualify.
- SW 10.3** The swimmer must remain and finish the race in the same lane in which they started.
- MC 10.3.1** If an athlete with a vision impairment, who has a Tapper for that event, surfaces in a lane not in use, the athlete shall be permitted to complete the race in that lane. **(WPS 11.8.3.1)**
- MC 10.3.2** If an athlete with a vision impairment surfaces in a lane that is in use, it is preferable for the athlete to return to the correct lane. The Tapper may give verbal instructions, but only after clearly identifying the athlete by name to prevent distraction or interference to other athletes. If the athlete finishes the race in an occupied lane, without a foul, the athlete's result will be valid. **(WPS 11.8.3.2)**

Interpretation: This table assists to clarify Rules SW10.3, MC 10.3 and MC 10.3.1

Athlete with a Tapper	MC 10.3.1	Surfaces in an empty lane	No DSQ
	MC 10.3.2	Surfaces in a lane in use, should try to get back, but will not be penalised if unable to do so.	No DSQ
		Surfaces in a lane in use, fouls the other athlete.	See MC 10.15
Athlete without a Tapper	SW10.3	Completes swim in their own lane	No DSQ
	SW10.3	Surfaces in another lane	DSQ

- SW 10.4** In all events, a swimmer when turning shall make physical contact with the end of the pool or course. The turn must be made from the wall, and it is not permitted to take a stride or step from the bottom of the pool.
- SW 10.5** Standing on the bottom during Freestyle events or during the Freestyle portion of Medley events shall not disqualify a swimmer, but they shall not walk.
- SW 10.6** Pulling on the lane rope is not allowed.
- SW 10.7** Obstructing another swimmer by swimming across another lane or otherwise interfering shall disqualify the offender. Should the foul be intentional, the Referee shall report the matter to the member promoting the race, and to the member of the swimmer so offending.
- SW 10.8A** No swimmer shall be permitted to use or wear any device or swimsuit that may aid their speed, buoyancy or endurance during a competition (such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, power bands, or adhesive substances, etc.). Goggles may be worn. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the Technical Manager.
- MC 10.8.1** S11, SB11 and SM11 athletes with the exception of those with prosthetics in both eyes shall be required to wear opaque (blackened in) goggles for Competition. S11, SB11 and SM11 athletes whose facial structure will not support goggles shall be required to cover the eyes with an opaque covering. The goggles of the S11, SB11 and SM11 athletes shall be checked at the finish of the relevant event. **(WPS 11.8.8)**

Commented [L&R32]: New rule

Commented [L&R33]: New rule

MC 10.8.2 In the event that the goggles accidentally fall off during the dive or break during the race, the athlete shall not be disqualified. (WPS 11.8.8.1)

MC 10.8.3A No athlete shall be permitted to use or wear any device or swimsuit that may aid their speed, buoyancy or endurance during a Competition (such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, power bands or adhesive substances etc.). Goggles may be worn, Any kind of strapping or stabilising of limb(s) that limits unwanted movement is prohibited. Taping on the body is not permitted unless approved by the Technical Manager. (WPS 11.8.9)

Commented [L&R34]: Previously approval was required by FINA Sport Medicine Committee

MC 10.8.4 No athlete shall be permitted to use prosthesis, except ocular or orthoses during a race. (WPS 11.8.9.1)

SW 10.9 Any swimmer not entered in a race, who enters the water in which an event is being conducted before all swimmers therein have completed the race, shall be disqualified from their next scheduled race in the meet.

SW 10.10 There shall be four swimmers on each relay team. Mixed relays may be swum. Mixed Relays must consist of two Men and two Women. Split times achieved in these events cannot be used for records and/or entry purposes.

MC 10.10 Relay teams are based on a point score. The Sport Class of an individual athlete is worth the actual number value i.e. Sport Class S6 is worth six points, Sport Class SB12 is worth 12 points etc. (WPS 11.7.7)

MC 10.10.1 For vision impaired relays (49-point relays) relay teams must include at least one S/SB 11 athlete. The remaining three athletes may be any Sport Class between S/SB 11-13. (WPS 11.7.8)

Commented [L&R35]: New rule

MC 10.10.2 Relay Event Point List. (WPS 10.17.1)

Commented [L&R36]: Amended point list (see former MC10.5.1)

4 x 50m	Freestyle maximum 20 points for S1-S10
4 x 100m	Freestyle maximum 34 points for S1-S10
4 x 100m	Freestyle S14
4 x 50m	Medley maximum 20 points for S1-S10
4 x 100m	Medley maximum 34 points for S1-S10
4 x 100m	Medley S14
4 x 100m	Freestyle maximum 49 points for S11-S13
4 x 100m	Medley maximum 49 points for S11-S13
Mixed 4 x 50m	Freestyle Maximum 20 points for S1-10
Mixed 4 x 50m	Medley Maximum 20 points for S1-10
Mixed 4 x 100m	Freestyle S14
Mixed 4 x 100m	Freestyle Maximum 49 points for S11-13
Mixed 4 x 100m	Medley Maximum 49 points for S11-13

SW 10.11 In relay events, the team of a swimmer whose feet lose touch with the starting platform before the preceding team-mate touches the wall shall be disqualified.

SW 10.11A The swimmer who is next to swim in the relay event must be standing on the starting platform immediately prior to his/her start. Running starts shall not be permitted.

MC 10.11 In a relay event an athlete may commence in the water. The athlete may not lose contact with the starting place until such time as the preceding team member touches the wall otherwise the athlete shall be disqualified. (WPS 11.7.10.1)

- SW 10.12** Any relay team shall be disqualified from a race if a team member, other than the swimmer designated to swim that length, enters the water when the race is being conducted, before all swimmers of all teams have finished the race.
- MC 10.12** An athlete, in a relay event, who is to commence with a water start, may enter the water only when the preceding take off at the same end has been executed. (**WPS 11.7.11.1**)
- MC 10.12.1** The Tapper is able to convey to the athlete the relay changeovers and convey the position/place of the relay. An extra Tapper may be required, one for tapping the athlete completing the leg of the relay and one Tapper for conveying the changeover. No coaching is permitted. (**WPS 11.7.12**)
- SW 10.13** The members of a relay team and their order of competing must be nominated before the race. Any relay team member may compete in a race only once. The composition of a relay team may be changed between the heats and finals of an event, provided that it is made up from the list of swimmers properly entered by a Member for that event. Failure to swim in the order listed will result in disqualification. Substitutions may be made only in the case of a documented medical emergency.
- SW 10.14** Any swimmer having finished their race, or their distance in a relay event, must leave the pool as soon as possible without obstructing any other swimmer who has not yet finished their race. Otherwise the swimmer committing the fault, or their relay team, shall be disqualified.
- MC 10.14** S/SB1-5 athletes may remain in their lanes until the last athlete of each team has completed the race. An athlete remaining in the water shall position themselves away from the end of the pool, close to the lane rope but shall not obstruct any other athlete in another lane. (**WPS 11.7.14.1**)
- SW 10.15A** Should a foul endanger the chance of success of a swimmer, the Referee shall have the power to allow the swimmer to compete in the next heat or, should the foul occur in a final event or in the last heat, the Referee may order it to be re-swum.
- MC 10.15** For athletes with vision impairment, should an accidental foul occur during a race, caused by an athlete either surfacing after the start or turn, in a lane that is in use by another athlete, or by swimming too close to the lane rope, etc., the Referee shall have the power to allow one or all athletes to re-swim the event. If the foul occurs in a final, the Referee may order the final to be re-swum. (**WPS 11.8.7.1**)
- SW 10.16** No pace-making shall be permitted, nor may any device be used or plan adopted which has that effect.
- SW 11** **Timing**
- SW 11.1** The operation of Automatic Officiating Equipment shall be under the supervision of appointed officials. Times recorded by automatic equipment shall be used to determine the winner, all placings and the time applicable to each lane. The placing and times so determined shall have precedence over the decisions of Timekeepers. In the event that a break-down of the automatic equipment occurs or that it is clearly indicated that there has been a failure of the equipment, or that a swimmer has failed to activate the equipment, the recordings of Timekeepers shall be official. (See SW 13.3).
- SW 11.2** When automatic equipment is used, the results shall be recorded only to 1/100 of second. In the event of equal times, all swimmers who have recorded the same time at 1/100 of a second shall be accorded the same placing. Times displayed on the electronic scoreboard should show 1/100 of a second.

- SW 11.3** Any timing device that is terminated by an official shall be considered a watch. Such manual times must be taken by three Timekeepers appointed or approved by the member in the country concerned. All watches shall be certified as accurate to the satisfaction of the governing body concerned. Manual timing shall be registered to 1/100 of a second. Where no automatic equipment is used, official manual times shall be determined as follows:
- SW 11.3.1** If two of the three watches record the same time and the third disagrees, the two identical times shall be the official time.
- SW 11.3.2** If all three watches disagree, the watch recording the intermediate time shall be the official time.
- SW11.3.3** With only two out of three watches working the average time shall be the official time.
- SW 11.4** Should a swimmer be disqualified during or following an event, such disqualification should be recorded in the official results, but no time or place shall be recorded or announced.
- SW 11.5** In the case of a relay disqualification, legal splits up to the time of the disqualification shall be recorded in the official results.
- SW 11.6** All 50m and 100m splits shall be recorded for lead-off swimmers during relays and published in the official results.

SW 12 Records

SW 12.1 General Requirements and Conditions for Records

- SW 12.1.1A** All attempts on records shall be made in fresh water without tide or current. Records can be established only in water with less than 3 gr/litre of salt. No records will be recognised in any kind of sea or ocean water.
- SW 12.1.2** For all long course swimming records the length of the pool shall be 50m.
- SW 12.1.3** For all short course swimming records the length of the pool shall be 25m.
- SW 12.1.4** All records must be made in scratch competition or an individual race against time, held in public and announced publicly by advertisement at least three days before the attempt is to be made. In the event of an individual race against time being sanctioned by a member, as a time trial during a competition, then an advertisement at least three days before the attempt is to be made shall not be necessary. **(FINA SW 12.5)**
- SW 12.1.5A** For an individual race against time, the event must be held in public and announced publicly by advertisement at least three clear days before the race or the record attempt is made or at a meet conducted by or under the control of Swimming Australia or a member organisation and sanctioned by the Technical Manager.
- Swimming Australia rules concerning the general requirement and conditions for Records, SW 12.1 to SW 12.5, shall be applicable to an individual race against time.
- MC 12.1.5A** For classified athletes with an impairment all records must be achieved in competition which meets the general requirements and conditions for records outlined in SW 12.1.
- SW 12.1.6** The first swimmer in a relay, except in mixed relays, may apply for a World Record or a World Junior Record. Should the first swimmer in a relay team complete his distance in record time in accordance with the provisions of this subsection, his performance

Commented [L&R37]: Removes the requirement of relay teams at Australian Championships to be members of the same State Association or Club affiliated to a State Association to compete in State or Club relays respectively

Commented [L&R38]: New rule

Commented [L&R39]: New rule

shall not be nullified by any subsequent disqualification of his relay team for violations occurring after his distance has been completed. **(FINA SW 12.12)**

SW 12.1.7A A swimmer in an individual event may apply for a World, Commonwealth or Australian Record at an intermediate distance if the swimmer or their coach or manager or responsible official specifically requests the Referee that the performance be especially timed or if the time at the intermediate distance is recorded by approved Automatic Officiating Equipment. Such swimmer must complete the scheduled distance of the event to apply for a record at the intermediate distance provided that for Australian Records the swimmer must achieve the qualifying time for the event and is not disqualified. **(FINA SW 12.13)**

SW 12.1.8A Times which are equal to 1/100 of a second will be recognised as equal records and swimmers achieving these equal times will be called "Joint Holders". Only the time of the winner of a race may be submitted for a World Record. In the event of a tie in a record setting race, each swimmer who tied shall be considered a winner and each may submit a time for recognition as a joint holder of a World (excluding World Junior Records), Commonwealth or Australian Record. **(FINA SW 12.10)**

SW 12.1.9A World, Commonwealth and Australian records will be accepted only when times are recorded by Automatic Officiating Equipment, or Semi-Automatic Officiating Equipment in case of Automatic Officiating Equipment system malfunction. **(FINA SW 12.8)**

SW.12.1.10 For World Records the length of each lane of the course must be certified by a surveyor or other qualified Official appointed or approved by the member in the country in which it is situated. **(FINA SW 12.6)**

SW 12.1.11 For World Records where a moveable bulkhead is used, course measurement of the lane must be confirmed at the conclusion of the session during which the time was achieved. **(FINA SW 12.7)**

SW 12.1.12 World Records and World Junior Records can be established only by swimmers wearing FINA approved swimsuits. **(FINA SW 12.9)**

SW 12.1.13 Worlds Records and World Junior Records can be established only in water with less than 3 gr/litre of salt. No World Records will be recognised in any kind of sea or ocean water. **(FINA SW 12.11)**

Commented [L&R40]: New rules

SW 12.2A Australian Records

SW 12.2.1A There shall be four classes of Long Course swimming records recognised by Swimming Australia:

- (a) Australian Records for the best times recorded anywhere in the world by a swimmer or team having Australian citizenship, currently registered with a member organisation and as defined in SW 12.2.2A.
- (b) All Comers Records for the best times recorded in Australia by a swimmer or team registered with a country affiliated with FINA and as defined in SW 12.2.2A.
- (c) Australian Age Records for the best times recorded anywhere in the world by a swimmer or team having Australian citizenship, currently registered with a member organisation and as defined in SW 12.2.3A.
- (d) All Comers Age Records for the best times recorded in Australia by a swimmer or team registered with a country affiliated with FINA and as defined in SW 12.2.3A.

SW 12.2.2A The recognised distances and strokes for both Men and Women for Australian and All Comers Long Course Records Rule SW 12.2.1A. (a) and (b) shall be:

Freestyle	50m, 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m and 1500m
Backstroke	50m, 100m, and 200m
Breaststroke	50m, 100m and 200m
Butterfly	50m, 100m and 200m
Individual Medley	200m and 400m
Medley Relay	4 x 100m
Freestyle Relay	4 x 100m and 4 x 200m
Mixed Freestyle Relay	4 x 100m
Mixed Medley Relay	4 x 100m

Commented [L&R41]: New inclusion

For Club Records Relay teams must comprise of four members of the one Club.

Mixed teams must comprise of two males and two females

SW 12.2.3A The recognised distances and strokes for Boys and Girls Australian Age and All Comers Long Course Records rule SW 12.2.1 (c) and (d) shall be:

Freestyle	50m, 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1500m
Backstroke	100m and 200m
Breaststroke	100m and 200m
Butterfly	100m and 200m
Individual Medley	200m and 400m
Medley Relay	4 x 50m
Freestyle Relay	4 x 50m, 4 x 100m and 4 x 200m
Mixed Medley Relay	4 x 50m

Commented [L&R42]: New inclusion

For Club Records Relay teams must comprise of four members of the one Club.

Mixed teams must comprise of two males and two females

13 Years, 14 Years, 15 Years, 16 Years and 17 Years and 18 Years for all Individual events.

SW 12.2.4A There shall be two classes of Short Course swimming records recognised by Swimming Australia:

- (a) Australian Short Course Records for the best times recorded anywhere in the world by a swimmer or team having Australian citizenship, currently registered with a member organisation and as defined in SW 12.3.2A.
- (b) All Comers Short Course Records for the best times recorded in Australia by a swimmer or team registered with a country affiliated with FINA as defined in SW 12.3.2A.

SW 12.2.5A The recognised distances and strokes for both Men and Women Australian and All Comers Short Course Records rule SW 12.3.1 (a) and (b) shall be:

Freestyle	50m, 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m and 1500m
Backstroke	50m, 100m, and 200m
Breaststroke	50m, 100m and 200m
Butterfly	50m, 100m and 200m
Individual Medley	100m, 200m and 400m
Medley Relay	4 x 100m
Freestyle Relay	4 x 100m and 4 x 200m

For Club Records Relay teams must comprise of four members of the one Club.

SW 12.2.6A There shall be three classes of records for swimmers with an impairment recognised by Swimming Australia:

- (a) Australian Long Course Records for swimmers with an impairment for the best times recorded in a 50m pool anywhere in the world by a swimmer or team having Australian citizenship, currently registered with a member organisation, holding a current classification recognised by Swimming Australia.
- (b) Australian Short Course Records for swimmers with an impairment for the best times recorded in a 25m pool anywhere in the world by a swimmer or team having Australian citizenship, currently registered with a member organisation, holding a current classification recognised by Swimming Australia.
- (c) Australian Age Records for swimmers with an impairment for the best times recorded in a 50m pool in the world by a swimmer or team having Australian citizenship, currently registered with a member organisation, holding a current classification recognised by Swimming Australia.

MC 12.2.7A The recognised distances and strokes for classified swimmers with an impairment for Australian Long Course Records rule MC 12.2.6A (a) shall be:-

Distance	Stroke	Men	Women
50m	Freestyle	S1-S16	S1-S16
100m	Freestyle	S1-S16	S1-S16
200m	Freestyle	S1-S16	S1-S16
400m	Freestyle	S6-S16	S6-S16
800m	Freestyle	S6-S16	S6-S16
1500m	Freestyle	S7-S16	S7-S16
50m	Backstroke	S1-S16	S1-S16
100m	Backstroke	S1-S16	S1-S16
200m	Backstroke	S6-S16	S6-S16
50m	Breaststroke	SB1-SB16	SB1-SB16
100m	Breaststroke	SB1-SB16	SB1-SB16
200m	Breaststroke	SB4-SB16	SB4-SB16
50m	Butterfly	S1-S16	S1-S16
100m	Butterfly	S5-S16	S5-S16
200m	Butterfly	S8-S16	S8-S16
150m	Individual Medley	SM1-SM4	SM1-SM4
200m	Individual Medley	SM5-SM16	SM5-SM16
400m	Individual Medley	SM8-SM16	SM8-SM16

MC 12.2.8A The recognised distances and strokes for classified swimmers with an impairment for Australian Short Course Records rule MC 12.2.6A (b) shall be:

Distance	Stroke	Men	Women
50m	Freestyle	S1-S16	S1-S16
100m	Freestyle	S1-S16	S1-S16
200m	Freestyle	S1-S16	S1-S16
400m	Freestyle	S6-S16	S6-S16
800m	Freestyle	S6-S16	S6-S16

Distance	Stroke	Men	Women
1500m	Freestyle	S7-S16	S7-S16
50m	Backstroke	S1-S16	S1-S16
100m	Backstroke	S1-S16	S1-S16
200m	Backstroke	S6-S16	S6-S16
50m	Breaststroke	SB1-SB16	SB1-SB16
100m	Breaststroke	SB1-SB16	SB1-SB16
200m	Breaststroke	SB4-SB16	SB4-SB16
50m	Butterfly	S1-S16	S1-S16
100m	Butterfly	S5-S16	S5-S16
200m	Butterfly	S8-S16	S8-S16
100m	IM	SM4-SM16	SM4-SM16
150m	IM	SM1-SM4	SM1-SM4
200m	IM	SM5-SM16	SM5-SM16
400m	IM	SM8-SM16	SM8-SM16

MC 12.2.9A The recognised distances and strokes for classified swimmers with an impairment for Australian Long Course Age Records rule MC 12.2.6A (c) shall be:

Distance	Stroke	Boys Classes	Girls Classes
50m	Freestyle	S1-S16	S1-S16
100m	Freestyle	S1-S16	S1-S16
200m	Freestyle	S1-S16	S1-S16
400m	Freestyle	S6-S16	S6-S16
50m	Backstroke	S1-S16	S1-S16
100m	Backstroke	S1-S16	S1-S16
200m	Backstroke	S6-S16	S6-S16
50m	Breaststroke	SB1-SB16	SB1-SB16
100m	Breaststroke	SB1-SB16	SB1-SB16
200m	Breaststroke	SB4-SB16	SB4-SB16
50m	Butterfly	S1-S16	S1-S16
100m	Butterfly	S5-S16	S5-S16
200m	Butterfly	S8-S16	S8-S16
150m	Individual Medley	SM1-SM4	SM1-SM4
200m	Individual Medley	SM5-SM16	SM5-SM16
400m	Individual Medley	SM8-SM16	SM8-SM16

SW 12.3 Application for Records

SW 12.3.1 World Records

SW 12.3.1.1 Applications for World Records and World Junior Records must be made on the FINA official forms by the responsible authority of the organizing or management committee of the competition and signed by an authorized representative of the Member in the country of the swimmer, certifying that all regulations have been observed including a negative doping test certification (DC 5.23.3.2). The application form shall be forwarded to the Executive Director of FINA within 14 days after the performance. (FINA SW 12.14)

MC12.3.1.1A Any performance which appears to be a WPS World Record and complies with the relevant rules shall be notified to Swimming Australia within 72 hours of the performance. Swimming Australia shall forthwith complete the official form provided by WPS and submit directly to WPS Swimming within 15 days of the record performance (WPS 10.17.9).

Commented [L&R43]: Removal of various notes requiring certificates/diplomas to be issued to the swimmer

Commented [L&R44]: New process for applying for a World Record. Previous process requires Swimming Australia to be notified within 72 hours of the performance. The CEO would then complete the official form provided by FINA.

SW 12.3.2A Commonwealth Records

Any performance which appears to be a Commonwealth Record and complies with the relevant rules shall be notified to Swimming Australia.

Commented [L&R45]: Removes the requirement for Swimming Australia to be notified within 72 hours

SW 12.3.3A Australian and All Comers Records

SW 12.4.3.1A Application for recognition for any Australian, All Comers Record shall be made on the prescribed "Application for Record Form" or "Application for Multi Class Record Form", unless the event is conducted by Swimming Australia.

After being duly completed, processed and recommended by a member organisation the application shall be forwarded within seven days of the performance to Swimming Australia.

Such records when ratified by Swimming Australia shall be entered into the permanent records of Swimming Australia.

A record Certificate shall be presented to the individual swimmers and each member of a relay team recognising the performance of the swim.

Commented [L&R46]: Removes additional regulations requiring the length of each lane to be certified.

SW 12.4.3.2A Records shall be established in each age group, but a swimmer cannot claim a record in a higher age group if so created. Records can be established by either age in any particular multiple age group.

SW 13 Automatic Officiating Procedure

SW 13.1 When Automatic Officiating Equipment (See FR 4) is used in any competition, the placing and times so determined, and relay take-offs judged by such equipment shall have precedence over the Timekeepers and Inspectors of Turns.

SW 13.2 When the Automatic Officiating Equipment fails to record the place and/or time of one or more swimmers in a given race.

SW 13.2.1 Record automatic equipment times and places;

SW 13.2.2 Record human times and places;

SW 13.2.3 The official place will be determined as follows:

SW 13.2.3.1 A swimmer with an automatic equipment time and place must retain their relative order when compared with the other swimmers having an automatic equipment time and place within that race.

SW 13.2.3.2 A swimmer not having an automatic equipment place but having an automatic equipment time will establish their relative order by comparing their automatic equipment time with the automatic equipment times of the other swimmers.

SW 13.2.3.3 A swimmer having neither an automatic equipment place nor an automatic equipment time shall establish their relative order by the time recorded by the semi-automatic equipment or by three digital watches.

SW 13.3 The official time will be determined as follows:

SW 13.3.1 The official time for all swimmers having an automatic equipment time will be that time.

SW 13.3.2 The official time for all swimmers not having an Automatic Equipment time will be the three digital watches or the Semi-Automatic Equipment time.

SW 13.4 To determine the relative order of finish for the combined heats of an event, proceed as follows:

SW 13.4.1 The relative order of all swimmers will be established by comparing their official times.

SW 13.4.2 If a swimmer has an official time which is tied with the official time(s) of one or more swimmers, all swimmers having that time shall be tied in their relative order of finish in that event.

MC 13 Change of Sport Class in Competition (WPS 10.13)

Changes of Sport class during Competition may result from;

- Observation in Competition; or
- Classification Protests after Observation in Competition

MC 13.1 If an athlete's sport class changes to a sport class that indicates a greater level of activity limitation ("lower sport class"), then the athlete's results and medals won during the first appearance shall be recognised. Times achieved will be considered as swum in the new sport class. After first appearance, the athlete must enter events in their revised sport class whenever possible. It is permissible for an athlete to enter finals in the initial sport class, if the athlete has qualified for those. **(WPS 10.13.1)**

MC 13.2 If an athlete's sport class changes to a sport class that indicates a lower level of activity limitation ("higher sport class") during competition, then the athlete's results and medals won during the first appearance event should not be recognised as achieved in the athlete's initial sport class. Times achieved will be considered as swum in the new sport class. Athletes should only be permitted to enter events in the revised sport class. **(WPS 10.13.2)**

MC 13.3 If a change of sport class results in an athlete not meeting the Meet Qualifying Standard (MQS) of any new event(s) to be entered, they shall not forfeit the opportunity of competing except at the Paralympic Games and IPC Championships. **(WPS 10.13.3)**

Interpretation: This table assists to clarify Rules **MC 12.6.1, MC 12.6.2 and MC 12.6.3. (WPS 10.13.1, WPS 10.13.2 and WPS 10.13.3)**

Scenario	Athlete moves to a lower sport class i.e. S5 to S4	Athlete moves to a higher sport class i.e. SB3 to SB4
Times achieved during the First Appearance will be considered as being swum in the new sport class	Yes	Yes
Times, results and medals won during First Appearance	Will be recognised	Will not be recognised

Scenario	Athlete moves to a lower sport class i.e. S5 to S4	Athlete moves to a higher sport class i.e. SB3 to SB4
The athlete may enter the final of an event in their initial sport class, provided they qualified for it	Yes, but only if the final of the same event in their new sport class has already taken place. If the event has not already taken place, the athlete should enter the event afresh in their new sport class (competing in both heats and finals). If the heat in the new sport class has already taken place, the heat time from the event swam in the initial Sport Class is used to place athletes into the finals.	No
Athletes are only allowed to enter events in their new sport class	Yes	Yes For example: an athlete changing from SB3 to SB4 will enter the 100m Breaststroke, instead of the 50m Breaststroke
Athletes not meeting the MQS of the event in their new sport class can compete	Yes	Yes

MC 13.4 If an athlete is reclassified (**R**), the sport class change will take place immediately and times will be awarded in the new sport class. An athlete's historical times shall be retained in the athlete's previous sport class (**WPS 10.16.4**).

MC 13.5 An athlete competing in a higher class event is eligible to set records in their own class (**WPS 10.17.8**).

Commented [L&R47]: New rules

SW.14 Officials Error

If an error by an official follows a fault by a competitor, the fault by the competitor may be expunged (**FINA GR7.5**).