



# Rule Changes

# General Changes

- SNSW – Uniform changes
- References to FINA – changed to World Aquatics throughout SNSW rules
- Gender Neutral language applied throughout rules

Rule number	Rule	Commentary
GR 9	New South Wales Open and Age Championships And Other Swim Meets	
GR9.1.1	For Heats, Semi-Finals & Finals, swimmers shall report to the <a href="#">Call Room Supervisor</a> at a time determined by the event management. A swimmer failing to do so shall be deemed to be withdrawn. Once reported, a swimmer is not permitted to leave the marshalling area unless approval is first obtained from the Call Room Supervisor. All heats of each event shall be deemed to be one event for the purpose of this Rule. <a href="#">When Self-Marshalling procedures are to be employed, the procedures will be detailed in the meet program.</a> Swimmers are personally responsible for being at the starting platform at the time determined by the event management.	Updated to reflect self-marshalling
GR9.1.2	A swimmer, who fails to report to the <a href="#">Call Room Supervisor</a> by the specified time (see GR9.1.1), or, who having reported and subsequently leaves the marshalling area for any reason without the permission of the <a href="#">Call Room Supervisor</a> , may be deemed a withdrawal. <a href="#">For Self-Marshalling heats, the meet procedures will indicate if swimmers are required to advise the Call Room Supervisor of their withdrawal from events</a>	

Rule number	Rule	Commentary
SW 1	MANAGEMENT OF COMPETITIONS	
SW 1.2 (WA) WPS 10.1.1	<p><del>At the Olympic Games and World Championships the FINA Bureau shall appoint the following minimum number of officials for the control of the competitions:</del></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>• Referee (2)</del></li> <li><del>• Control Room Supervisor (1) • Judges of Stroke (4)</del></li> <li><del>• Starters (2)</del></li> <li><del>• Chief Inspectors of Turns (2, 1 at each end of the pool)</del></li> <li><del>• Inspectors of Turns (1 at each end of each lane)</del></li> <li><del>• Chief recorder (1)</del></li> <li><del>• Clerk of course (2)</del></li> <li><del>• Announcer (1)</del></li> </ul> <p>Organisers of swimming competitions shall appoint sufficient officials to ensure the fairness, integrity and safety of the competition.</p>	<p>Promoters and organisers of events must appoint sufficient officials to ensure that the competition is fair and safe</p> <p>The officials for World Championships and Olympic Games will now listed in the By-Laws</p>
GR 7.3 (SNSW)	The Officials for an approved meet shall include both an accredited SA Referee and an accredited or approved Starter as a minimum requirement.	SNSW specific rule change for approved meets

Rule number	Rule	Commentary
SW 1	MANAGEMENT OF COMPETITIONS	
SW 1.2.2 (WA) Not adopted by SNSW	Where Automatic Officiating Equipment is not available, such equipment must be replaced by a chief timekeeper. Wherever possible, a <b>minimum of one</b> (1) timekeeper per lane shall be appointed together <del>and</del> <b>with</b> one (1) additional timekeeper in case of a watch malfunction. <b>It is advisable that there shall be three (3) timekeepers for each lane.</b>	Good practice SW 1.2.1 to 1.2.2 are unchanged
SW 1.4 (WA)	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 World Aquatics markings.	Adopted by SNSW that may be applied for NSW Open and Sydney Open
SW 1.5 (WA)	<b>The event management shall specify for heats, semi-finals, and finals the presentation and preparation protocol that the competitors must respect when they leave the last call-room.</b>	Formalisation of good practice, especially at events when BIBS are used

Rule number	Rule	Commentary
SW 2	Officials	
SW 2.1	<b>Referee</b>	SNSW rule 2.1 has been renumbered to re-align with the WA rule numbers and to include 2.1.8 and 2.1.9  Rules numbers now 2.1.1 – 2.1.17
SW 2.1.5 (WA) WPS 11.1.1	<p><del>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.</del> <b>Once all swimmers have removed their clothing, except for swimwear, the Referee shall signal the commencement of an event by a short series of whistles inviting them to get ready at the starting end,</b> 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.</p>	Formalisation of good practice that competitors remove their clothing, except swimwear, before the referee starts the whistle blowing procedure

Rule number	Rule	Commentary
SW 2	Officials	
SW 2.1	<b>Referee</b>	
SW 2.1.6 (WA)	A disqualification for starting before the starting signal must be observed and confirmed by both the Starter and the Referee. When <del>video timing</del> Automatic Officiating Equipment is available, it may be used to verify the disqualification.	Confirmation that AOE overhead cameras may be used to confirm a start infraction. Reaction times from starting blocks should not be used.
SW 2.1.8 (WA) WPS 10.2.2.7	All potential infractions shall be verbally reported to the Referee. Once confirmed by the Referee, a signed disqualification card or <b>electronic equivalent</b> shall be completed by the reporting official, detailing the event, lane number and the infraction.	Good practice Change to reflect the use of electronic infractions at SNSW meets
SW 2.1.9 (WA)	The Referee shall appoint officials who 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 Officiating Equipment which judges relay take-offs is available, it shall be used in accordance with SW 13.1.	The referee may appoint officials to judge relay takeovers

Rule number	Rule	Commentary
SW 2	Officials	
SW 2.2 (NSW)	<p><b>Control Room Supervisor</b></p> <p>A control room supervisor shall be appointed to operate under the direction of the referee and shall:</p>	Reposition subsections in the same order as WA rules
SW 2.2.1 (WA)	<p>The Control Room Supervisor shall supervise the operation of the <del>automatic timing operation</del> <b>Automatic Officiating Equipment</b>. <del>operation</del> including the review of video timing.</p>	SNSW rule: supervise the operation of the automatic officiating equipment including the review of back up timing equipment;
SW 2.2.5 (WA) Not adopted by SNSW	<p>The Control Room Supervisor shall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• control withdrawals after the heats and/or <del>semi-finals or finals</del>,</li> <li>• enter results on official forms,</li> <li>• list all new records established, and</li> <li>• maintain scores where appropriate.</li> </ul>	This is the responsibility of the Recorders at NSW meets. SW2.13.1



Rule number	Rule	Commentary
SW 2	Officials	
SW 2.3	<b>Starter</b>	
SW 2.3.5 (WA)	The Starter shall report to the Referee any violation observed within their jurisdiction.	
<b>NOTE:</b>	When dealing with swimmers etc	Removed from SNSW rule as it is the training materials.

Rule number	Rule	Commentary
SW 2	Officials	
SW 2.4 WPS has also adopted this name change	<del>Clerk of Course</del> <b>Call Room Supervisor</b>	Clerk of course changed to Call Room Supervisor. Changed throughout rules.  NSW rules have been re-numbered to aligned we WA numbering.  Marshalling area – now call room throughout the rules.
SW 2.4.1 (SNSW)	assemble swimmers prior to each event and ensure swimmers are reporting for the correct event. When Self-Marshalling procedures are required, direct swimmers to take up their positions on pool deck;	SNSW Rule change to cover Self Marshalling
SW 2.4.2 (WA) Not adopted by SNSW	The <del>clerk of course</del> <b>Call Room Supervisor</b> shall report to the Referee any violation noted in regard to advertising ( <del>GR 6</del> ) with regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• swimwear</li> <li>• advertising</li> </ul> and if a swimmer is not present when called.	SNSW Rule:  report to the Referee any violation noted in regard to swimwear and advertising (GR19 and GR20)
SW 2.4.8 (SNSW)	If an amalgamation or reseed is possible within an event, consult the <b>Technical Manager and the Referee</b> for a decision. If the Referee decides to amalgamate or reseed an event, advise the Control Room Supervisor or Chief Recorder;	Updated in line with current procedure at SNSW meet

Rule number	Rule	Commentary
SW 2	Officials	
SW 2.4.12 (SNSW)	<b>Check Starters</b>	renumbered local rules as Check Starter being function associated with Call Room Supervisor and maintaining WA Section numbering and WA terminology.
SW2.4.12.2 (SNSW)	place swimmers in their respective starting positions for the event <b>or when Self Marshalling procedures are required, direct swimmers to take up their positions behind the starting platforms</b>	Align with self-marshalling procedures at SNSW
SW 2.6	<b>Inspector of Turns</b>	Renumbered to align with WA rule
SW 2.6.5 (WA) WPS 10.2.7.5	When a Backstroke ledge is being used, each inspector at the starting end shall install and remove the ledge. <b>Once installed, the ledge shall be set at Zero (0).</b>	
SW 2.6.9 (WA)	Inspectors of Turns shall report to the Referee any violation <del>on</del> <b>signed cards detailing the event, lane number, and the infraction observed within their jurisdiction.</b>	

Rule number	Rule	Commentary
SW 2	Officials	
SW 2.7	<b>Judges of stroke</b>	Renumbered to align with WA rule
SW 2.7.3 (WA)	Judges of Stroke shall report to the Referee any violation <del>on signed cards detailing the event, lane number, and the infraction</del> <b>observed within their jurisdiction.</b>	
SW 2.8	<b>Chief Timekeeper</b>	Renumbered to align with WA rule
SW 2.8.2 (WA)	When only one (1) timekeeper per lane is available, an extra timekeeper must be assigned in case of a malfunction of a <del>stop</del> watch. In addition, the Chief Timekeeper must always record the time of the winner of each <del>heat</del> <b>race.</b>	
NOTE: (SNSW)	Recommended procedure for checking watches prior to the start of the meet	Removed from SNSW rule as it is the training materials.
SW 2.9	<b>Timekeepers</b>	Renumbered to align with WA rule
SW 2.9.1 (WA) Not adopted by SNSW	Each timekeeper shall take the time of the swimmers in the lane assigned to him in accordance with SW 11.3. <b>The watches shall be certified correct to the satisfaction of the meet Management Committee.</b>	
SW 2.10	<b>Chief Finish Judge - if required</b>	Renumbered to align with WA rule
SW 2.10.3 (WA)	<del>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.</del>	

Rule number	Rule	Commentary
SW 2	Officials	
NOTE: (SNSW)	Collating the finish judge results	Removed from SNSW rule as it is the training materials.
SW 2.11	<b>Finish Judges – if required</b>	Renumbered to align with WA rule
SW 2.11.1	Finish judges shall be positioned <del>in elevated stands</del> in line with the finish where they have at all times a clear view of the course and the finish line, <del>unless they operate an Automatic Officiating device in their respective assigned lanes by depressing the "push-button" at the completion of the race.</del>	
General Comments on Rule SW2 (SNSW)		These have been amended as most are covered in online training notes.  Swimmers with a disability changed to Parra swimmers.

Rule number	Rule	Commentary
SW 2	Officials	
SW 2.13 (WA) WPS 10.2.11	<b>Video Review Supervisor</b>	
SW 2.13.1	The Video Review Supervisor shall ensure that Video Review Judges are in their respective posts and fulfil their duties during the competition.	Formalisation of new roles for video judging  Not adopted by SNSW as not using video review
SW 2.13.2	The Video Review Supervisor shall review and confirm all rule infractions reported to them by the Video Review Judges.	
SW 2.13.3	The Video Review Supervisor shall review and confirm all rule infractions reported to them at the request of the Referee.	
SW 2.13.4	The Video Review Supervisor shall report to the Referee any violation confirmed in the video review.	
SW 2.14 (WA) WPS 10.2.12	<b>Video Review Judge</b>	
SW 2.14.1	Each Video Review Judge shall ensure that the rules related to the style of swimming designated for the event are being observed, and shall observe the turns and the finishes	
SW 2.14.2	Video Review Judges shall report any violation observed to the Video Review Supervisor. If the infraction is confirmed, the Video Review Judge shall complete a disqualification card.	

Rule number	Rule	Commentary
SW 3	<b>Starting Positions</b>	SW3 has been re-number to align with WA numbering. Seeding example removed.
SW3.1.1.3	FOR THREE (3) HEATS Except for 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 so on until all the swimmers are assigned.	Updated to reflect WA rule.
SW3.1.1.4	FOR MORE THAN THREE (3) HEATS. Except for 400m, 800m and 1500m events, the last three heats shall be assigned in accordance with SW3.1.1.3. 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 and so on until all the swimmers have been assigned in descending order of submitted times within each heat in accordance with the pattern outlined in SW3.1.2, unless determined otherwise by the Company.	
SW3.1.1.5	For 400m, 800m and 1500m events, the last two heats of the event shall be seeded in accordance with SW 3.1.1.3.	

Rule number	Rule	Commentary
SW 3	<b>Starting Positions</b>	
SW3.1.1.7 (WA)	When a ten (10) lane pool is available and equal times are established for the 8th place in the heats of events in excess of 200m and, including relay events, lane 0 will be used. A random draw will be held to determine which competitor is allocated in lane 8 and lane 0. In case of three (3) equal times for 8th place, lane 9 and 0 will be used with a random draw for lane 8, 9 and 0. In the event that there are more than three (3) competitors or teams having equal times for 8th place in the heats or semifinals, a swim-off may be held.	Adopted by SA
Example (SNSW)	Seeding example removed	Removed from SNSW rule as it is the training materials.



Rule number	Rule	Commentary
SW 3	<b>Starting Positions</b>	
SW 3.2.3 (WA)	In the event that swimmers from the same or different heats have equal times registered to 1/100 second for either the eighth/tenth place or sixteenth/twentieth place depending on the use of 8 or 10 lanes, there <del>shall</del> <b>may</b> be a swim-off to determine which swimmer shall advance to the appropriate finals. Such swim-off shall take place after all involved swimmers have completed their heats at a time agreed between the event management and the parties involved. Another swim-off <del>shall</del> <b>may</b> take place if equal times are registered again. If required, a swim off will take place to determine 1st and 2nd reserve if equal times are recorded.	No longer a specific requirement that a swim-off must be held if one or more competitors do not wish to swim
SW 3.2.4 (WA)	Where one or more swimmers scratch from a semi-final or final reserves will be called in order of classifications in heats or semi-finals. <b>Whenever possible</b> , 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.	It may not be possible to reseed an event due to lack of time
SW3.2.5	For heats, semi-finals and finals, swimmers shall report to the First Call Room at a time determined by event management. After inspection, swimmers proceed to the final call room.	SNSW adopted this rule.

Rule number	Rule	Commentary
SW 4	<b>The Start</b>	
SW 4.4 (WA) WPS 11.1.5	<p><del>Any swimmer starting before the starting signal has been given, shall be disqualified. After all swimmers are stationary, Any swimmer initiating a start before the signal may be disqualified.</del> 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.</p>	<p>Incorporating the rule interpretation. A swimmer may be disqualified if they initiate their start before the signal.</p> <p>An involuntary movement or twitch is not regarded as initiating the start</p>

Rule number	Rule	Commentary
SW 6	<b>Backstroke</b>	
SW 6.1 (WA) WPS 11.3.1	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, <b>at least one toe</b> <del>the toes</del> of each foot must be in contact with the end wall or face of the touchpad. Bending the toes over the top of the touchpad is prohibited.	
SW 6.3 (WA) WPS 11.3.3	Some part of the swimmer must break the surface of the water throughout the race, <b>except that once some part of the head of the swimmer has passed the 5 metres mark immediately prior to reaching for the finish, the swimmer may be completely submerged.</b> It is also permissible for the swimmer to be completely submerged during the turn, and for a distance of not more than 15 metres after the start and each turn. By that point the head must have broken the surface.	

Rule number	Rule	Commentary
SW 6	<b>Backstroke</b>	
SW 6.4 (WA)	When executing the turn there must be a touch of the wall with some part of the swimmer's body <del>in his/her respective lane</del> . 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.	Covered in SW 10.
SW 6.5 (WA)	Upon the finish of the race the swimmer must touch the wall while on the back. <del>in his/her respective lane</del> .	

Rule number	Rule	Commentary
SW 7	Breaststroke	
SW 7.2 (WA) WPS 11.4.2	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 <del>and on the same horizontal plane</del> without alternating movement.	Whether a swimmer's arms are on the same horizontal plane is very difficult to judge. The more important aspect is the arm movements being simultaneous without alternating movement
SW 7.4 (WA) WPS 11.4.4	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 <del>and on the same horizontal plane</del> without alternating movement.	Whether a swimmer's legs are on the same horizontal plane is very difficult to judge. The more important aspect is the leg movements being simultaneous without alternating movement

Rule number	Rule	Commentary
SW 9	Medley	
SW 9 (WA) WPS 11.6.1	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. Leaving the wall on the back during the freestyle portion is permissible but no kicking action is permitted until the swimmer has returned past the vertical to the breast at which point kicking, including a butterfly kick(s) may commence.	Incorporation of the previously published interpretation

Rule number	Rule	Commentary
SW 10	<b>The Race</b>	Renumbered to align with WA rule
SW 10.2 (WA) WPS 11.8.2	A swimmer swimming over the course alone shall cover the whole distance to qualify. <i>A swimmer who does not complete the whole distance in accordance with the relevant rules shall be disqualified.</i>	A swimmer who does not complete the course is disqualified and NOT listed as “Did not finish (DNF)”
SW 10.3 (WA)	<i>On the deck, after respecting the presentation protocol outlined in SW 1.5, the competitors must immediately remove all clothing except for swimwear.</i>	Good practice
SW 10.9 (WA)	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.). <i>The use of technology and automated data collection devices is permissible for the sole purpose of collecting data. Automated devices shall not be utilised to transmit data, sounds, or signals to the swimmer and may not be used to aid their speed.</i> Goggles may be worn. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the Referee. <i>As a consequence of injury, it is permissible to tape not more than one or two fingers or toes. Any other kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the Technical Manager and Referee.</i>	<p>Please note that the current interpretation by Swimming Australia for pool swimming, confirmed by WA, is:</p> <p>It is acceptable for devices to transmit data to a coach and/or the cloud during a race, but not to the swimmer.</p> <p>The swimmer may view the data after their race.</p> <p>Smart goggles (eg <a href="https://www.yourswimlog.com/best-smart-swim-goggles/">https://www.yourswimlog.com/best-smart-swim-goggles/</a>) may not be worn.</p> <p>Smart watches (eg fitbits, Garmins, Apple Watches) may not be worn.</p>

Rule number	Rule	Commentary
SW 10	<b>The Race</b>	
SW 10.12 (WA)	Relay exchanges must commence from the starting platform. Running starts from pool deck are not permitted.	Confirmation that relay exchanges must be made from the block and to ensure a safe competition, running take-overs are not allowed
SW 11	<b>Determination of Times</b>	
SW 11.1 (WA)	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 placing 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 the timekeepers shall be official (See SW 13.3). <i>In the event that there is failure of all timing devices in a lane then the swimmer may be offered a reswim.</i>	Confirmation of best practice that a swimmer may be offered a reswim in the event of a timing malfunction
SW 11.3.3 (WA)	With only two (2) out of three (3) watches working the average time shall be the official time. <i>When this calculation results in a value that is expressed in thousandths of a second, the final digit shall be dropped without rounding.</i>	



Rule number	Rule	Commentary
SW 11	<b>Determination of Times</b>	
Deletion of SNSW section 11.4	Facilitates WA numbering sequences. Retaining appropriate subsections with appropriate wording	
SW 11.3.5 (SNSW)	In the event that the Automatic Equipment fails and a manual backup is used, official manual times shall be determined as above.	
SW 11.3.6 (SNSW)	The Meet Director/Referee/Technical Manager should decide, at the start of the meet, in the case of only two (2) watch times being recorded, whether to use the average if the two (2) recorded times, or the slower time recorded as the official time.	

Rule number	Rule	Commentary
SW 13	Automatic Officiating Procedure	
SW 13.2.3.3	A swimmer having neither an Automatic Equipment place nor an Automatic Equipment time shall establish <del>his</del> <b>their</b> relative order by the time recorded by the Semi-Automatic Equipment or by <del>three digital</del> watches.	
SW 13.3.2	The official time for all swimmers not having an Automatic Equipment time will be <del>the three digital watches or</del> <b>the times recorded by</b> Semi-Automatic Equipment <del>time or digital</del> watches.	

# Other stuff

- Pool Deck Protocols have changed to reflect the backstroke rule changes
- Swimming Rule Infractions – Quick Reference Guide has been updated to reflect the rules changes
- <https://technical.swimming.org.au/c/resources/>