

Protocols for Officiating a Para Swimming (Multi-Class) Race in NSW

1. Swimmers should be referred to as para athletes/swimmers not multi-class.
2. Para swimmers shall present to the Referee or Technical Manager pre-meet, to have equipment like tappers, blackened goggles and starting devices inspected and swimwear modifications checked, with details recorded and approved for the duration of the meet
3. Officials should be aware that para swimmers take a bit longer than able-bodied swimmers to prepare and compete. It is important that we are clear, concise and calm when instructing and talking to para swimmers, especially intellectually impaired swimmers.
4. The Referee's series of short whistles should be employed for all Para Swimming events as it allows wheelchair swimmers time to enter the water and other swimmers time to remove limbs and clothing.
 - a. Wheelchair athletes should be encouraged to enter the water in the time between the short whistles and the long whistle.
5. The Starter should wait patiently for all swimmers to be as still as they can be.
 - a. Starters should avoid the standing down of swimmers where possible. Where there are problems with the start the Starter should use the command "Relax swimmers". They should NOT say "stand down".
6. Judges of Stroke should walk for ALL events including freestyle, with positioning at the start as for backstroke and butterfly form strokes.
 - a. Judges of Stroke may find it preferable to walk slightly further behind swimmers, particularly in form strokes to observe WPS rule infractions, slightly further behind than for able bodies swimmers.
7. The Referee should whistle all swimmers from the water as soon as the last swimmer touches the wall.
 - a. The Referee should then deal with any infraction reports, timing issues, or other issues.
 - b. When all issues have been dealt with the Referee shall give the all clear to the CRS.
8. At the conclusion of each event Judges of Stroke 1 and 4 should remain near the finish end of the pool to observe all swimmers leave the pool safely. They should stand a respectful distance from the swimmers.
 - a. If there are any S11 swimmers the Judge of Stroke should step forward to the swimmer as they leave the pool and request to see their goggles, then check that they are opaque.
Judges of Stroke 2 and 3 should return to their positions.

The World Para Swimming (WPS) Disqualification Descriptors can be found [HERE](#).