

Bonn, 26 February 2015

IPC Swimming Rules and Regulations 2014 – 2017

IPC Swimming has made changes to the current Rules and Regulations 2014 – 2017 these changes come following the FINA Extraordinary Congress in December 2014. These can be found below and on the IPC Swimming website. The changes will come into effect from **Monday 2 March 2015**.

Please note where no reference is made to a rule the existing rule within the IPC Swimming Rules and Regulations 2014-2017 is still valid.

*New wording is shown in **bold** lettering, where new rules have been introduced re-numbering thereafter will be necessary.*

SWIMMING REGULATIONS

(New Rule 2.2.2.5) A disqualification for starting before the starting signal must be observed and confirmed by both the starter and the referee.

(Amended Rule 2.2.2.5; re-number to 2.2.2.6) The referee shall disqualify any swimmer for any **other** violation of IPC Swimming Rules and Regulations that he personally observes. The referee may also disqualify any swimmer for any violation reported to him by other officials.

Comment: The decision to disqualify a swimmer for infringing the rules at the start of a race must now be a joint and agreed decision between the Starter and Referee

(Amended Rule 2.2.7.3) In individual events of 800 and 1500 metres, each inspector of turns **at the start or** 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”. Semi-electronic equipment may be used, including under water display.

Comment: This rule change formally allows what has been practice on many occasions in placing the lap cards at the starting end of the pool

(New Rule 2.7.2.1) Whilst 10 lanes may be used for heats, Finals can only be swum using 8 lanes.

(Amended Rule 2.15.1.1) For S11, SB11 and SM11 competitors, a tapper **and tapping** is mandatory for every turn and finish.

Comment: This rule change clarifies the requirement of all S11 swimmers to be tapped at each turn and finish.

SWIMMING RULES

(Amended Rule 3.3.1) 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, 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.**

Comment: Backstroke ledges whilst now legalised under FINA Rules and IPC Swimming Rules are not common. IPC Swimming would treat the ledge in the same way as a starting platform in that all or none of the lanes should be provided with the equipment to allow for equality for all swimmers at the start. Personal equipment is not permitted. The wording of the rule makes it clear that if used the swimmer must have toes in contact with the wall or pad rather than bent over the edge of the ledge.

(New Rule 3.3.2) **When a backstroke ledge is being used, each inspector at the starting end shall install and remove the ledge after the start.**

Comment: All officials acting as Inspector of Turn at a venue where ledges are provided must make themselves aware of how to safely install and remove the ledge. Swimmers should be encouraged to check the fitting and placement of the ledge.

(Amended Rule 3.4.1) 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 during the first arm stroke followed by a breaststroke kick.**

Comment: The butterfly kick if used is not part of the breaststroke cycle of arm stroke followed by leg kick in that order. Officials need to observe for a single butterfly kick. If

used, this butterfly kick may take place before, during or after the first arm pull but must be completed before the first breaststroke leg kick.

FACILITIES RULES

(Amended Rule 5.2.7.4) Relates to Starting Platforms, the following reference to a backstroke starting device has been removed: An adjustable back stroke starting platform may also be used.

(New Rule 5.2.7.10) Backstroke Ledge

A backstroke ledge may be used:

- The ledge may be adjustable to 4 cm above or 4 cm below the water level.
- The ledge is a minimum of 65 cm in length.
- The ledge must be 8 cm in height, 2 cm at the width with 10 degrees of slope

