

New Competition Regulations: Amendments¹

Part One - Rules Applicable to All Aquatic Sports

- Articles 1 and 2: Clarifying how Aquatics competitions are tiered and structured, and which are organised by World Aquatics or another entity.
- Article 3: New provisions to clarify how sport nationality is determined and may be changed.
- Article 5: Removing certain provisions that addressed qualification for competitions and moving other provisions regarding sport entries to the sport-specific Parts.
- Article 6: Clarifying the swimwear requirements for each sport and reorganising for ease of understanding the written process for swimwear approvals (for which the process remains the same in practice).
- Article 7: Clarifying the identifications/logos permitted on various items of swimwear at different competitions to correspond with current practice, and improving the process to monitor and enforce possible non-compliance.
- Article 10: Clarifying the eligibility rules for a Technical Official to officiate at an event and introducing new rules to restrict officiating duties if a conflict of interest is present.
- Article 11: Clarifying the individual and team awards that are provided to athletes and teams in top-tier World Aquatics competitions and how team competitions based on accumulation of points are determined.
- Article 12: Clarifying the (limited) circumstances in which an appeal may be made, the process that must be followed, and the test that the Jury of Appeal must apply to determine the appeal.

Part Two - Swimming

- Articles 2, 11, and 15.16: Clarifying how Automatic Officiating Equipment operates, which competitions it is mandatory at, and which Technical Officials are required at competitions if it is used (and which are required if it is not used). Clarifying when and how lap cards must be displayed in the longer distance races, and the roles of officials in the call room and Resolution Desk Judges.
- Articles 5, 6, 7 and 8: Clarifying the language regarding when it is permissible for an Athlete to be completely submerged.
- Article 2: Amending the role of Call Room Supervisors, and further clarifying the responsibilities of warm-up supervisors.
- Article 3: Clarifying how - at different competitions and using different number of lanes - Athletes are allocated into heats and semi-finals, how they qualify into semi-finals and finals, how equal seeds/qualifiers are resolved, and how lanes are allocated.
- Article 10: Clarifying (by making language less neutral) how racing must be conducted, clearly setting out what an Athlete *must* do, *must not* do, and *may* do.

¹ This is a summary, not an exhaustive list, of all substantive amendments.

- Article 11: Clarifying how timings are recorded and placings determined when using Automatic Officiating Equipment and when using Timekeepers, including what happens when timing devices malfunction or differ.
- Article 12: Clarifying the criteria that must be met for a performance to be eligible for a World Record and the process that must be followed (at different competitions) for recognition of a performance as a World Record. This includes a change in the rules allowing a lead-off swimmer's times in Mixed relay events to be recognised for record purposes.
- Article 14: Amendment confirming that Athletes are not prevented from using tape, including to tape together two fingers or toes.
- Article 15: Clarifying which pool dimensions, lane rope requirements, and light intensities apply at different competitions.
- Additional comments:
 - Strokes (Articles, 5, 6, 7 and 8)
 - There are updates to the stroke rules to allow a competitor to be completed submerged when reaching for the finish in both Freestyle and Butterfly (similar to the provisions set out previously in the Backstroke rules).
 - There are some minor word changes to the Breaststroke rules regarding the position of the body after the start and after the turns but there is no change to the way this stroke is officiated.
 - Roles and Duties (Article 2)
 - The Referee must remind all appointed officials to remain vigilant during the competition to ensure the safety and well-being of the competitors.
 - When video judging is available to review starts, it is no longer necessary for the Referee and Starter to concur that a false start has occurred if the video judging equipment is consulted;
 - The requirement to use lap cards for distance Freestyle events has been extended to include 400m races (both long course and short course); similarly, a warning signal must be given (bell or whistle) in these races;
 - There are new definitions for the roles of call room judge, resolution desk judge, and warm-up supervisor;
 - The Judges of Strokes shall ensure that the Backstroke flags are inserted in the correct position before the start of all Backstroke and Medley events

Part Three – Open Water Swimming

- Article 1: 3km Knockout Sprint has been included as a fixed event for World Aquatics Championships and World Aquatics Junior Championships.
- Article 2: Clarifying the duties of the Technical Officials, in particular the Chief Referee, including his/her role in reviewing breaches reported by the Video Review Judge (Articles 2.5.11 and 2.21). Additionally, the duties of the Clerk of Course have been refined - especially towards checking wearables and equipment in accordance with Article 3.2.1 of Part Three.
- Article 3: Clarifying the process of the start, including new provisions to address: sanctions for an Athlete who does not attend (or is late to) the pre-race briefing

(Article 3.2.2), and the circumstances in which a men's and women's race might be started simultaneously (Articles 3.2.4 and 3.2.5).

- Articles 3, 4, and 5:
 - Clarifying how the race should be conducted including new and improved provisions to address different types of rule breaches including at the finish (Article 5) and Unsporting Conduct (Article 4.2.4), the procedure by which warnings are given (Article 4.2.1) and a yellow flag and a red flag will be issued (Article 4.2.2), the requirement for pre-approval of feeding poles (Article 4.4.5), and a reduced time limit for Athletes – from 15m/5km to 10m/5km and from 120m to 60m (Article 4.5).
 - A new Appendix 7 has been created to provide support to Article 4.2. This appendix is a quick reference guide for any infraction committed by an athlete during a race.
 - Article 4.4 - Feeding can only be given by using biodegradable containers and gels/packed nutrition are now banned.
- Article 7: This is a new article clarifying how the 3 km Knockout Sprint event is organised and how Athletes progress from round to round, including what happens in the event of an appeal part way through the event.
- Article 10: Clarifying permitted swimwear and wearables in Open Water Swimming including the use of grease (or similar) (Article 10.4) and the prohibition of devices to aid speed or buoyancy (Article 10.6).
- Articles 12 to 14: Clarifying the facilities required for Open Water Swimming competitions, including new and improved provisions explaining how Technical Officials will monitor water temperature (Article 12.2.3), and the requirements of the competition Safety Plan.

Part Four – Diving

- Article 2: Clarifying dive Number designations (without changing how dives are numbered).
- Article 4: Clarifying the stages, sessions, and rounds of a Diving event, and how events at different competitions will be organised.
- Article 5 and 6: Clarifying the requirements for dives executed in different events and at different competitions (including age group events), and the requirements around submission of amended Statements of Dives.
- Article 8: Clarifying the Referee's obligations and powers during an event, and a minor additional requirement for the Referee to remain available following the conclusion of a stage.
- Articles 10 and 11: Clarifying the sections of a dive (approach, take-off, flight) and how performance of a dive is officiated and judged; minor amendments to the Referee's assessment of whether a dive is unsafe.
- Article 15: Clarifying provisions that previously did not fully address the issues of water temperature, lane markings, and the measurement of lighting requirements.

Part Five – High Diving

- Article 2: Clarifying dive Number designations (without changing how dives are numbered). A "Barani" is now expressly explained in the rules (Article 3.6).
- Articles 4 and 5: Clarifying the stages, sessions, and rounds of a High Diving event, and how events at different competitions will be organised. Clarification

that the Bureau will approve competition programmes on the recommendation of the LOC or Management Committee (Article 5.1).

- Article 5 and 6: Clarifying the requirements for dives executed in different events and at different competitions, and the requirements around submission of amended Statements of Dives.
- Article 7: Clarifying in some respects and introducing new provisions in other respects to address the Referee's management of the dive process, including replacement of judges as soon as possible after the reason for replacement arises (Article 7.5.5), the Referee's power to cancel a dive if an Athlete refuses to or unreasonably delays a dive (Article 7.6.3), strong wind includes but is not limited to winds exceeding 40km/hour (Article 7.7.1.3), the Referee's general discretion to order a restart where it is fair and appropriate to do so (Article 7.7.1.4).
- Articles 10: Clarifying how performance of a dive is officiated and judged.
- Article 12: Amending the height of the platform for Age Group B events (15-16) from 12 metres to 15 metres. Consequently, the 12-metre height will no longer be used for this event. The Degree of Difficulty table for the 12-metre height will remain available for use in non-World Aquatics competitions.
- Article 15: New and improved provisions that address safety requirements, including: setting out the composition and responsibilities of the water safety team; specifying the safety captain requirements for training and competition in permanent facilities; discretion for World Aquatics/ the Technical High Diving Committee to impose additional safety and/or emergency requirements at a competition (including to ensure the use of lifeguards where appropriate), and requiring signals between Athletes and Safety Divers to indicate the safety of the Athlete after a dive.

Part Six – Water Polo

- Article 2: Clarifying team composition requirements during play. For example: new provisions to specify the procedures for replacement of Goalkeepers, and a prohibition on Goalkeepers playing as Field Players after substitution; and specifying the minimum number of Players for a team at any time in a match, and the consequence if that minimum is not met.
- Article 3: Clarifying and further specifying the roles and responsibilities of Technical Officials, including: provisions to codify the Referees' positions and their discretion to manage and officiate matches; to clarify the procedure for decision making between the Referees; and to clarify the circumstances in which the Referee may (and may not) choose to replay a match or part of it.
- Articles 4 and 10: New provisions to define and clarify the operation of (1) Actual Play, and (2) Possession and the Shot Clock.
- Article 5: Clarifying the requirements for calling a Timeout and the consequences of invalid Timeout requests.
- Article 6: Adding specificity to the positions that Players must adopt at the start and restart of play; amending the rules to reflect that a ball release device may or may not be in use.
- Article 7: Clarifying when a Goal is scored to reflect current practice and remove ambiguity in the rules as to when a ball is considered to have passed into the Goal; reorganising and clarifying provisions detailing when a Goal may or may not be scored (including via a Direct Shot).
- Articles 8 to 17: Ensuring that the rules regarding the award, and taking, of each type of Foul and throw are comprehensive and clear.

- Article 18: New provisions and reorganisation to ensure the award of Yellow and Red Cards (and their consequences) are clear.
- Article 19: Amendments to ensure consistency between the rules regarding injury and illness and the rules regarding Players leaving and entering the Field of Play elsewhere in Part Six; new provisions to ensure the rules are appropriate for situations involving illness and injury.
- Articles 20 and 21: Revisions and new provisions setting out the detailed requirements (measurements, etc.) for the Field of Play and equipment.
- Previous Appendix 2 ('Diagrams' of the Field of Play) has been removed, to avoid duplication with Appendix 1.
- The previous Appendix 3 (Definitions) has been moved to Appendix 10, which is a list of Definitions used only in Part Six. We have added definitions to Appendix 10 to ensure it captures each of the terms used in Part Six, and have amended the wording of each definition to ensure clarity. We have also removed definitions have where they were not, or are no longer, used in Part Six or where they are defined in Part Nine.
- Appendices 3, 4, and 5 (Penalty Shootouts, Video Assistant Referee Protocol, Coach's Challenges) each include amendments and new provisions to reflect current practice in the officiating of the game and to fill gaps in the rules, where necessary.
- The previous Appendices 4 and 5 ('Field of Play' and 'Officials') have been removed to avoid duplication or inconsistency with the articles addressing those topics in Part Six. Where necessary, the content of those Appendices has been incorporated into the relevant articles of Part Six.
- The previous Appendix 9 ('Tournament Structures') has been removed, and replaced with a short 'Registration and Sport Entries' section as Appendix 7. Following discussion with, and within, the AQUA Water Polo team, this will enable World Aquatics to update the qualification, draw and tournament schedule procedures (as it does in any event) for each championships cycle without updating the Competition Regulations or without rendering them inaccurate/outdated.
- Appendix 8: a new 'Points and tie-breaking' appendix has been added, to codify the (existing) rules about the outcome of matches and how points and positions in tournaments are determined.
- Appendix 9: Beach Water Polo has been renamed 'Water Polo 4s', and Appendix 9 is now a free-standing set of rules for that sport. The previous rules set out some of the rules of the sport and the key differences between Water Polo and Beach Water Polo (now Water Polo 4s). However, as instructed, we have now drafted a detailed and complete set of rules for Water Polo 4s (which does not therefore rely extensively on assumptions that the rules must, if not stated, be the same as they are in Water Polo).

Part Seven – Artistic Swimming

- Article 4.6: Clarifying the number of athletes that a Member Federation may enter into a World Cup competition.
- Article 5: Clarifying how scores for Figures results are calculated.
- Article 6: Clarifying how the start order of Routines are drawn, how scores for Routines are calculated, and the deductions and penalties that may be applied for each event (adding consistency between events where possible to do so). New and improved provisions explaining how music must be submitted and cleared (Article 6.4).

- Article 11: Clarifying the swimwear and wearables permitted and required.
- Appendix 6: Clarifications and amendments to the rules regarding Spins, Twists, Flexibility moves, Airborne moves, Connected Actions and Factoring. Various diagrams and tables, including the Hybrid Difficulty Table.
- Appendix 7: Inserting updated movements in the Pair Acrobatic Movement table.

Part Nine – Glossary

- Part Nine is a new section. It contains several legal rules of interpretation (principles that guide legal interpretation) that are common to all sections, followed by a list of capitalised defined terms that are used regularly throughout multiple sections.