



## **Swimming Rules**

**October 2005**

## SWIMMING RULES

THESE RULES SHALL APPLY IN AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS, INTERNATIONAL CONTESTS IN AUSTRALIA, 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.

### SW 1 MANAGEMENT OF COMPETITIONS

**SW 1.1** The Management Committee consisting of the National Events Manager and the Technical Manager appointed by the Board of 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.A** A Technical Manager shall be appointed by the controlling body and be responsible for the conduct of all technical aspects of the meet. He 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** For all swimming events conducted by Swimming Australia, the following minimum number of Technical Officials are considered desirable for the control of the competitions:

Referee .....	2
Control-room supervisor .....	1
Judges of Stroke .....	4
Starters .....	2
Check Starters .....	2
Chief timekeeper .....	1
Timekeepers – per lane .....	3
Reserve Timekeepers .....	2
Chief Finish Judge (WHEN NECESSARY) .....	1
Finish Judges (WHEN NECESSARY) .....	5
Chief Inspectors of Turns .....	2
(One (1) at each end of the pool)	
Inspectors of Turns – per lane .....	2
(One (1) at each end of each lane)	
Chief Recorder .....	1
Recorders (as required) .....	1
Clerks of Course .....	2
Presentation Officers .....	2
Announcer .....	1
Operators – Automatic Officiating Equipment .....	2
Press Steward (if required) .....	1
False Start Rope personnel .....	1

**SW 1.2.B** 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.C** Where Automatic and Semi-Automatic Officiating Equipment is not available such equipment must be replaced by a Chief Timekeeper, three (3) Timekeepers per lane, each with digital watch.

**SW1.3** The swimming pool and the technical equipment for Olympic Games and World championships shall be inspected and approved in due course prior to the Swimming competitions by the FINA Delegate together with a member of the Technical Swimming Committee

**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 2.1.1** 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 competitions. He shall enforce all rules and decisions of the FINA 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 2.1.2** The Referee may intervene in the competition at any stage to ensure that the FINA 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 (3) digital watches, the referee shall determine placing where necessary. Automatic Officiating Equipment, if available and operating, shall be consulted as stated in SW13.

**SW 2.1.4** The Referee shall ensure that all necessary officials are in their respective posts for the conduct of the competition. He may appoint substitutes for any who are absent, incapable of acting or found to be inefficient. He 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** The Referee shall disqualify any swimmer for any violation of the rules that he personally observes. The referee may also disqualify any swimmer for any violation reported to him by other authorised officials. All disqualifications are subject to the decision of the referee.

**SW 2.1.7.A** The Referee shall have the authority to commence a race prior to the swimmers in the previous race leaving the water.

### **SW 2.2.A Control-room Supervisor**

**SW 2.2.1** The supervisors shall supervise the automatic timing operation including the review of backup timing cameras.

**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 takeoffs to the referee.
- SW 2.2.4** The supervisor may review the video used for backup timing to confirm early takeoff.
- 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 him (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. 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 five metres 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 Clerks of Course**
- SW 2.4.1** The Clerks 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 7) 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.
- SW 2.5.2** The Chief Inspectors of Turns shall receive the reports from the Inspectors of Turns if any infringement occurs and shall present them to the Referee immediately.
- SW 2.6 Inspectors of Turns**
- SW 2.6.1** One inspector of Turns shall be assigned to each lane at each end of the pool.
- SW 2.6.2** Each Inspector of Turns shall ensure that swimmers comply with the relevant rules for turning, commencing from the beginning of the last armstroke before touching and ending with the completion of the first armstroke after turning. The Inspector of Turns at the starting end of the pool, shall ensure that the swimmers comply with the relevant rules from the start and ending with completion of the first armstroke. The inspectors of turns at the finish end of the pool shall also ensure that swimmers finish their race according to the current rules.
- SW 2.6.3** In individual events of 800 and 1500 metres, each Inspector of Turns at the turning end of the pool shall record the number of laps completed by the swimmer in his 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.

- SW 2.6.4** Each Inspector at the starting end shall give a warning signal when the swimmer in his lane has two lengths plus five (5) metres to swim to finish in individual events of 800 and 1500 metres. The signal may be repeated after the turn until the swimmer has reached the five (5) metres mark on the lane rope. The warning signal may be by whistle or bell.
- SW 2.6.5** 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 2.6.6** Inspectors of turns shall report any violation on signed cards detailing the event, lane number and the infringement delivered to the chief inspector of turns who shall immediately convey the report to the referee.
- 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.
- SW 2.7.3** Judges of stroke shall report any violation to the referee on signed cards detailing the event, lane number and the infringement.
- 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. There shall be three (3) timekeepers for each lane. If Automatic Officiating Equipment is not used there shall be two (2) 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 three (3) digital watches per lane, final time and place is determined by time.
- SW 2.8.2** The chief timekeeper shall collect from the timekeepers in each lane a card showing the time recorded and, if necessary, inspect their watches.
- SW 2.8.3** The chief timekeeper shall record or examine the official time on the card for each lane.
- SW 2.9. Timekeepers**
- SW 2.9.1** Each timekeeper shall take the time of the swimmers in the lane assigned to him 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 his watch at the starting signal, and shall stop it when the swimmer in his lane has completed the race. Timekeepers may be instructed by the chief timekeeper to record times at intermediate distances in races longer than 100 metres.
- SW 2.9.3** Promptly after the race, the timekeepers in each lane shall record the times of their watches on the card, give it to the chief timekeeper, and if requested present their watches for inspection. They shall not clear their watches until they receive the "clear watches" signal from the chief timekeeper or the referee.

**SW 2.9.4** Unless a video backup system 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**

**SW 2.10.1** The chief finish judge shall assign each finish judge his 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 Judges**

**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 2.12 Desk Control (other than for Australian Championships)**

**SW 2.12.1** 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 the results.

**SW 2.12.2** 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 2.14.A Check Starters**

**SW 2.14.1** The Check Starters shall receive the swimmers from the Clerks of Course and direct them to their starting positions in heats and finals.

**SW 2.15.A Presentation Officers**

**SW 2.15.1** At the direction of the Meet Director the Presentation Officers are to prepare and conduct the placed swimmers for the presentation of awards, any other presentation that may be required and swimmers selected for media interviews.

**SW 2.16.A Announcer**

**SW 2.16.1** 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 the Referee and Meet Director or their authorised representative.

**SW 2.17.A Press Steward**

**SW 2.17.1** The Press Steward shall obtain the results of each finish from the Recorders and keep the media informed on all details of results during competition and the current performances of the swimmers.

**SW 2.18.A A.O.E. Operators**

The A.O.E. Operators 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 A.O.E. Supervisor of any recording malfunction.

**SW 3 SEEDING OF HEATS, SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS**

**3.A** The starting positions for all events, heats, semi-finals and finals at Australian championships, international contests in Australia, Australian inter-state contests and meets conducted by affiliated associations shall be by seeding as follows:

**SW 3.1 Heats**

**SW 3.1.1** The best competitive times of all entrants for the preceding twelve months prior to the entry deadline of the competition shall be submitted on entry forms 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. 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 3.1.1.1** If one heat, it shall be seeded as a final and swum only during the final session.

**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, 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, 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** 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 3.1.2** Except for 50 metres events in 50 metre pools, assignment of lanes shall be (number 1 lane being on the right side of the pool when facing the course from the starting end) by placing the fastest swimmer or team in the centre lane in pool with an odd number of lanes, or in lane 3 or 4 respectively in pools having 6 or 8 lanes. The swimmer having the next fastest time is to be placed on his 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 50 metre events are contested in 50 metre 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 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.

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

<b>LANE NO.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
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 3.2.3** In the event that swimmers from the same or different heats have equal times registered to 1/100 second for either the eighth place or sixteenth place, there shall be a swim-off to determine which swimmer shall advance to the appropriate finals. Such swim-offs shall take place not less than one hour after all involved swimmers have completed their heat. Another swim-off shall take place if equal times are registered again. In the event of swimmers in semi-final registering equal times for 8<sup>th</sup> place, a swim off shall take place at a time determined by the referee which may be less than one hour after the semi finals.

**SW 3.2.4** Where one or more swimmers scratch from a semifinal or final event, substitutes 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 3.3** 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.

**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.

**SW 4.3** In Olympic Games, World Championships and other FINA 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.

## **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.

**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 15 metres after the start and each turn. By that point, the head must have broken the surface.

## **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.

**SW 6.2** At the signal for starting and after turning the swimmer shall push off and swim upon his 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, at the finish 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.

**SW 6.4** When executing the turn, there must be a touch of the wall with some part of the swimmer's body. During the turn, the shoulders may be turned over the vertical to the breast after which a continuous single arm pull or a 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.

**SW 6.5** Upon the finish of the race the swimmer must touch the wall while on the back.

## **SW 7 BREASTSTROKE**

**SW 7.1** From the beginning of the first arm stroke after the start and after each turn, the body shall be kept on the breast. It is not permitted to roll onto the back at any time. Throughout the race the stroke cycle must be one arm stroke and one leg kick in that order.

**SW 7.2** All movements of the arms shall be simultaneous and in the same horizontal plane without alternating movement.

**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.

**SW 7.4** During each complete cycle, some part of the swimmer's head shall break the surface of the water. After the start and after each turn, the swimmer may take one arm stroke completely back to the legs. The head must break the surface of the water before the hands turn inward at the widest part of the second stroke. A single downward dolphin kick followed by a breaststroke kick is permitted while wholly submerged. Following which, all movements of the legs shall be simultaneous and in the same horizontal plane without alternating movement.

**SW 7.5** The feet must be turned outwards during the propulsive part of the kick. A scissors, flutter or downward dolphin kick is not permitted except as in SW 7.4. Breaking the surface of the water with the feet is allowed unless followed by a downward dolphin kick.

**SW 7.6** At each turn and at the finish of the race, the touch shall be made with both hands simultaneously at, above, or below the water level. 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.

## **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. Under water kicking on the side is allowed. It is not permitted to roll onto the back at any time.

**SW 8.2** Both arms must be brought forward together over the water and brought backward simultaneously throughout the race, subject to SW 8.5.

**SW 8.3** All up and down movements of the legs must be simultaneous. The position of the legs or 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.

**SW 8.4** At each turn and at the finish of the race, the touch shall be made with both hands simultaneously, at, above or below the water surface

**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 him to the surface. It shall be permissible for a swimmer to be completely submerged for a distance of not more than 15 metres 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 styles in the following order: Butterfly, Backstroke, Breaststroke and Freestyle.
- SW 9.2** In medley relay events, swimmers will cover the four swimming styles in the following order: Backstroke, Breaststroke, Butterfly and Freestyle.
- SW 9.3** Each section must be finished in accordance with the rule which applies to the style concerned.

**SW 10 THE RACE**

- SW 10.1** A swimmer swimming over the course alone shall cover the whole distance to qualify.
- SW 10.2** A swimmer must finish the race in the same lane in which he started.
- SW 10.3** 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 10.4** Standing on the bottom during freestyle events or during the freestyle portion of medley events shall not disqualify a swimmer, but he shall not walk.
- SW 10.5** Pulling on the lane rope is not allowed.
- SW 10.6** 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 10.7** No swimmer shall be permitted to use or wear any device that may aid his speed, buoyancy or endurance during a competition (such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins etc.). Goggles may be worn.
- SW 10.8** 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 his next scheduled race in the meet.
- SW 10.9** There shall be four swimmers on each relay team.
- SW 10.10** In relay events, the team of a swimmer whose feet lose touch with the starting platform before the preceding teammate touches the wall shall be disqualified.
- SW10.10A** 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.
- SW 10.11** 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.
- SW 10.12** 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 10.13** Any swimmer having finished his race, or his distance in a relay event, must leave the pool as soon as possible without obstructing any other swimmer who has not yet finished his race. Otherwise the swimmer committing the fault, or his relay team, shall be disqualified.

**SW 10.14** Should a foul endanger the chance of success of a swimmer, the Referee shall have the power to allow him to compete in the next heat or, should the foul occur in a final event or in the last heat, he/she may order it to be reswum.

**SW 10.15** No pacemaking 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 placings 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. When timing to 1/1000 of a second is available, the third digit shall not be recorded or used to determine time or placement. 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 only to 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 (2) out of three (3) 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 50 metre and 100 metre splits shall be recorded for lead-off swimmers during relays and published in the official results.

## **SW 12.A RECORDS**

### **SW 12.1 General Requirements and Conditions for Records**

**SW 12.1.1** All attempts on records shall be made in fresh or salt water without tide or current.

**SW 12.1.2** For all Long Course swimming records the length of the pool shall be 50 metres.

- SW 12.1.3** For all Short Course swimming records the length of the pool shall be 25 metres.
- 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.
- SW 12.1.5** For an individual race against time the event must be held in public and announced publicly by advertisement at least 3 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 State Association 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.
- SW 12.1.6** Should the first swimmer in a relay team complete the distance in record time in accordance with the rules, such a performance shall not be nullified by any subsequent disqualification of the relay team or team members for a violation occurring after the first swimmers distance is completed.
- SW 12.1.7** A swimmer in an individual event may apply for a World, Commonwealth or Australian Record at an intermediate distance if the swimmer or his 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.
- SW 12.1.8** Times which are equal to 1/100th of a second will be recognised as equal records and swimmers achieving these equal times will be called "Joint Holders". 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 an Australian, Commonwealth or World Record.
- SW 12.1.9** World, Commonwealth and Australian records will be accepted only when times are reported by Automatic Officiating equipment, or Semi-Automatic Officiating equipment in case of Automatic Officiating equipment system malfunction.
- SW 12.1.10** Members of relay teams at Australian Championships must be members of the same State Association or a Club affiliated to a State Association to compete in State or Club relays respectively.
- SW.12.1.11** 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.
- SW 12.1.12** For World Records where a moveable bulkhead is used, course measurement of each lane must be confirmed at the conclusion of the session during which the time was achieved.
- SW 12.2.A AUSTRALIAN RECORDS**
- SW 12.2.1** There shall be four (4) classes of Long Course swimming records each for Men and Women, 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 State Association and as defined in SW 12.3.2.

- (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 12.3.2.
- (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 State Association and as defined in SW 12.3.2.
- (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 12.3.3.

**SW 12.2.2** There shall be two (2) classes of Short Course swimming records each for Men and Women, 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 State Association and as defined in SW 12.3.4.
- (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 12.3.4.

### **SW 12.3.A RECORDS**

**SW 12.3.1** The recognised distances and strokes for both Men and Women AUSTRALIAN and ALL COMERS RECORDS Rule SW 12.2.1. (a) and (b) shall be:-

Freestyle	50 100 200 400 800 and 1500 metres
Backstroke	50 100 and 200 metres
Breaststroke	50 100 and 200 metres
Butterfly	50 100 and 200 metres
Individual Medley	200 and 400 metres Refer SW 9.1.
Medley Relay	400 metres (4 x 100 metres) Refer SW 9.2. Also for teams comprising for members of the one Club
Freestyle Relay	400 and 800 metres (4 x 100 metres and 4 x 200 metres) (4 Swimmers each) Also for teams comprising four members of one Club.

**SW 12.3.2** The recognised distances and strokes for Boys and Girls AUSTRALIAN AGE and ALL COMERS AGE RECORDS Rule SW 12.2.1. (c) and (d) shall be:

Freestyle	50 100 200 400 metres and 800m Girls and 1500m Boys
Backstroke	100 and 200 metres
Breaststroke	100 and 200 metres
Butterfly	100 and 200 metres
Individual Medley	200 and 400 metres Refer SW 9.1.
Medley Relay	200 metres (4 x 50 metres) Refer SW 9.2. Also for teams comprising four members of the one Club and one State
Freestyle Relay	200 metres (4 x 50 metres) (4 Swimmers each) Also for teams comprising four members of the one Club and one State.

The following Age Groups shall be recognised:

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

For all Team Relay events the Age Group shall be:  
14 Years and Under and 18 Years and Under.

### **SW 12.3.3 RECORD DISTANCES AND STROKES - SHORT COURSE**

The recognised distances and strokes for both Men and Women AUSTRALIAN and ALL COMERS SHORT COURSE RECORDS Rule SW 12.2.2 (a) and (b) shall be:

Freestyle	50 100 200 400 800 and 1500 metres
Backstroke	50 100 and 200 metres
Breaststroke	50 100 and 200 metres
Butterfly	50 100 and 200 metres
Individual Medley	100 200 and 400 metres Refer SW 9.1.
Medley Relay	400 metres (4 x 100 metres) Refer SW 9.2. Also for teams comprising four members of one Club.
Freestyle Relay	400 and 800 metres (4 x 100m and 4 x 200m) (4 Swimmers each). Also for teams comprising four members of one Club.

### **SW 12.4.A APPLICATION FOR RECORDS**

#### **SW 12.4.1 World Records**

Any performance which appears to be a World Record and complies with the relevant rule shall be notified to Swimming Australia within 72 hours of the performance. The Chief Executive Officer, Swimming Australia, shall forthwith complete the official form provided by FINA and immediately forward the application to the Honorary Secretary of FINA for action.

Note: If the application for a record is accepted by FINA a diploma shall be issued for presentation to the swimmer. A fifth World Record diploma will be issued to Swimming Australia whose relay team establishes a World Record. This certificate is to be retained by Swimming Australia.

#### **SW 12.4.2 Commonwealth Records**

Any performance which appears to be a Commonwealth Record and complies with the relevant rules shall be notified to Swimming Australia within 72 hours of the performances so that the appropriate application for the record can be made to the Commonwealth Games Federation for action.

#### **SW 12.4.3 Australian and All Comers Records**

**SW 12.4.3.1** Application for recognition for any Australian and All Comers Record shall be made on the prescribed "Application for Record Form" unless the event is conducted by Swimming Australia.

After being duly completed, processed and recommended by a State Association the application shall be forwarded within fourteen (14) days of the performance direct to the Records Officer at the office of 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. The Certificate shall be signed by the President and Records Officer.

**SW 12.4.3.2** 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 12.4.3.3** Each entrant for limited age competition must be the stipulated age on the first day of the meet.

## **SW 13 AUTOMATIC OFFICIATING PROCEDURE**

**SW 13.1** When Automatic Officiating Equipment (See FR 4) is used in any competition, the placings and times so determined and relay take-offs judged by such Equipment shall have precedence over the decisions of human judges and timers.

**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 his 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 his relative order by comparing his 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 his 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 human time or the Semi-Automatic Equipment.

**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.

**SW.14 OFFICIALS ERROR**

If an error by an official follows a fault by a competitor, the fault by the competitor may be expunged.