

Swimming and Diving Rule Changes for 2008

The rules change proposals below were approved by the NCAA Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Committees and the Playing Rules Oversight Panel. Rule references are from the 2007 rules book.

1. **Breaststroke. (Rule 2-2-2-b, page 30)** After the start and after each turn when the feet leave the wall, the body shall be kept on the breast. ... Some part of the swimmer's head shall break the surface of the water at least once during each complete cycle of one arm stroke and one leg kick, in that order, except after the start and each turn whereby a single butterfly kick, which must be followed by a breaststroke kick, is permitted during or at the completion of the first arm pull. *Rationale:* When the rule was changed to allow the dolphin kick, the intent was that such a kick was to be after the initiation of the underwater pull and with the natural body undulation. This movement looked like and may have been a dolphin kick, even though a dolphin kick was not allowed at that time and was difficult, if not impossible, to call. This proposed change only clarifies the intent of the rule.
2. **Required Participation of Entrants. (Rule 3-1-4-a, b, [re-letter b, c and d to c, d and e] page 39-40)** Article 4a. An individual competitor, once officially entered.... This applies to all individual competitors designated by their coaches to participate in heats, swim-offs and/or finals. Failure to compete....b. Names of relay competitors must be submitted to the appropriate official at a designated time before the start of the race. When the actual contestants in a relay are different from those listed on the official relay entry form, the competing relay shall be disqualified and all athletes involved (competing and listed) shall be charged with participation in an event, but no further penalty will be assessed. If there is an order change for swimmers two, three and four, inform the meet administration before the start of the event. *Rationale:* This proposal penalizes the relay team and the competitors for the mistake, but does not penalize them any further. This language is fair to the student-athlete.
3. **Position of Officials. (Rule 4-14-6-b, page 56 and Rule 4-14-3, page 55)** A side judge may be assigned to observe relay exchanges in no more than four lanes with three or less preferred. *Rationale:* For balance of certified officials for the entire pool. If timers are not certified officials and not able to judge relay takeoffs, then the number of lanes watched by the side takeoff judges needs to be increased, especially in an eight lane pool.
4. **Voluntary Dives with Degree of Difficulty Limit (Rule 6-2-2-a-1-b, page 75)** To change the degree of difficulty limit of voluntaries on one meter to 9.0. **Rationale:** The original intent of voluntaries has been lost with a 9.5 limit on one meter. To reach the 9.5 threshold, divers must perform at least two dives in their voluntary list that would be traditionally considered optionals.
5. **Diving Consolation Finals. (Rule 6-2-4, page 79)** If a diver qualifies for either the consolation finals or the championship finals and becomes ill or injured and unable to compete, the other qualifying divers shall be moved up in place to fill the vacated position. The alternate would be moved up into the last qualifying position. For a diver who is to compete in the finals if their illness or injury occurs either during the competition of the consolation finals or after the consolation finals are completed, the finals will proceed without a full compliment of competitors and the points for the uncontested position will be

vacated. *Rationale:* This brings the final/consolation competition rule for diving inline with the competition rule for swimming. Yet it allows for the injury possibility to be fair to all competitors.

6. **Diving Consolation Finals. (Rule 6-2-4, page 79)** If during a consolation final or final an injury occurs during or after the next to last round of competition and there are no other failed dives, including the next to last round, a failed dive may be declared for the final round, and the diver may use the total score of all the previously completed dives as his or her final total. *Rationale:* This specifies what should happen if the diver is unable to compete with only one dive remaining. It is consistent with the failed dive language.
7. **Consolation Finals. (Rule 6-3-3-a, page 82)** When a consolation final is contested, the divers shall be ordered in reverse order of the preliminary finish. *Rationale:* Consolation finals allow the 9th-16th divers to re-compete for their scoring positions. Since swimmers are re-seeded based on their preliminary times divers should receive the same benefit.
8. **Diving. (Rule 6-4-3-b, page 84)** “In these dives the pike is to be executed before the twist. In the event the pike is executed after the twist, the dive will be considered deficient and a score of not more than 4.5 will be awarded.” *Rationale:* There is a need for clarification as to what the score will be if the twist is performed in the wrong part of the dive during its execution.
9. **Diving. (Rule 6-4-3-c, page 84)** “...until the body has rotated for approximately half a somersault. In the event the event referee determines that the position was not held at least one half of the somersault, the referee will declare the dive as deficient and notify the judges. A score of not more than 4.5 can be awarded.” *Rationale:* There is a need for clarification as to what the score should be in the event the diver does not hold the body in the straight position for one half of a somersault.
10. **Forfeit. (Rule 7-1-3, page 108)** Define what constitutes a forfeit and no contest as, “No contest is recorded if a team fails to contact or arrive at the site within 30 minutes after the scheduled start time of the meet. There is no resulting score. If a coach removes his or her team from competition for any reason, a forfeit shall be declared. The numerical score to be recorded for a dual meet that is forfeited is 11-0.” *Rationale:* This clears up the misconceptions about when a forfeit or no contest is declared.