

Notes from the 2007 LSC Officials Chairs Meeting

Rules and Interpretations (Bruce Stratton, USA-S Rules & Regulations Chair)

- Breaststroke – 4 major questions this past year:
 - When must the swimmer be on the breast? From the time the feet leave the wall, not permitted to roll on the back
 - Upward butterfly kick is permitted
 - Meaning of “while wholly submerged”? Meant to be permissive, the swimmer is not required to be wholly submerged in order to take a single butterfly kick followed by a breaststroke kick
 - Timing of butterfly kick – kick must come during or following the 1st arm pull and prior to the breaststroke kick; separation of the hands is not necessarily the beginning of the arm pull, i.e. the beginning of the pull is a judgment call
- Breaststroke rule language
 - Originally kept the language the same as FINA to keep things simple
 - Rules & Regulations Committee is recommending two housekeeping changes to the rule at the next convention
 - Remove the words “while wholly submerged”
 - Removing the reference to a “downward butterfly kick”, i.e. “After the start and each turn, a single ~~downward~~ butterfly kick followed by...”
 - This is housekeeping only, the changes are only meant to clarify the rule and they do not modify the meaning of the rule
- Backstroke
 - Rules & Regulations Committee is recommending a housekeeping change to the backstroke rule at the next convention
 - 101.4.3 “...double arm pull may be used to ~~execute~~ initiate the turn.” (“initiate” replaces “execute”)
 - This is housekeeping only and is meant to clarify the rule and does not modify the meaning of the rule)
 - Can be underwater at the instance of the touch at the finish
- Must compete within age group
- Butterfly
 - If the swimmer first touches with the head and then has the presence of mind to touch the wall with both hands simultaneously, it is a legal finish

- There is a situation in the *Stroke and Turn Situation Resolutions* that contradicts this interpretation and it will be removed or changed
 - This presents a timing difficulty as 102.16.3C(2) requires that the timer stop the watch and/or push the button “when any part of the swimmer’s body touches the wall.”
 - The Referee will have to handle this situation as it arises
- Proposed rule change 102.4.7 – dropping the requirement to list ages on relay cards (seldom, if ever enforced any way)
- Proposed rule change 102.5.1 and 102.5.4A – changing the requirement to enter with the “best competitive time” to something along the lines of “seed according to time entered”
 - LSCs can still impose restrictions such as “best competitive time” within a defined time period or restrict entries to swimmers with no faster than a BB time, etc.
 - Restrictions could be in LSC policies or Meet Invitation
- Ratify change to 103.2.2
 - Under the emergency power granted under 504.8, the USA-S BOD changed the minimum depth requirement for teach racing starts to 6 feet
 - This change must be ratified by the HOD at the next convention
- Teaching racing starts
 - Teaching is at the discretion of the coach
 - Once taught, practice can occur at racing depths
 - May change rule to require demonstration of proficiency
- False start vs losing balance
 - Losing one’s balance, if judged not be part of a starting action, is not a false start
- What defines having at least one foot at the front of the starting platform?
 - “Front edge” was changed to “front”
 - Front is the front, back is the back; there is no requirement to be within a certain distance from the front
- • How many officials are needed for a meet?
 - 102.12.3 says “...there *should* not be fewer...”
 - “should” is defined in the glossary as “recommended but not mandatory”
 - 1 Referee + 1 Starter + 2 S&T (one of whom could be the Starter) = 3
 - It is ultimately a judgment call that must be made by the Referee

- An athlete is talking to someone behind the blocks and fails to step up following the long whistle and prior to the Referee outstretching the hand – is this automatically a “deliberate delay”
 - This is a judgment call that must take into account the totality of the circumstances
- Use of National Championship scratch procedures (207.10)
 - If National Championship scratch procedures are used, they should be used in conjunction with National Championship procedures
 - At National Championships if a swimmer moves up from an alternate position to swim due to a scratch during the scratch period, the swimmer or the swimmer’s coach is always notified
 - If this notification does not take place, the swimmer should not be penalized due to failure to compete
- Submersion past 15 M when 15 M is not marked
 - The call cannot be made when the swimmer surfaces within a reasonably close distance to 15 M
 - It is appropriate to make this call when it is evident that the swimmer is well beyond the 15 M mark, for example, when the swimmer doesn’t surface until at or past the backstroke flags