

2007 Swimming and Diving Major Rules Changes

The following rules-change proposals have been approved by the NCAA Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Committee and the Playing Rules Oversight Panel. These rules will be incorporated into the 2007 rules book, which will be available at the end of September. The page references are from the 2007 Swimming and Diving Rules Book.

Conduct Rules vs. Administrative Rules. (page 10) – All rules will be considered conduct rules. **Rationale:** Conduct rules cannot be altered. Administrative rules, on the other hand, can be altered by mutual consent and generally relate to meet management issues. Over the past year, there have been several examples of changing rules which were not intended to be altered, but the action was legal because of the administrative designation. The rules subcommittee has re-evaluated the rules and proposes that none of the rules be considered alterable by mutual consent because flexibility exists within many of the rules to accommodate various situations.

Breaking Surface of Water. (Rule 2-2-1-b, 2-2-3-b and 2-2-5-b, page 29, 31 and 32) – The head must have broken the surface of the water before passing the 15-meter mark in freestyle, butterfly and backstroke. **Rationale:** The rule previously required the leading part of the head to break the surface by the 15-meter mark. The new language is consistent with other rules codes.

Rotation of Diving Judges. (Rule 6-5-1-b-1, page 80) – When the same judging panels are utilized for the preliminaries and finals of an event, the panel shall alternate the rounds it judges from the preliminary to the finals. For example, if Panel A judges rounds 1, 2 and 5 in the preliminaries, Panel A would judge rounds 3, 4 and 6 in the finals. **Rationale:** By alternating the rounds between the preliminaries and the finals, the judges have the opportunity to judge all the dives performed by all of the competitors rather than judging the same dives twice. This will also help a judge from mentally comparing the performance of a dive in the preliminaries to that performed in the finals.

FINA Diving Table. (Rule 6, page 92) – Add the following under the heading, “FINA Table of Degree of Difficulty:” In the event FINA changes degree of difficulty after this book has been published, the newly established FINA degree of difficulty will immediately become the standard for all NCAA sanctioned events. **Rationale:** This will make it clear that the FINA standard is always applicable.

Announcing Diving Scores. (Rule 6-5-5d, page 86) – Add to the end of d: In a championship event when a scoreboard is available that shows individual judge's scores and total points, only the total points will be announced after each dive. (As television requires a different format, the referee and the announcer will accommodate them.) **Rationale:** This clarifies and directs the referee and announcer. By announcing only the total points, the event runs more efficiently and saves time.

Default Program for Concurrent Events. (Rule 8-1-4d, page 110) – Change the default program for concurrent men's and women's meets to the 32-event program. **Rationale:** This will give the swimmers the opportunity to swim the 100-yard butterfly, 100-yard backstroke and 100-yard breaststroke.

Men's Dual Meet Default Program. (Rule 8-1-4a, page 109) – Change the default program for men's dual meets to be the 16-event program. **Rationale:** Male swimmers have limited opportunities to swim all events (i.e., 100-yard butterfly, 100-yard backstroke and 100-yard breaststroke). When the NCAA started women's competition in the 1980s, the events were taken from AIAW competition, and the short events were included (50s and 100s). As the women's rules were formulated and moved to the 200 stroke events, the women's committee voted to keep the 100-yard stroke events in the program. This change would give the men the same opportunity to swim the shorter events.