

2009 Swimming and Diving Rules Changes

The rules changes below were approved by the NCAA Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Committees, as well as, the Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) in August. Rule references are from the 2008 rules book.

1. **Backstroke Start. (Rule 2-1-2, page 25-26)** In the backstroke start, standing in or on the gutter, placing the toes above the lip of the gutter, or bending the toes over the lip of the gutter, before or after the start, is prohibited. *Rationale:* Allowing toes to be higher than the lip of the gutter/top of the pad without curling the toes makes it difficult to officiate and creates another opportunity for a swimmer to disqualify.
2. **Relay Start (Rule 2-2-7c.2, page 32)** The swimmer may be in motion when the preceding teammate finishes his or her leg of the race; however, the swimmer must have at least one foot in contact with the starting platform when (or after) the teammate finishes. *Rationale:* Took out the phrase, *at the front edge of the platform*, to more accurately reflect the intent of the rule.
3. **Championships meet point standard (Rule 6-1-5, page 73)** In the absence of a three-meter board, the championships meet point standard for one-meter diving may be achieved in a nonchampionships meet that includes two, one-meter events (see Rule 6-1-2-a) if the diver's total award for both one-meter events equals or exceeds the point standard. In the absence of a one-meter board the championships meet point standard for three-meter diving may be achieved in a nonchampionships meet that includes two, three-meter events if the divers total award for both three-meter events equals or exceeds the point standard. *Rationale:* It is rare, but it could happen whereby the one-meter board is not available for competition. Two three-meter events(11 dive format) can then be competed.
4. **Diving Competition - Announcing (Rule 6-4.5d, page 91)** After each dive, the announcer shall call for the judges' awards, if instructed to do so by the referee, and shall announce the awards in the same consecutive order each time. In a championships event in which a scoreboard is available that shows individual judge's scores and total points, only the total points should be announced after each dive. *Rationale:* This allows the announcer to announce all final judge scores, especially at the larger, televised events where the pace of the competition slows down and there is a need to fill time.
5. **Established Programs. (Rule 8-1, page 112-113)** To change the established 16 event format to reflect the flexibility to do 50's and 100 IM. *Rationale:* Gives programs the flexibility in event format. To increase fan excitement.
6. **Default for Diving (Rule 8-6.j, page 135)** In nonchampionships, six dives shall be used in one and three-meter competition. *Rationale:* By giving a choice of either a 6 dive or 11 dive format, there needs to be a default program in case there is not mutual consent of the coaches.
7. **Bona Fide Competition. (Rule 9, page 144)** Any multi-national meet that is sanctioned by the Federation Internationale de Natation Amateur (FINA), and any bona fide meet that is sanctioned by USA Swimming and USA Diving. *Rationale:* Clarifying that the FINA meets must be multi-national will ensure better supervision and added controls of the competition.