



Extract from the

FINA

Handbook 2009-2013

General Rules -	GR1 & GR5 - GR9
By-Laws -	BL8
Swimming Rules -	SW1 - SW11 & SW13
Facilities Rules -	FR1 - FR4
OWS -	OWS1 - OWS7

GENERAL RULES

These General Rules are basic regulations for FINA competitions in all kinds of Swimming, Open Water Swimming, Diving, Water Polo, Synchronised Swimming, and Masters Competitions as well as for uniform regulations for the development of competition facilities.

In these Rules, competitors shall include swimmers, open water swimmers, divers, water polo players, synchronised swimmers, or masters swimmers, either male or female.

FINA recognises that these Rules may be adjusted for competitions within a given Federation but recommends that all Members adhere to these Rules as closely as possible. *Please refer to the FINA Rule Book for all General Rules.*

GR 1 ELIGIBILITY

GR 1.1 All competitors shall be registered with their National Federation to be eligible to compete.

GR 5 SWIMWEAR *(refer BL 8 below)*

GR 5.1 The swimwear (swimsuit, cap and goggles) of all competitors shall be in good moral taste and suitable for the individual sports disciplines and not to carry any symbol which may be considered offensive.

GR 5.2 All swimsuits shall be non transparent.

GR 5.3 The referee of a competition has the authority to exclude any competitor whose swimwear or body symbols do not comply with this Rule.

GR 5.4 Before any swimwear of new design, construction or material is used in competition, the manufacturer of such swimwear must submit the swimwear to FINA and obtain approval of FINA.

GR 6 ADVERTISING

GR 6.1 Identification in the form of logos on swimwear, i.e. swimsuit, cap and goggles, and pool deck equipment, i.e. track suits, official's uniforms, footwear, towels and bags, is permitted in accordance with regulations established in the By-Laws (BL 7 *refer to FINA Handbook*). A two-piece swimsuit shall, in relation to advertising, be regarded as one. The name and the flag of the country of the competitor or the country code shall not be regarded as advertisements.

GR 6.2 Body advertisement is not allowed in any way whatsoever.

GR 6.3 Advertising for tobacco or alcohol is not allowed.

GR 7 SUBSTITUTION, DISQUALIFICATION AND WITHDRAWAL

GR 7.1 Any entered competitor may be substituted by another entered competitor at the Team Leaders Meeting. It is mandatory for one representative of each Federation to take part in the Team Leaders Meeting. Failing to do so will result in a fine of 100 Swiss Francs.

GR 7.2 In all competitions except Water Polo, a competitor or team not wishing to take part in a semi-final or final in which qualification was earned shall withdraw within thirty (30) minutes following the preliminaries or the 2 semi-finals of the event in which the qualification took place. The Member Federation of any competitor who withdraws from the heats / preliminary rounds after the Team Leaders Meeting or from a semi-final or final more than thirty (30) minutes after the preliminaries or semi-finals of the event in which qualification

was earned, shall pay without excuse to the Honorary Treasurer the sum of one-hundred (100) Swiss Francs; in case of a relay, duet, team or combination, the sum shall be two-hundred (200) Swiss Francs.

GR 7.3 If a team withdraws from a FINA Water Polo event any time after the draw has been concluded, and without the approval of the Management Committee, then that team will be sanctioned by the Bureau with an economic sanction of 8,000 Swiss Francs, from which 6,000 Swiss Francs goes to the Organiser, and suspension from all competitions for a minimum period of three months up to a maximum period of two years.

GR 7.4 In Swimming, Diving, and Synchronised Swimming, where a competitor who competed in the semi-finals or final is disqualified for any reason, including medical control, the position he would have held shall be awarded to the competitor who finished next and all the lower placing competitors in the semi-finals or final shall be advanced one place. If the disqualification occurs after the presentation of awards, the awards shall be returned and given to the appropriate competitors applying the foregoing provisions.

GR 7.5 If an error by an official follows a fault by a competitor, the fault by the competitor may be expunged.

GR 8 SMOKING BAN

At all international competitions, no smoking shall be permitted in any area designated for competitors, either prior to or during competitions.

GR 9.2 PROTESTS

GR 9.2.1 Protests are possible

- (a) if the rules and regulations for the conduct of the competition are not observed,
- (b) if other conditions endanger the competitions and/or competitors, or
- (c) against decisions of the referee; however, no protest shall be allowed against decisions of fact.

GR 9.2.2. Protest must be submitted

- (a) to the referee,
- (b) in writing on FINA Forms
- (c) by the responsible team leader,
- (d) together with a deposit of 100 Swiss Francs or its equivalent, and
- (e) within 30 minutes following the conclusion of the respective event or match.

If conditions causing a potential protest are noted prior to the event a protest must be lodged before the signal to start is given.

GR 9.2.3 All protests shall be considered by the referee. If he rejects the protest, he must state the reasons for his decision. The team leader may appeal the rejection to the Jury of Appeal whose decision shall be final. In Olympic Games and World Championships the Commission in each discipline shall consider the protest and give recommendations to the Jury of Appeal.

GR 9.2.4 If the protest is rejected, the deposit will be forfeited to the management body of the competition. If the protest is upheld, the deposit will be returned.

GR 9.3 Jury of Appeal

GR 9.3.1 For Olympic Games and World Championships, the Jury of Appeal shall be composed of the Bureau Members and Honorary Members present with the President or in his absence a Vice President, as Chairman. For all other FINA competitions, the Jury of Appeal shall be the FINA delegate together with any Bureau Members or members of the appropriate Technical Committee present, with the delegate as chairman. Each member shall have one vote, except as provided hereunder, and in case of equality of voting, the Chairman has a casting vote.

GR 9.3.2 A jury member is allowed to speak, but not to vote, on a case in which the interest of his own Federation is involved. A jury member having acted as an official is not allowed to vote on a case if there is a protest against his decision or on his interpretation of a Rule. In case of urgency, the jury may vote on a matter even if it has not been possible to call all the members. The decision of the jury is final.

BL 8 SWIMWEAR

BL 8.1 All FINA approved swimwear to be used at the Olympic Games and FINA World Championships must be approved by FINA at least twelve (12) months prior to the start of the respective competition. In addition, it must be available for all competitors by 1st January of the year of the Olympic Games or FINA World Championships.

BL 8.2 In swimming competitions the competitor must wear only one swimsuit in one or two pieces which for men shall not extend above the navel nor below the knee, and for women, shall not cover the neck, extend past the shoulder, nor shall extend below knee. All swimsuits shall be made from textile materials. No additional items, like arm bands or leg bands shall be regarded as parts of a swimsuit.

- FINA Requirements for swimwear approval (until 31.12.2009)
- FINA Requirements for swimwear approval (from 01.01.2010)

- Approval form

SWIMMING RULES

SW 1 MANAGEMENT OF COMPETITIONS

SW 1.1 The Management Committee appointed by the governing body 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 rules adopted for conducting any event.

SW 1.2 At the Olympic Games and World Championships the FINA Bureau shall appoint the following minimum numbers of officials for the control of the competitions:

- referee (1)
- control-room supervisor(1)
- judges of stroke (4)
- starters (2)
- chief inspectors of turns (2, 1 at each end of the pool)
- inspectors of turns (1 at each end of each lane)
- chief recorder (1)
- clerks of course (2)
- false start rope personnel (1)
- announcer (1)

SW 1.2.2 For all other international competitions, the governing body shall appoint the same or fewer number of officials, subject to the approval of the respective regional or international authority where appropriate.

SW 1.2.3 Where Automatic Officiating Equipment is not available, such equipment must be replaced by chief timekeeper, three (3) timekeepers per lane and two (2) additional timekeepers.

SW 1.2.4 A chief finish judge and finish judges are required when Automatic Equipment and/or three (3) digital watches per lane are not used.

SW 1.3 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.

SW 1.4 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 FINA and shall decide all questions relating to the actual conduct of the meet, and 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 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 SW 13.

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 2.2 Control-room Supervisor

SW 2.2.1 The supervisor 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.

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 Clerk of Course

SW 2.4.1 The clerk of course shall assemble swimmers prior to each event.

SW 2.4.2 The clerk of course shall report to the referee any violation noted in regard to advertising (GR 6) 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 inspector 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 arm stroke before touching and ending with the completion of the first arm stroke 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 arm stroke. The inspectors of turns at the finish end shall also ensure that the 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 and the finishes 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 times 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. Their watches must be cleared at the short whistle of the Referee announcing the following race.

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 Olympic Games and World 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 3 SEEDING OF HEATS, SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS

The starting stations for all events in Olympic Games, World Championships, Regional Games and other FINA competitions 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 (12) 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 official recorded times shall be considered the slowest and shall be placed at the end of the list with a no time. 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 3.1.1.6 Where a 10 lane pool is available and equal times are established for the 8th place in the heats of 800m and 1500m Freestyle events, lane 9 will be used with a draw for lane 8 and lane 9. In case of three (3) equal times for 8th place, lane 9 and 0 will be used with a draw for lane 8, 9 and 0.

SW 3.1.1.7 Where a 10 lane pool is not available SW 3.2.3 will apply.

SW 3.1.2 Except for 50 metre events in 50 metre pools, assignment of lanes shall be (number 1 lane being on the right side of the pool (0 when using pools with 10 lanes) 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. In pools using 10 lanes, the fastest swimmer shall be placed in lane 4. 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.

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/tenth place or sixteenth/twentieth place depending on the use of 8 or 10 lanes, there shall be a swim-off to determine which swimmer shall advance to the appropriate finals. Such swim-off 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. If required a swim off will take place to determine 1st and 2nd reserve if equal times are recorded.

SW 3.2.4 Where one or more swimmers scratch from a semi-final or final reserves 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 3.2.5 For heats, semi-finals and finals, swimmers must report to the First Call Room no later than 20 minutes prior to the start of their event. After inspection, swimmers proceed to the **final call room**.

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. The Referee repeats the starting procedure beginning with the long whistle (the second one for backstroke) as per SW 2.1.5.

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 is 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 in his/her respective lane. 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 in his/her respective lane.

SW 7 BREASTSTROKE

SW 7.1 After the start and after each turn, the swimmer may take one arm stroke completely back to the legs during which the swimmer may be submerged. A single butterfly kick is permitted during the first arm stroke, followed by a breaststroke kick.

SW 7.2 From the beginning of the first arm stroke after the start and after each turn, the body shall be on the breast. It is not permitted to roll onto the back at any time. From the start and throughout the race the stroke cycle must be one arm stroke and one leg kick in that order. 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 **must** break the surface of the water. The head must break the surface of the water before the hands turn inward at the widest part of the second stroke. All movements of the legs shall be simultaneous and **on** 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 **butterfly** kick is not permitted except as in SW 7.1. Breaking the surface of the water with the feet is allowed unless followed by a downward **butterfly** 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 shall be brought forward together over the water and brought backward simultaneously through-out the race, subject to SW 8.5.

SW 8.3 All up and down movements of the legs must be simultaneous. The legs or the 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 strokes in the following order: Butterfly, Backstroke, Breaststroke and Freestyle. Each of the strokes must cover one quarter (1/4) of the distance.

SW 9.2 In medley relay events, swimmers will cover the four swimming strokes 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 stroke concerned.

SW 10 THE RACE

SW 10.1 All individual races must be held as separate gender events.

SW 10.2 A swimmer swimming over the course alone shall cover the whole distance to qualify.

SW 10.3 The swimmer must remain and finish the race in the same lane in which he/she started.

SW 10.4 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 10.5 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 10.6 Pulling on the lane rope is not allowed.

SW 10.7 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 10.8 No swimmer shall be permitted to use or wear any device or swimsuit that may aid his/her speed, buoyancy or endurance during a competition (such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, etc.). Goggles may be worn. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by FINA Sport Medicine Committee.

SW 10.9 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 10.10 There shall be four swimmers on each relay team.

SW 10.11 In relay events, the team of a swimmer whose feet lose touch with the starting platform before the preceding team-mate touches the wall shall be disqualified.

SW 10.12 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 10.13 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 10.14 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 10.15 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 re-swum.

SW 10.16 No pace-making 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 placing and the time applicable to each lane. The placing 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 the 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 a 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 (2) of the three (3) 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 (3) watches disagree, the watch recording the intermediate time shall be the official time.

SW 11.3.3 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 WORLD RECORDS

For rules relating to World Records please refer to the FINA Handbook

SW 13 AUTOMATIC OFFICIATING PROCEDURE

SW 13.1 When Automatic Officiating Equipment (See FR 4) is used in any competition, the placing and times so determined and relay take-offs judged by such Equipment shall have precedence over the timekeepers.

SW 13.2 When the Automatic Equipment fails to record the place and/or time of one or more swimmers in a given race:

SW 13.2.1 Record all available Automatic Equipment times and places,

SW 13.2.2 Record all 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 or the Semi-Automatic Equipment time.

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.

AGE GROUP RULES – SWIMMING

SWAG 1 Federations may adopt their own Age Group rules, using FINA technical rules.

FACILITIES RULES

PREAMBLE

The Facilities Rules are intended to provide the best possible environment for competitive use and training. These Rules are not intended to govern issues related to the general public. It is the responsibility of the owner or controller of a facility to provide supervision of activities of the public.

FR 1 GENERAL

FR 1.1 FINA Olympic Standard Pools. All World Championships (except the Masters World Championships) and Olympic Games must be held in pools that comply with Rules FR 3, FR 6, FR 8, and FR 11.

FR 1.2 FINA General Standard Pools. Other FINA events should be held in FINA Olympic Standard Pools, but the Bureau may waive certain standards for existing pools if they do not materially interfere with the competitions.

FR 1.3 FINA Minimum Standard Pools. All other events held under FINA Rules should be conducted in pools that comply with all of the minimum standards contained in this Part.

FR 1.4 In order to protect the health and safety of persons using swimming facilities for the purposes of recreation, training and competition, owners of public pools or pools restricted only to training and competition must comply with the requirements established by law and the health authorities in the country where the pool is situated.

FR 1.5 New competition equipment (e.g. Starting blocks, lane-ropes, etc.) must be available by 1st January in the year of the Olympic Games and FINA World Championships.

FR 2 SWIMMING POOLS

FR 2.1 Length

FR 2.1.1 50.0 metres. When touch panels of Automatic Officiating Equipment are used on the starting end, or additionally on the turning end, the pool must be of such length that ensures the required distance of 50.0 metres between the two panels.

FR 2.1.2 25.0 metres. When touch panels of Automatic Officiating Equipment are used on the starting end, or additionally on the turning end, the pool must be of such length that ensures the required distance of 25.0 metres between the two panels.

FR 2.2 Dimensional Tolerances

FR 2.2.1 Against the nominal length of 50.0 metres, a tolerance of plus 0.03 metre in each lane minus 0.00 metre on both end walls at all points from 0.3 metre above to 0.8 metre below the surface of the water is allowed. These measurements should be certified by a surveyor or other qualified official, appointed or approved by the Member in the country in which the pool is situated. Tolerances cannot be exceeded when touch panels are installed.

FR 2.2.2 Against the nominal length of 25.0 metres, a tolerance of plus 0.03 metre in each lane minus 0.00 metre on both end walls at all points from 0.3 metre above to 0.8 metre below the surface of the water is allowed. These measurements should be certified by a surveyor or other qualified official, appointed or approved by the Member in the country, in which the pool is situated. Tolerances cannot be exceeded when touch panels are installed.

FR 2.3 Depth - A minimum depth of 1.35 metres, extending from 1.0 metre to at least 6.0 metres from the end wall is required for pools with starting blocks. A minimum depth of 1.0 metre is required elsewhere.

FR 2.4 Walls

FR 2.4.1 End walls shall be parallel and form right angles to the swimming course and to the surface of the water, and shall be constructed of solid material, with a non slip surface extending 0.8 metre below the water surface, so as to enable the competitor to touch and push off in turning without hazard.

FR 2.4.2 Rest ledges along the pool walls are permitted; they must be not less than 1.2 metres below the water surface, and may be 0.1 metre to 0.15 metre wide.

FR 2.4.3 Gutters may be placed on all four walls of the pool. If end wall gutters are installed, they must allow for attachment of touch panels to the required 0.3 metre above the water surface. They must be covered with a suitable grill or screen.

FR 2.5 Lanes shall be at least 2.5 metres wide, with two spaces of at least 0.2 metre outside of the first and last lanes.

FR 2.6 Lane Ropes

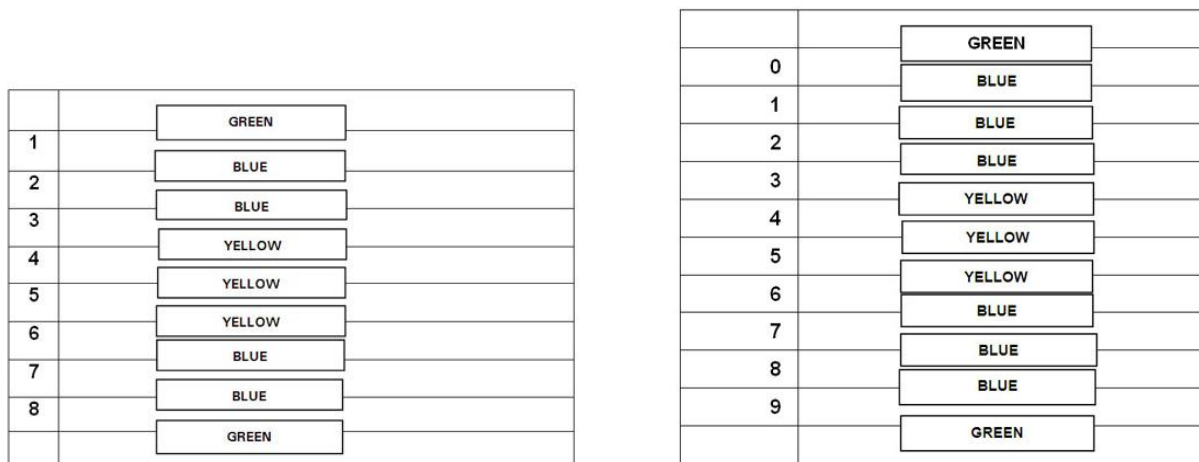
FR 2.6.1 Lane ropes shall extend the full length of the course, secured at each end wall to anchor brackets recessed into the end walls. The anchor shall be positioned so that the floats at each end wall of the pool shall be on the surface of the water. Each lane rope will consist of floats placed end-to-end having a minimum diameter of 0.05 metre to a maximum of 0.15 metre.

In a swimming pool the colour of the lane ropes should be as follows:

- Two (2) GREEN ropes for lanes 1 and 8
- Four (4) BLUE ropes for lanes 2, 3, 6 and 7
- Three (3) YELLOW ropes for lanes 4 and 5

The floats extending for a distance of 5.0 metres from each end of the pool shall be of RED colour.

There shall not be more than one lane rope between each lane. The lane ropes shall be firmly stretched.



FR 2.6.2 At the 15-metre mark from each end wall of the pool the floats shall be distinct in colour from the surrounding floats.

FR 2.6.3 In 50 metre pools the floats shall be distinct to mark 25 metres.

FR 2.6.4 Lane numbers of soft material may be placed on the lane ropes at the start and turning end of the pool.

FR 2.7 Starting Platforms

Starting platforms shall be firm and give no springing effect. The height of the platform above the water surface shall be from 0.5 metre to 0.75 metre. The surface area shall be at least 0.5 metre x 0.5 metre and covered with non-slip material. Maximum slope shall not be more than 10°. The starting platform may have an adjustable setting back plate. The platform shall be constructed so as to permit the gripping of the platform by the swimmer in the forward start at the front and the sides; it is recommended that, if the thickness of the starting platform exceeds 0.04 metre, grips of at least 0.1 metre width on each side and 0.4 metre width in the front be cut out to 0.03 metre from the surface of the platform. Handgrips for the forward start may be installed on the sides of the starting platforms. Handgrips for backstroke starts shall be placed within 0.3 metre to 0.6 metre above the water surface both horizontally and vertically. They shall be parallel to the surface of the end wall, and must not protrude beyond the end wall. The water depth from a distance of 1.0 metre to 6.0 metres from the end wall must be at least 1.35 metres where starting platforms are installed. Electronic read-out boards may be installed under the blocks. Flashing is not allowed. Figures must not move during a backstroke start.

FR 2.8 Numbering - Each starting block must be distinctly numbered on all four sides, clearly visible. Lane number 1 shall be on the right-hand side when facing the course from the starting end with exception of 50m events, which may start from the opposite end. Touch panels may be numbered on the top part.

FR 2.9 Backstroke Turn Indicators - Flagged ropes shall be suspended across the pool, 1.8 metres above the water surface, from fixed standards placed 5.0 metres from each end wall. Distinctive marks must be placed on both sides of the pool, and where possible on each lane rope, 15.0 metres from each end wall.

FR 2.10 False Start Rope shall be suspended across the pool not less than 1.2 metres above the water level from fixed standards placed 15.0 metres in front of the starting end. It shall be attached to the standards by a quick release mechanism. The rope must effectively cover all lanes when activated.

FR 2.11 Water Temperature shall be 25° - 28°. During competition the water in the pool must be kept at a constant level, with no appreciable movement. In order to observe health regulations in force in most countries, inflow and outflow is permissible as long as no appreciable current or turbulence is created.

FR 2.12 Lighting - Light intensity over starting platforms and turning ends shall not be less than 600 lux.

FR 2.13 Lane Markings shall be of a dark contrasting colour, placed on the floor of the pool in the centre of each lane.

Width: minimum 0.2 metre, maximum 0.3 metre.

Length: 46.0 metres for 50 metre long pools;

21.0 metres for 25 metre long pools.

Each lane line shall end 2.0 metres from the end wall of the pool with a distinctive cross line 1.0 metre long and of the same width as the lane line. Target lines shall be placed on the end walls or on the touch panels, in the

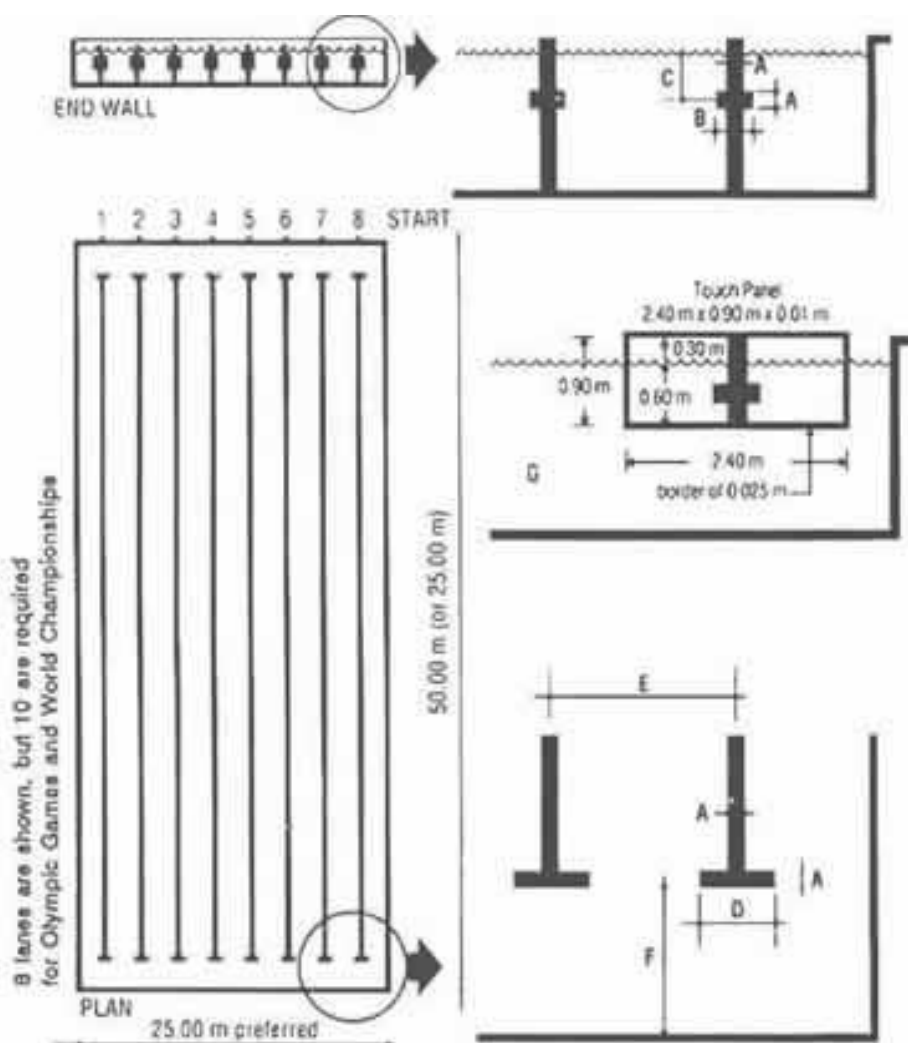
centre of each lane, of the same width as the lane lines. They shall extend without interruption from the deck edge (curb), to the floor of the pool. A cross line 0.5 metre long shall be placed 0.3 metre below the water surface, measured to the centre point of the cross line.

For 50m pools constructed after 1 January 2006, cross lines 0.5 metre long shall be placed at the 15 metre mark from each end of the pool.

FR 2.14 Bulkheads – When a bulkhead serves as an end wall, it must extend the full width of the course and present a solid smooth, non-slippery stable vertical surface on which touch pads may be mounted extending not less than 0.8m below and 0.3m above the surface of the water, and must be free of hazardous openings above or below the waterline which may be penetrated by a swimmer’s hands, feet, toes or fingers. A bulkhead must be of a design that provides for the free movement of officials along its length without such movement creating any appreciable current or water turbulence.

POOL DIAGRAM

WIDTH OF LANE MARKINGS,END LINES,TARGETS	A	0.25m ± 0.05m	FINA LANE MARKINGS
LENGTH OF END WALL TARGETS	B	0.50m	
DEPTH TO CENTRE OF END WALL TARGETS	C	0.30m	
LENGTH OF LANE MARKER CROSS LINE	D	1.00m	
WIDTH OF RACING LANES	E	2.50m	
DISTANCE FROM END OF LANE LINE TO END WALL	F	2.0m	
TOUCH PAD	G	2.40m x 0.90m x 0.01m	



FR 4 AUTOMATIC OFFICIATING EQUIPMENT

FR 4.1 Automatic and Semi-Automatic Officiating Equipment records the elapsed time of each swimmer and determines the relative place in a race. Judging and timing shall be to 2 decimal places (1/100 of a second). Equipment that is installed shall not interfere with the swimmers' starts, turns, or the function of the overflow system.

FR 4.2 The Equipment must:

FR 4.2.1 Be activated by the starter.

FR 4.2.2 Have no exposed wires on the pool deck, if possible.

FR 4.2.3 Be able to display all recorded information for each lane by place and by lane.

FR 4.2.4 Provide easy digital reading of a swimmer's time.

FR 4.3 Starting devices

FR 4.3.1 The starter shall have a microphone for oral commands.

FR 4.3.2 If a pistol is used, it shall be used with a transducer.

FR 4.3.3 Both the microphone and the transducer shall be connected to loudspeakers at each starting block where both the starter's commands and the starting signal can be heard equally and simultaneously by each swimmer.

FR 4.4 Touch panels for Automatic Equipment

FR 4.4.1 The minimum measurement of the touch panels shall be 2.4 metres wide and 0.9 metre high, and their thickness shall be 0.01 metre \pm 0.002 metre. They shall extend 0.3 metre above and 0.6 metre below the surface of the water. The equipment in each lane shall be connected independently, so it may be controlled individually. The surface of the panels shall be of a bright colour and shall bear the line markings approved for the end walls.

FR 4.4.2 Installation - The touch panels shall be installed in a fixed position in the centre of the lanes. The panels may be portable, allowing the pool operator to remove them when there are no competitors.

FR 4.4.3 Sensitivity - The sensitivity of the panels shall be such that they cannot be activated by water turbulence, but will be activated by a light hand touch. The panels shall be sensitive on the top edge.

FR 4.4.4 Markings - The markings on the panels shall conform with and superimpose on the existing markings of the pool. The perimeter and edges of the panels shall be defined by a 0.025 metre black border.

FR 4.4.5 Safety - The panels shall be safe from the possibility of electrical shock and shall not have sharp edges.

FR 4.5 With Semi-Automatic Equipment, the finish shall be recorded by buttons pushed by timekeepers at the finish touch of the swimmer.

FR 4.6 The following accessories are essential for a minimum installation of Automatic Equipment:

FR 4.6.1 Printout of all information, which can be regenerated during a succeeding race.

FR 4.6.2 Spectator readout board.

FR 4.6.3 Relay take-off judging to 1/100 of a second. Where overhead video cameras are installed they may be reviewed as a supplement to the automatic system's judgement of relay take-off. For the differential in the relays take-off the manufacturer of the device shall be consulted.

FR 4.6.4 Automatic lap counter.

FR 4.6.5 Readout of splits.

FR 4.6.6 Computer summaries.

FR 4.6.7 Correction of erroneous touch.

FR 4.6.8 Automatic rechargeable battery operation possibility.

FR 4.7 For Olympic Games and World Championships the following accessories are also essential:

FR 4.7.1 The spectator electronic read-out board shall contain at least twelve (12) lines of thirty-two (32) characters, each capable of displaying both letters and numbers. Each character shall have a minimum height of 360 mm. Each line –matrix scoreboard shall be able to scroll up or down, with blink function, and each full matrix scoreboard shall be programmable, and capable of showing animation. The board must have a minimum size of 7.5 m width by 4.5m height.

FR 4.7.2 There shall be an air-conditioned control centre, with dimensions of a least 6.0 metres x 3.0 metres, located between 3.0 metres and 5.0 metres from the finish wall, with an unobstructed view of the finish wall at all times during the race. The referee must have easy access to the control centre during the competition. At all other times the control centre shall be able to be secured.

FR 4.7.3 Video-tape timing system.

FR 4.8 Semi-Automatic Equipment may be used as a backup to the Automatic Officiating Equipment at FINA or other major events if there are three buttons per lane, each operated by a separate official (in which case other finish judges shall not be required). An inspector of turns may operate one of the buttons.

OPEN WATER SWIMMING

All World Championships, World Cups, and FINA competitions shall be governed by the rules of FINA with the following exceptions and additions.

OWS 1 DEFINITIONS

OWS 1.1 OPEN WATER SWIMMING shall be defined as any competition that takes place in rivers, lakes, oceans or water channels except for 10km events.

OWS 1.1.1 MARATHON SWIMMING shall be defined as any 10km event in open water competitions.

OWS 1.2 The age limit for all FINA Open Water Swimming events must be at least 14 years of age.

OWS 2 OFFICIALS

The following officials shall be appointed at Open Water Swimming competitions:

- A Chief Referee (one per race)
- Referees
- Chief Judge
- Chief Timekeeper plus 2 Timekeepers
- Chief Finish Judge plus 2 Finish Judges
- Safety Officer
- Medical Officer
- Course Officer
- Clerk of the Course
- Race Judges (one per competitor) except for events of 10 km or less
- Turn Judges (one per alteration of Course)
- Starter
- Announcer
- Recorder
- Officials to be renamed as above thereafter

OWS 3 DUTIES OF OFFICIALS

The Chief Referee shall:

OWS 3.1 have full control and authority over all officials and shall approve their assignments and instruct them regarding all special features or regulations related to the competition. The Referee shall enforce all the Rules and decisions of FINA and shall decide all questions relating to the actual conduct of the competition, the final settlement of which is not otherwise covered by these Rules.

OWS 3.2 have authority to intervene in the competition at any stage to ensure that FINA Rules are observed.

OWS 3.2.1 In case of hazardous conditions that jeopardize the safety of the swimmers and the officials, in conjunction with the Safety Officer he can stop the race.

OWS 3.3 adjudicate on all protests related to the competition in progress.

OWS 3.4 give a decision in cases where the judges' decision and times recorded do not agree.

OWS 3.5 signal to swimmers, by raised flag and short blasts on a whistle, that the start is imminent and when satisfied indicate by pointing the flag at the starter that the competition may commence.

OWS 3.6 disqualify any swimmer for any violation of the Rules that he personally observes or which is reported to him by other authorised officials.

OWS 3.7 ensure that all necessary officials for the conduct of the competition are at their respective posts. 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.

OWS 3.8 receive all reports prior to the start of the race from the Clerk of the Course, Course Officer and Safety Officer.

THE REFEREES shall:

OWS 3.9 Have authority to intervene in competition at any stage to ensure that FINA Rules are observed.

OWS 3.10 disqualify any swimmer for any violation of the Rules that he personally observes.

THE STARTER shall:

OWS 3.11 start the race in accordance to OWS 4 following the signal by the Chief Referee.

THE CHIEF TIMEKEEPER shall:

OWS 3.12 assign at least three Timekeepers to their positions for the start and finish.

OWS 3.13 ensure that a time check is made to allow all persons to synchronise their watches with the official running clocks 15 minutes before start time.

OWS 3.14 collect from each Timekeeper a card showing the time recorded for each swimmer, and, if necessary, inspect their watches.

OWS 3.15 record or examine the official time on the card for each swimmer.

TIMEKEEPERS shall:

OWS 3.16 take the time of each swimmer assigned. The watches must have memory and print out capability and shall be certified correct to the satisfaction of the Management Committee.

OWS 3.17 start their watches at the starting signal, and only stop their watches when instructed by the Chief Timekeeper.

OWS 3.18 promptly after each finish record the time and swimmers' number on the timecard and turn it over to the Chief Timekeeper.

Note: When Automatic Officiating Equipment is used, the same complement of hand timers is to be used.

THE CHIEF JUDGE shall:

OWS 3.19 assign each Judge to a position.

OWS 3.20 Record and communicate any decision received from the Referees during the competition

OWS 3.21 collect after the race, signed results sheets from each Judge and establish the result and placing which shall be sent directly to the Chief Referee.

FINISH JUDGES (three) shall:

OWS 3.22 be positioned in line with the finish where they shall have at all times a clear view of the finish.

OWS 3.23 record after each finish the placing of the swimmers according to the assignment given.

Note: Finish Judges shall not act as Timekeepers in the same event.

EACH RACE JUDGE shall:

OWS 3.24 be positioned in an escort safety craft (where applicable), assigned by random draw prior to the start, so as to be able to observe, at all times, his appointed swimmer.

OWS 3.25 ensure at all times that the Rules of competition are complied with, violations being recorded in writing and reported to a Referee at the earliest opportunity.

OWS 3.26 have the power to order a swimmer from the water upon expiry of any time limit so ordered by the Referee.

OWS 3.27 ensure that his appointed swimmer does not take unfair advantage or commit unsporting impediment on another swimmer and if the situation requires instruct a swimmer to maintain clearance from any other swimmer.

TURN JUDGES shall:

OWS 3.28 be positioned so as to ensure all swimmers execute the alterations in course as indicated in the competition information documents and as given at the pre-race briefing.

OWS 3.29 record any infringement of the turn procedures on the record sheets provided and indicate the infringement to the Race Judge at the time of infringement by blasts on a whistle.

OWS 3.30 promptly upon completion of the event deliver the signed record sheet to the Chief Judge.

THE SAFETY OFFICER shall:

OWS 3.31 be responsible to the Referee for all aspects of safety related to the conduct of the competition.

OWS 3.32 check that the entire course, with special regard to the start and finish areas, is safe, suitable, and free of any obstruction.

OWS 3.33 be responsible for ensuring that sufficient powered safety craft are available during the competition so as to provide full safety backup to the escort safety craft.

OWS 3.34 provide prior to the competitions to all swimmers a tide/current chart clearly indicating the time of tide changes on the course and showing the effect of tides or current on a swimmer's progress along the course.

OWS 3.35 in conjunction with the Medical Officer advise the Referee if, in their opinion, conditions are unsuitable for staging the competition and make recommendations for the modification of the course or the manner in which the competition is conducted.

THE MEDICAL OFFICER shall:

OWS 3.36 be responsible to the Referee for all medical aspects related to the competition and competitors.

OWS 3.37 inform the local medical facilities of the nature of the competition and ensure that any casualties can be evacuated to medical facilities at the earliest opportunity.

OWS 3.38 in conjunction with the Safety Officer, advise the Referee if, in their opinion, conditions are unsuitable for staging the competition and make recommendations for the modification of the course or the manner in which the competition is conducted.

THE COURSE OFFICER shall:

OWS 3.39 be responsible to the Management Committee for the correct survey of the course.

OWS 3.40 ensure the start and finish areas are correctly marked and all equipment has been correctly installed and, where applicable, is in working order.

OWS 3.41 ensure all course alteration points are correctly marked, and manned prior to the commencement of the competition.

OWS 3.42 with the Referee and Safety Officer inspect the course and markings prior to the commencement of competition.

OWS 3.43 ensure that Turn Judges are in position prior to the start of the competition and report this to the Referees.

THE CLERK OF THE COURSE shall:

OWS 3.44 assemble and prepare competitors prior to each event and ensure proper reception facilities at the finish are available for all competitors.

OWS 3.45 ensure each competitor is identified correctly with their race number and that all swimmers have trimmed fingernails and toenails and are not wearing any jewellery, including watches.

OWS 3.46 be certain all swimmers are present, in the assembly area, at the required time prior to the start.

OWS 3.47 keep swimmers and officials informed of the time remaining before the start at suitable intervals until the last five minutes, during which one-minute warnings shall be given.

OWS 3.48 be responsible for ensuring that all clothing and equipment left in the start area is transported to the finish area and kept in safekeeping.

OWS 3.49 ensure that all competitors leaving the water at the finish have the basic equipment required for their well being should their own attendants not be present at that time.

THE RECORDER shall:

OWS 3.50 record withdrawals from the competition, enter results on official forms, and maintain record for team awards as appropriate.

OWS 3.51 Report any violation to the Chief Referee on a signed card detailing the event, and the rule infringement.

OWS 4 THE START

OWS 4.1 All Open Water competitions shall start with all competitors standing on a fixed platform or in water depth sufficient for them to commence swimming on the start signal.

OWS 4.1.1 When starting from a fixed platform competitors shall be assigned a position on the platform, as determined by random draw

OWS 4.2 The Clerk of the Course shall keep competitors and officials informed of the time before start at suitable intervals and at one-minute intervals for the last five minutes.

OWS 4.3 When the number of entries dictate the start shall be segregated in the Men's and Women's competitions. The Men's events shall always start before the Women's events.

OWS 4.4 The start line shall be clearly defined by either overhead apparatus or by removable equipment at water level.

OWS 4.5 The Referee shall indicate by a flag held upright and short blasts on a whistle when the start is imminent and indicate that the competition is under Starter's orders by pointing the flag at the starter.

OWS 4.6 The Starter shall be positioned so as to be clearly visible to all competitors.

OWS 4.6.1 On the starter command "take your marks" they shall take up a starting position with at least one foot at the front of the platform.

OWS 4.6.2 The starter will give the starting signal when he considers all swimmers are ready.

OWS 4.7 The start signal shall be both audible and visual.

OWS 4.8 If in the opinion of the Referee an unfair advantage has been gained at the start the offending competitor will be given a yellow or red flag in accordance with OWS 6.3.

OWS 4.9 All escort safety craft shall be stationed prior to the start so as not to interfere with any competitor, and if picking up their swimmer from behind shall navigate in such a way as not to manoeuvre through the field of swimmers.

OWS 4.10 Although they may start together, in all other respects the men's and women's competitions shall be treated as separate events.

OWS 5 THE VENUE

OWS 5.1 World Championships and FINA competitions shall be for Open Water distances, 25 kilometres, 10 kilometres and 5 kilometres, conducted at a venue and course approved by FINA.

OWS 5.2 The course shall be in water that is subject to only minor currents or tide and may be salt or fresh water.

OWS 5.3 A certificate of suitability for use of the venue shall be issued by the appropriate local health and safety authorities. In general terms the certification must relate to water purity and to physical safety from other considerations.

OWS 5.4 The minimum depth of water at any point on the course shall be 1.40 meter.

OWS 5.5 The water temperature should be a minimum of 16°C. It should be checked the day of the race, 2 hours before the start, in the middle of the course at a depth of 40 cm. This control should be done in the presence of a Commission made up of the following persons present: a Referee, a member of

the Organising Committee and one coach from the teams present designated during the Technical Meeting

OWS 5.6 All turns/alterations of course shall be clearly indicated.

OWS 5.7 A clearly marked craft or platform, containing a Turn Judge, shall be positioned at all alterations of course in such a manner as not to obstruct a swimmer's visibility of the turn.

OWS 5.8 All Feeding Platforms, turning apparatus and Turn Judges craft/platforms shall be securely fixed in position and not be subject to tidal, wind or other movements.

OWS 5.9 The final approach to the finish shall be clearly defined with markers of a distinctive colour.

OWS 5.10 The finish shall be clearly defined and marked by a vertical face.

OWS 6 THE RACE

OWS 6.1 All Open Water competitions shall be Freestyle events.

OWS 6.2 Race Judges shall instruct any swimmer who is, in their opinion, taking unfair advantage by pacing or slip streaming with the escort craft to move clear

OWS 6.3 Disqualification Procedure

OWS 6.3.1 If in the Opinion of the Chief Referee or Referees, any swimmer, or swimmer's approved representative, or escort safety craft, takes advantage by committing any violation of the rules or by making intentional contact with any swimmer, the following proceeding shall apply:

1st Infringement:

A yellow flag and a card bearing the swimmer's number shall be raised to indicate and to inform the swimmer that he is in violation of the Rules.

2nd Infringement:

A red flag and a card bearing the swimmer's number shall be raised by the Referee (OWS 3.6) to indicate and to inform the swimmer that he is for the second time in violation of the Rules. The swimmer shall be disqualified. He must leave the water immediately and be placed in an escort craft, and take no further part in the race.

OWS 6.3.2 If in the opinion of a Referee, an action of a swimmer or an escort safety craft, or a swimmer's approved representative is deemed to be 'unsporting' the referee shall disqualify the swimmer concerned immediately.

OWS 6.4 Escort safety craft shall manoeuvre so as not to obstruct or place themselves directly ahead of any swimmer and not take unfair advantage by pacing or slip streaming.

OWS 6.5 Escort safety craft shall attempt to maintain a constant position so as to station the swimmer at, or forward of, the midpoint of the escort safety craft.

OWS 6.6 Standing on the bottom during a race shall not disqualify a swimmer but they may not walk or jump.

OWS 6.7 With the exception of 6.6 above swimmers shall not receive support from any fixed or floating object and shall not intentionally touch or be touched by their escort safety craft or crew therein.

OWS 6.7.1 Rendering assistance by an official medical officer to a swimmer in apparent distress should always supersede official rules of disqualification through "intentional contact" with a swimmer (OWS3.1)

OWS 6.8 Each escort safety craft shall contain: a Race Judge, a person of the swimmer's choice, and the minimum crew required to operate the escort safety craft.

OWS 6.9 No swimmer shall be permitted to use or wear any device which may be an aid to their speed, endurance or buoyancy. Goggles, a maximum of two (2) caps, nose clip and earplugs may be used.

OWS 6.10 Swimmers shall be allowed to use grease or other such substances providing these are not, in the opinion of the Referee, excessive.

OWS 6.11 The pacing of a swimmer by another person entering the water is not permitted.

OWS 6.12 Coaching and the giving of instructions by the approved swimmer's representative on the feeding platform or in the escort safety craft is permitted. No whistle shall be allowed.

OWS 6.13 When taking sustenance swimmers may use Rule OWS 6.6 provided Rule OWS 6.7 is not infringed.

OWS 6.14 All swimmers shall have their competition number clearly displayed in waterproof ink on their upper back, arms and hands.

OWS 6.15 Each escort safety craft shall display the swimmer's competition number so as to be easily seen from either side of the escort safety craft, and the national flag of the swimmer's Federation.

OWS 6.16.1 In all events, time limits shall apply as follows from the finish time of the first swimmers:

Events under 25 km 30 minutes

Events of 25 km 60 minutes

Events over 25 km 120 minutes

OWS 6.16.2 Competitors who do not finish the course within the time limits shall be removed from the water except that the referee may allow a competitor outside the time limit to complete the course but not participate in any points or prizes awarded.

OWS 6.17 Emergency Abandonment

OWS 6.17.1 In cases of emergency abandonment of races of 10 km or less, the race will be restarted from the beginning at the earliest possible moment.

OWS 6.17.2 In cases of emergency abandonment for any race of longer than 10km, where the lead swimmer has accomplished at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the race, the final ranking will be as reported by the Chief Referee. If the lead swimmer has not completed $\frac{3}{4}$ of the race, it will be restarted from the beginning at the earliest moment possible.

OWS 7 THE FINISH OF THE RACE

OWS 7.1 The area leading to the finish apparatus should be clearly marked by rows of buoys which narrow as they get closer to the finish wall. Escort safety craft should be stationed at the approach to and entrance of the finish lane to ensure that only the escort safety craft authorized to do so enter or cross this entrance.

OWS 7.2 The finish apparatus should, where possible, be a vertical wall at least 5 metres wide fixed if necessary to floatation devices, securely fastened in place so as not to be moved by wind, tide or the force of a swimmer striking the wall.

The finish should be filmed and recorded by video system with slow motion and recall facilities including timing equipment.

OWS 7.2.1 When automatic Officiating Equipment is used for timing of competitions in accordance with rule SW 11, microchip transponder technology capable of providing split times is mandatory and should be added to the Equipment. Use of microchip transponder technology is mandatory for competitions at the World Championships and Olympic Games. Microchip transponder timing technology will be recorded officially in tenths of seconds. The final places will be determined by the referee based upon the finish judges' report and the finish video tape.

OWS 7.2.2 It is mandatory for all swimmers to wear a microchip transponder on each wrist throughout the race. If a swimmer loses a transponder the Race Judge or other authorised Official, will immediately inform the Referee who will instruct the responsible Official on the water to issue a replacement transponder. Any swimmer who finishes the race without a transponder will be disqualified.

OWS 7.3 The Finish Judges and Timekeepers shall be placed so as to be able to observe the finish at all times. The area in which they are stationed should be for their exclusive use.

OWS 7.4 Every effort should be made to ensure that the swimmers' representative can get from the escort safety craft to meet the swimmer as they leave the water.

OWS 7.5 Upon leaving the water some swimmers may require assistance. Swimmers should only be touched or handled if they clearly display a need, or ask for assistance.

OWS 7.6 A member of the medical team should inspect the swimmers as they leave the water. A chair, in which the swimmer can sit while an assessment is made, should be provided.

OWS 7.7 Once cleared by the medical member, swimmers should be given access to refreshment.

