

# SWIMMING

TECHNICAL RULES AND  
REGULATIONS





# SWIMMING

## TECHNICAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

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## TECHNICAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

### GENERAL

The purpose of the “ISF Swimming Technical Rules and Regulations” is to provide standardised rules and regulations for all Swimming competitions. This document is set up in accordance with the ISF Statutes, the ISF Sport Policy and the ISF General Competition Regulations.

This document is intended to ensure that all matters related to competitions are conducted in a fair and orderly manner. The specific objectives of this document are to:

1. Define and specify the **general conditions** under which participants can take part in the ISF Swimming Gymnastics events;
2. Determine the **delegation composition**;
3. Determine the **sport program**;
4. Determine the **technical rules**;
5. Set the **draw** procedure;
6. Set **protests and appeals** procedure.

Please note that the technical rules and regulations are applicable to all ISF events. In case of variation of rules and regulations in relation to the type of event, the variation will be specified in the text.

#### 1. GENERAL CONDITIONS

The competition will be run according to the ISF rules and regulations and FINA technical rules under the direction of the ISF Technical Commission of swimming. Any decisions over matters not mentioned in the present document will be taken by the ISF Technical Commission.

- The ISF Swimming events are open to individuals. Specific sports formats shall be described in the event bulletins.
- The competition is organized in: boy categories, girl categories, and mixed categories.
- The composition of each delegation the number of teams/individuals, and the final sport events hat each ISF Swimming event is accepting will be defined for each event accordingly.
- The competition is held in three (3) days for any event type.

#### AGE CATEGORY

- For the **U15 category**, students aged 13, 14 and 15 on 31 December of the year of the competition concerned can participate.
- For the **U18 category**, students aged 16, 17, and 18 on 31 December of the year of the competition concerned can participate.



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### 2. DELEGATION COMPOSITION

Each delegation will consist of:

- Head of delegation
- Deputy Head of delegation (where applicable)
- Additional adults
- Athletes
- Team officials
  - Coaches
  - Other team officials

#### HEAD OF DELEGATION (HOD)

- HOD shall be the sole intermediary between the delegation and the Local Organising Committee, the ISF Technical Commission and the ISF Delegate.
- They may not combine their role of HoD with that of a coach or any other official role.
- Each delegation is entitled to enter one (1) HoD.

#### DEPUTY HEAD OF DELEGATION (Deputy HoD)

- The role of Deputy HoD is to assist the Head of Delegation.
- The presence of the Deputy HoD is not mandatory.
- Number of Deputy HoD depends on the size of the delegation. Specific numbers shall be defined in the event bulletins.

#### ADDITIONAL ADULTS

- The function of additional adults can be: interpreter, security personnel, ministry representative, media, etc.
- The presence of additional adults is not mandatory.
- The function of each additional adult must be specified during the registration process.
- Any other additional persons not specified during registration or exceeding the limit specified in this document will not be considered part of the official delegation and will not be accredited by the LOC.
- Number of additional adults depends on the size of the delegation. Specific numbers shall be defined in the event bulletins.

#### ATHLETES

- Athletes must be students attending schools that provide general education.
- Athletes must be enrolled as full-time students at a school in the country which they represent.

#### TEAM OFFICIALS

##### *Coaches*

- The presence of a coach is mandatory.
- Teams or individuals cannot participate in the competition without the presence of a coach.
- The maximum number of coaches is determined by the number of athletes.
- Each delegation shall enter a minimum of one (1) coach per team.

##### *Other Team officials*

- The function of other team officials can be: doctor, trainer, physiotherapist, statistician, team manager etc.
- The presence of the other team officials is not mandatory.



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- The function of the other team officials must be specified during the registration process.
- Any person not specified during registration or exceeding the limit will not be considered part of the team.
- Each delegation shall enter up to one (1) other team official each per team.

### 3. SPORT PROGRAM

#### EVENTS

- Freestyle: 50M, 100M, 200M, 400M, 4x100M, 4x100 Mixed
- Backstroke: 50M, 100M, 200M
- Breaststroke: 50M, 100M, 200M
- Butterfly: 50M, 100M 200M
- Medley: 200M, 400M, 4x100M, 4x100M (Mixed)

All events will be Preliminary Heats (AM) and Finals (PM)

#### 1. ENTRIES PER EVENT

Each ISF member is entitled to enter a maximum of two (2) athletes in individual events and one (1) team in each relay event. There is no limit to the number of events per athlete.

A mixed relay team consists of 2 female and 2 male athletes any order.

### 4. TECHNICAL RULES

#### RULES

Refers to 2017-2021 Final Rulebook

#### 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, power



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bands, or adhesive substances, 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. Mixed relays may be swum. Mixed Relays must consist of two (2) Men and two (2) Women. Split times achieved in these events cannot be used for records and/or entry purposes.

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 5 FREESTYLE (50M, 100M, 200M, 400M, 4x100M Relay)

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 (50M, 100M, 200M)



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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. When using a backstroke ledge at the start, the toes of both feet must be in contact with the end wall or face of the touchpad. Bending the toes over the top of the touchpad 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 6.5. 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 sub-merged 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 6.4 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 an immediate continuous single arm pull or immediate 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 (50M, 100M, 200M)

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. At any time prior to the first Breaststroke kick after the start and after each turn a single butterfly kick is permitted. The head must break the surface of the water before the hands turn inward at the widest part of the second stroke.

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 except at the turn after the touch of the wall where it is permissible to turn in any manner as long as the body is on the breast when leaving the wall. 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 on 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. All movements of the legs shall be simultaneous and on the same horizontal plane without alternating movement.



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SW 7.5 The feet must be turned outwards during the propulsive part of the kick. Alternating movements or downward butterfly kicks are 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 separated and simultaneously at, above, or below the water level. At the last stroke before the turn and at the finish an arm stroke not followed by a leg kick is permitted. 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 (50M, 100M, 200M)

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. It is not permitted to roll onto the back at any time, except at the turn after the touch of the wall where it is permissible to turn in any manner as long as the body is on the breast when leaving the wall.

SW 8.2 Both arms shall be brought forward simultaneously over the water and brought backward simultaneously under the water 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 separated and 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 (200M, 400M, 4x100M Relay)

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 Freestyle the swimmer must be on the breast except when executing a turn. The swimmer must return to the breast before any kick or stroke.

SW 9.3 In Medley relay events, swimmers will cover the four swimming strokes in the following order: Backstroke, Breaststroke, Butterfly and Freestyle. Each of the strokes must cover one quarter (1/4) of the distance.

SW 9.4 Each section must be finished in accordance with the rule which applies to the stroke concerned.

Other provisions





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NOTE: For any issue not included in the present document, the FINA General Rules and the FINA Swimming Rules (and all other related documents) act as main reference. Any decision over issues not mentioned in the present document will anyhow need to be taken by the TC President after a consultation with the other members of the TC.

The FINA General Rules and FINA Swimming Rules to be taken into account will always be the valid ones in the moment of their consultation.

### 5. DRAW

- The ISF is responsible for establishing, criteria's and fixing timing of the draw.
- The ISF Technical Commission is responsible of the draw.

### 6. PROTESTS AND APPEALS

Appeals involving results or any matter not concerning discipline will be heard by the Jury Appeal. The appeal must be lodged within 30 minutes of the incident and be submitted in English. The payment of amount 50€ must accompany the appeal and is to be paid to LOC in cash. This payment will be refunded only if the appeal is upheld or at the discretion of the Jury Appeal. In the case of an unsuccessful appeal, the payment will be retained by the ISF.



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