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NOTES:

*“Not applicable to Masters”* next to a rule number indicates a FINA rule number that does not apply to Masters.

*“Incorporating FINA Masters rules”* next to a rule number indicates a FINA rule that has been modified to include the FINA Masters rule. The applicable FINA Masters rule (e.g. MSW x.x will be shown).

“M” after a rule number indicates that the rule is unique to/or has been modified for Masters Swimming Australia.

Rules prefixed “MC” and in red are specific to classified multi-class athletes competing in Multi-Class events.

Swimmers with a disability may be exempt from some of these rules – refer to Rule SW 14M.

Gender specific words in the FINA rules have been replaced with non-gender specific alternatives.

DEFINITIONS:

Meet: A swimming competition that may be comprised of individual and/or relay events.

Event: A subset of a meet in which all swimmers are doing the same distance and style, e.g., 50m Freestyle.

Heats: Where there are more competitors than there are lanes, the event is divided into separate races called Heats.

## SW 1 MANAGEMENT OF COMPETITIONS

**SW 1.1M** The Meet Director appointed by the Masters Swimming Australia (MSA) sanctioning 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 1.2M** At the Masters Swimming Australia National Championships the Meet Director shall appoint the following minimum number of officials for the control of the competition:

- referee (2)
- 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 ( 4 at each end of the pool)
- chief recorder, recorder (2)
- clerks of course, marshal, check starter ( 4)
- announcer (1)
- AOE/SAT Operator (1)
- Timekeepers (minimum 2 per lane)

**SW 1.2.1M** For all other competitions, the governing body shall appoint the same or fewer numbers of officials, subject to the approval of the respective branch authority where appropriate.

**SW 1.2.2M** Where Automatic Officiating Equipment is not available, such equipment must be replaced by chief timekeeper, two (2) timekeepers per lane each with digital watches and two (2) additional timekeepers.

**SW 1.2.3** *Not applicable to Masters*

**SW 1.3** *Not applicable to Masters*

**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 2.1.1M** 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. They shall enforce all rules and decisions of MSA 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 2.1.12M** The referee shall approve swimmers' alternative swimwear prior to the swimmers first event and maintain a list of all swimmers approved to wear alternative swimwear (refer to GR 16).

**SW 2.1.12.1M** In the event of a FINA Masters World Record the Referee must refer to this list and not ratify any record achieved by a swimmer wearing alternative swimwear.

**SW 2.1.2M** The referee may intervene in the competition at any stage to ensure that the MSA regulations are observed, and shall adjudicate all protests related to the competition in progress.

**SW 2.1.3** *Not applicable to Masters.*

**SW 2.1.4** The referee shall ensure that all necessary officials are in their respective posts for the conduct of the competition. They may appoint substitutes for any who are absent, incapable of acting or found to be inefficient. They may appoint additional officials if considered necessary.

**SW 2.1.5M** 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, pool deck or to immediately enter the water (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** A disqualification for starting before the starting signal must be observed and confirmed by both the starter and the referee.

**SW 2.1.7** The referee shall disqualify any swimmer for any other violation of the rules that they personally observe. The referee may also disqualify any swimmer for any violation reported to them by other authorised officials. All disqualifications are subject to the decision of the referee.

**MC 2.1** *The Referee is responsible for obtaining and implementing the rule exceptions for swimmers with disability competing in the competition.*

**SW 2.1.8M** The Referee shall have the authority to commence a race prior to the swimmers in the previous race leaving the water.

**Clarification:** *The Referee may, in the interests of saving time, instruct swimmers to remain in the water until after the start of the next heat.*

**SW 2.1.9M** At the completion of the event the referee will give two short blasts on their whistle to signal the swimmers to leave the water.

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**SW 2.1.10M** With the assistance of other approved Officials, the referee shall notify a swimmer of their disqualification, and the reason for their disqualification, before they leave the water. However, failure to notify a swimmer of their disqualification does not make the disqualification invalid.

**SW 2.1.11M** The referee shall have a list of all medical disabilities (refer to SW 14M) notifications prior to the commencement of the meet.

## **SW 2.2 Control-room Supervisor**

- SW 2.2.1** The supervisor shall supervise the automatic timing operation including the review of video timing.
- 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 take-offs to the referee.
- SW 2.2.4** The supervisor may review the video timing to confirm early take-off.
- SW 2.2.5M** The supervisor shall control withdrawals, 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 them (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 2.4M Clerk of Course, Marshal, Check Starter**

- SW 2.4.1** The clerk of course shall assemble swimmers prior to each event.
- SW 2.4.2M** The clerk of course shall report to the referee any swimmer is not present when called.
- SW 2.4.3M** The Marshal shall assemble swimmers prior to each event, and allocate swimmers to heats and lanes if required.
- SW 2.4.4M** The Check Starters shall ensure that swimmers are seated or standing behind the lane in which they are to swim prior to the completion of the previous heat.

## **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 2.6 Inspectors of Turns

**SW 2.6.1M** A minimum of one inspector of turns shall be assigned to each end of the pool, to ensure swimmers comply with the relevant rules after the start, for each turn, and at the finish.

**SW 2.6.2** Jurisdiction for the Inspector of Turns at the start end commences from the start signal until the completion of the first arm stroke, except in Breaststroke where it shall be the second arm stroke.

**SW 2.6.3** For each turn, jurisdiction for the Inspector of Turns commences from the beginning of the last arm stroke before touching and ending with the completion of the first arm stroke after the turn, except in Breaststroke where it shall be the second arm stroke.

**SW 2.6.4** Jurisdiction for the Inspector of Turns at the finish commences from the beginning of the last arm stroke before touching.

**SW 2.6.5** *Not applicable to Masters.*

**SW 2.6.6M** In individual events of 400 (except individual medley), 800 and 1500 metres, each inspector of turns at the start or turning end of the pool shall record the number of laps completed by the swimmer in their lane. The swimmers shall be informed of the remaining number of laps to be completed by displaying "lap cards" showing odd numbers at the turning end of the pool. Electronic equipment may be used, including under water display. (This duty may be delegated to a designated timekeeper.)

**SW 2.6.7M** Each inspector (or designated timekeeper) at the starting end shall give a warning signal when the swimmer in their lane has two lengths plus five (5) metres to swim to finish in individual events of 400 (except 400m Individual Medley), 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.

**MC 2.2M** *For swimmers with a hearing impairment, the Inspector of Turns shall use a visual cue to indicate to the swimmer that they have two lengths to swim to finish in individual events of 400 (except 400m Individual Medley), 800 and 1500m. (IPC 2.2.7.4.1)*

**MC 2.3M** *For swimmers with hearing and visual impairment, the Inspector of Turns shall notify the tapper 15m and two lengths before the completion of the 400 (except 400m Individual Medley), 800 and 1500m events. It shall be the responsibility of the tapper to indicate to the swimmer that they are commencing the final two lengths. (IPC 2.2.7.4.2)*

**SW 2.6.8M** Each inspector 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 2.6.9** Inspectors of turns shall report to the Referee any violation on signed cards detailing the event, heat, lane number, and the infraction

## 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 to the Referee any violation on signed cards detailing the event, heat, lane number, and the infraction.

## **SW 2.8 Chief Timekeeper**

**SW 2.8.1M** The chief timekeeper shall assign the seating positions for all timekeepers and the lanes for which they are responsible. It is advisable that there shall be two (2) 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 digital watches, final time and place is determined by time.

**SW 2.8.2** When only one (1) timekeeper per lane is available, an extra timekeeper must be assigned in case of a malfunction of a stopwatch. In addition the Chief Timekeeper must always record the time of the winner of each heat.

**SW 2.8.3** The chief timekeeper shall collect from the timekeepers in each lane a card showing the times recorded and, if necessary, inspect their watches.

**SW 2.8.4** *Not applicable to Masters.*

## **SW 2.9 Timekeepers**

**SW 2.9.1** Each timekeeper shall take the time of the swimmers in the lane assigned to them 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 their watch at the starting signal, and shall stop it when the swimmer in their 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 2.9.3M** Promptly after the race, the timekeepers in each lane shall record the times of their watches on the card 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 video timing 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** *Not applicable to Masters.*

**SW 2.11 Finish Judges** *Not applicable to Masters.*

## **SW 2.12M Desk Control (Recorders & A.O.E Operators) (Incorporating FINA Masters rule MSW 3.8)**

**SW 2.12.1M** The chief recorder is responsible for checking results from computer printouts or from results of times and placing in each event received from the AOE, and/or manual times.

**SW 2.12.2M** The recorders shall control withdrawals, enter results on official forms, list all new records established, and maintain scores where appropriate.

**SW 2.12.3M** The recorders shall ensure that swimmers who had to be disqualified are listed with coded

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reason for disqualification in the results list.

**SW 2.12.4M** The recorder shall be in possession of the current Medical Disability (MD) list, and ensure that all relevant officials are notified when an MD has been requested.

**SW 2.12.5M** The A.O.E. Operators shall operate the automatic timing and judging equipment at the direction of the Referee, provide the times and placings recorded by the equipment and inform the Control Room Supervisor of any recording malfunction.

### **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 3M SEEDING OF TIMED FINALS (Incorporating FINA Masters rules MSW 3.1, MSW3.3 &**

**MSW3.5) SW 3.1.1** *Not applicable to Masters.*

**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 their 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 3.1.3M** When 50m events are contested in 50m pools, the races may be swum at the discretion of Meet Director, either from the start end to the turning end or from the turning end to the starting end, depending upon such factors as the depth of the pool, the availability and height of starting platforms, existence of automatic officiating equipment and Starter's position. 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** *Not applicable to Masters*

**SW 3.3** *Not applicable to Masters*

**SW 3.4M** Age groups and sexes may be combined so that no swimmer has to swim alone and lanes may be filled.

**SW 3.5M** All Masters events shall be conducted on a timed final basis.

**SW 3.6M** With due notification (see GR 6.12), the Meet Director may arrange 400, 800 and 1500m freestyle to be swum two (2) swimmers of the same sex in a lane. Separate timing will be required for each swimmer.

**SW 3.6.1** When two swimmers are required to swim in the one lane the male and the female events must be conducted as two separate events.



**SW 3.6.2** The Meet Director may advertise that backstroke, breaststroke, and butterfly are not permitted in freestyle events where it is required to swim two to a lane. Where swimmers are permitted to swim a form stroke they must have a lane to themselves.

**SW 3.6.3** When two swimmers are required to swim in the one lane, each roped lane shall be considered as being two lanes. The start must be staggered for the two heats of swimmers who will swim together. The swimmers shall remain on their nominated side of the lane. A swimmer must not interfere with or foul the other swimmer in their roped lane. Each swimmer must finish on their nominated side of the roped lane.

**SW 3.7M** For deck-seeded events:

**SW 3.4.1** Individual swimmers shall be seeded from slowest to fastest in each event, regardless of gender or age.

**SW 3.4.2** Relay teams shall be seeded as per GR 8.3.4.

#### **SW 4 THE START (Incorporating FINA Masters rule MSW 3.2)**

**SW 4.1M** In Freestyle, Breaststroke, Butterfly and Individual Medley races, when using the forward start, the referee's long whistle (SW 2.1.5) shall indicate that the swimmers may take their positions with at least one foot at the front of the starting platform or pool deck, or in the water with one hand having contact with the starting wall. On the starter's command "take your marks", they shall immediately take up a starting position. The position of the hands is not relevant. When all swimmers are stationary, the starter shall give the starting signal.

*Clarification: Sitting on the block or pool edge is discouraged as it is an unsafe practice. Swimmers who cannot stand unaided should use support staff or start in the water.*

**MC 4.1.1** *For a swimmer with a visual impairment, on the long whistle from the Referee the swimmer shall be permitted to orientate them self, prior to the Starters command 'take your marks'. (IPC 3.1.3.1)*

**MC 4.1.2** *The swimmer who has balance problems i.e. standing stationary, may have assistance to balance them self on the starting platform i.e. hold at the hips, hand, arm etc., by one support staff. Support staff may aid the swimmer to remain stationary at the start; however the support staff shall not allow the swimmer unfair advantage by being held beyond the 90 degrees vertical position on the starting platform. Giving momentum to the swimmer at the start is not permitted. (IPC 3.1.3.2)*

**MC 4.1.3** *A swimmer may be permitted to start beside the starting platform. (IPC 3.1.3.3)*

**MC 4.1.4** *Not applicable to Masters*

**MC 4.1.5** *A swimmer may be permitted to start in the water but is required to have one hand in contact with the starting place until the starting signal is given. Standing in or on the gutter or on the bottom is prohibited. (IPC 3.1.3.5)*

**MC 4.1.6** *Sport Class 1-3 swimmers are permitted to have their foot/feet held to the wall until the starting signal is given. Giving momentum to the swimmer at the start is not permitted (IPC 3.1.3.6).*

**MC 4.1.7** *Where a swimmer is unable to grip the starting place in a water start, the swimmer may be assisted by a support staff and/or starting device. The device shall be cleared and deemed safe by the Referee or Meet Technical Director prior to the commencement of the competition. Giving momentum to the swimmer at the start is not permitted. The swimmer shall have some part of the body in contact with*

*the wall until the starting signal is given. (IPC 3.1.3.7)*

**MC 4.1.8** *To prevent abrasion, one layer of towel, or the like, may be placed on the starting platform (IPC 3.1.3.8). The article shall not dramatically increase the height of the starting platform.*

**MC 4.1.9** *A swimmer shall start in the water where this has been determined during classification. (IPC 3.1.3.9)*

**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.

**MC 4.2** *For swimmers with a visual impairment to ensure a satisfactory start for S11 swimmers, spectators shall be requested to remain silent until the swimmers have passed the false start rope. Noises created by hooters, whistles, etc. may be mistaken for the false start signal.*

**SW 4.3M** In MSA events the command "Take your marks" shall be in English. At MSA National Championships the start command 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.

*Interpretation: After all swimmers are "stationary" (SW 4.1) following the Starter's command "take your marks", any swimmer who makes an actual forward movement before the starting signal may be disqualified when such movement is observed and confirmed by both the starter and referee (SW 2.1.6). This is to allow for the unsteadiness of some swimmers. When video timing is available, it may be used to verify the disqualification.*

**MC 4.4.1M** *In the case of a class 1-10 and class 14 swimmers who additionally is deaf, Support Staff shall be permitted to convey the starting signal to the competitor by the use of a non-verbal instruction regardless of whether a starting light is available (IPC 3.1.7)*

**MC 4.4.2** *In the case of a swimmer with a visual impairment who additionally is deaf, Support Staff tapping shall be permitted to convey the starting signal to the competitor by the use of a non-verbal instruction. (IPC 3.1.8)*

**MC 4.4.3M** *In the case of a class 15 swimmer who is deaf, regardless of whether a starting light is available the swimmer shall be permitted to have conveyed the starting signal by the use of a non-verbal instruction.*

## **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.

**MC 5.3.1** *For S1-5 swimmers swimming on their back, during each complete stroke cycle some part of the swimmer must break the surface of the water. (IPC 3.2.3.1)*

**MC 5.3.2** *Standing on the bottom during freestyle events or during the freestyle portion of medley events shall not disqualify a swimmer, but they shall not walk. (IPC 3.2.4)*

## SW 6 BACKSTROKE

**SW 6.1M** 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. Bending the toes over the top of the touchpad is prohibited.

**MC 6.1.1** *Where a swimmer is unable to hold both starting grips, it is permissible to hold the grips with one hand only. (IPC 3.3.1.1)*

**MC 6.1.2** *Where a swimmer is unable to hold either starting grip, it is permissible to hold the end of the pool. (IPC 3.3.1.2)*

**MC 6.1.3** *Where a swimmer is unable to hold the starting grips or end of the pool, the swimmer may be assisted by a support staff or starting device. This device shall be cleared and deemed safe by the Referee or Meet Technical Director. Giving momentum to the swimmer at the start is not permitted. The swimmer shall have part of the body in contact with the wall until the starting signal is given. (IPC 3.3.1.3)*

**SW 6.2** At the signal for starting and after turning the swimmer shall push off and swim upon their 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 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.

**MC 6.3** *For S1-5 swimmers, during each complete stroke cycle some part of the swimmer must break the surface of the water. (IPC 3.3.3.1)*

**SW 6.4** When executing the turn there must be a touch of the wall with some part of the swimmer's body in their 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.

**Clarification:** *The swimmer who turns past the vertical and, in a continuous motion, touches the wall with any part of the body and leaves the wall on their back is deemed to have executed a legal turn.*

**Clarification:** *Kicking of the legs while on the breast is allowed provided it is part of the turning action.*

**MC 6.4** *For the swimmer who has no arms or use of his/her arms during the turn, once the body has left the position on the back, the turn shall be initiated. The swimmer must have returned to a position on the back upon leaving the wall. (IPC 3.3.4.1)*

**SW 6.5** Upon the finish of the race the swimmer must touch the wall while on the back in their respective lane.

*Clarification: If a swimmer applies to have one or more intermediate distances especially timed (see SW 12.6.9M) they must complete that distance in accordance with this rule.*

## **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. 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.

*MC 7.1 After the start and after each turn, a swimmer who is unable to push off with the leg/s, may perform one arm stroke that may not be simultaneous or on the horizontal plane to attain the breast position. (IPC 3.4.1.1)*

**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.

*MC 7.2 When a swimmer does not have any legs or arms or parts thereof, either the kick or the respective arm stroke shall constitute a complete stroke cycle. (IPC 3.4.2.1)*

**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.

*MC 7.3 Swimmers with a visual impairment approaching a turn or finish may push their hands forward from any point in the stroke cycle immediately after they have been tapped (IPC 3.4.3.1).*

**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.

*MC 7.4 A swimmer with lower limb impairment must show intent of simultaneous movement and show intent to kick in the same horizontal plane throughout the race or trail/drag the leg/s throughout the race. (IPC 3.4.4.1)*

**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.

*MC 7.5 A swimmer who is unable to use one or both legs and/or foot/feet to gain normal propulsion shall not be required to turn the affected foot/feet outwards during the propulsive part of the kick. (IPC 3.4.5.1)*

**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.

*Interpretation: "Separated" means that the hands cannot be stacked one on top of the other. It is not necessary to see space between the hands. Incidental contact at the fingers is not a concern.*

**MC 7.6.1** *At each turn and the finish of the race where a swimmer has different arm lengths only the longer arm must touch the wall, but both arms must be stretched forward simultaneously. (IPC 3.4.6.1)*

**MC 7.6.2** *At each turn and at the finish of the race a swimmer with upper limbs too short to stretch above the head shall touch the wall with any part of the upper body. (IPC 3.4.6.2)*

**MC 7.6.3** *At each turn and the finish of the race, where a swimmer uses only one arm for the stroke cycle the swimmer shall be required to touch with one hand/arm only. (IPC 3.4.6.3)*

**MC 7.6.4** *At each turn and the finish of the race, where the swimmer who uses both arms but has restriction in the shoulder/elbow only the longer arm must touch the wall, but both arms must be stretched forward simultaneously. (IPC 3.4.6.4)*

**MC 7.6.5** *SB11-12 swimmers may have difficulty making a simultaneous touch at the turn and the finish if they are restricted due to contact with the lane rope, the swimmer shall not be disqualified provided that no advantage was gained. (IPC 3.4.6.5)*

*Clarification: SB11-13 classifications- Swimmers with a visual impairment are classified into these three classes, according to the degree of vision loss. SB11 Athletes have a very low visual acuity and/ or no light perception. SB12: Athletes have a higher visual acuity than athletes competing in the SB11 sport class and/ or a visual field of less than 5 degrees radius.*

## **SW 8 BUTTERFLY (Incorporating FINA Masters rule MSW3.7)**

**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.

**MC 8.1** *After the start and after each turn, a swimmer who is unable to push off with the leg/s may perform one arm stroke that may not be simultaneous to attain the breast position. (IPC 3.5.1.1)*

**SW 8.2M** 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.

*Clarification: Both arms must be brought forward over the general surface of the water with the elbows being visible on the top of the water and the arms being brought back simultaneously.*

**MC 8.2.1** *S11-12 swimmers may have difficulty bringing both arms forward together if they are restricted due to contact with the lane rope; the swimmer shall not be disqualified provided that no advantage was gained. (IPC 3.5.2.1)*

**MC 8.2.2** *Swimmers with a visual impairment approaching a turn or finish may bring their arms forward under the water immediately after they have been tapped (IPC 3.5.2.2)*

**MC 8.2.3** *Where part of an arm is missing, the remaining part of the arm shall be brought forward together with the other arm. (IPC 3.5.2.3)*

**MC 8.2.4** *Where a swimmer uses one arm for the arm stroke, the arm shall be brought forward over the water. (IPC 3.5.2.4)*

**SW 8.3M** 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 permitted for butterfly. A single breaststroke kick is permitted after the start and after each turn prior to the first arm pull and prior to the turn and the finish without an arm pull.

**MC 8.3** *When a swimmers impairment results in only one leg being used the non- functional leg shall drag. (IPC 3.5.3.1)*

**SW 8.3.1M** For Butterfly events up to and including 200m, only one breaststroke kick is permitted per arm pull, except that a single breaststroke kick is permitted prior to the turn and the finish without an arm pull.

**SW 8.3.2M** For Butterfly events longer than 200m, up to two breaststroke kicks are permitted per arm pull, except that two breaststroke kicks are permitted prior to the turn and the finish without an arm pull.

**Clarification:** *Either a butterfly or breaststroke leg action may be used with the butterfly arm action. A mixture of these leg actions may be used during the performance of butterfly.*

**Clarification:** *Rule SW 8.3.2M does not apply to Individual Medley events.*

**Note:** *FINA rules allow only one breaststroke kick per butterfly arm stroke in all events i.e. 8.3.1M applies over all distances at meets run under FINA rules.*

**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.

**Interpretation:** *“Separated” means that the hands cannot be stacked one on top of the other. It is not necessary to see space between the hands. Incidental contact at the fingers is not a concern.*

**MC 8.4.1** *At each turn and the finish of the race where a swimmer has different arm lengths only the longer arm must touch the wall, but both arms must be stretched forward simultaneously. (IPC 3.5.4.1)*

**MC 8.4.2** *At each turn and at the finish of the race, a swimmer with no or non- functional upper limbs or upper limbs too short to stretch above the head, shall touch the wall with any part of the upper body. (IPC 3.5.4.2)*

**MC 8.4.3** *At each turn and the finish of the race, where a swimmer uses one arm for the arm stroke the swimmer shall touch with one hand/arm only. (IPC 3.5.4.3)*

**MC 8.4.4** *At each turn and the finish of the race, where the swimmer who uses both arms but has restriction in the shoulder/elbow only the longer arm must touch the wall, but both arms must be stretched forward simultaneously. (IPC 3.5.4.4)*

**MC 8.4.5** *S11-12 swimmers may have difficulty making a simultaneous touch at the turn and finish if they are restricted due to contact with the lane rope. The swimmer shall not be disqualified provided that no advantage was gained. (IPC 3.5.4.5)*

**MC 8.4.6** *At the turn and finish, swimmers with no leg function may perform a half stroke with the arm/s recovering forward under the surface of the water, in order to contact the wall. (IPC 3.5.4.6)*

**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 them 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.

*Interpretation: According to SW 9.1 each of the strokes must cover one quarter (1/4) of the distance. Being on the back when leaving the wall for the Freestyle portion of the Ind. Medley is covering more than one quarter of the distance in the style of Backstroke and is, therefore, a disqualification. Backstroke swimming is only defined as being on the back. See also SW 5.1, SW 6.1 – SW 6.5, SW 7.1 to 7.6, SW 8.1 – 8.5*

**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.

*Clarification: A swimmer who commences any leg with the wrong stroke cannot negate the error by stopping and returning to the pool end to recommence using the correct stroke.*

## **SW 10 THE RACE (Incorporating FINA Masters rules MSW 3.4, MSW 4.1 & MSW 4.2)**

**SW 10.1** *Not applicable to Masters.*

**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 they started.

**MC 10.3** *Should a swimmer with a visual impairment inadvertently surface in the wrong lane after a start or executing a turn and the swimmer has surfaced in a lane not in use, the swimmer shall be permitted to complete the race in that lane. If it is necessary for the swimmer to return to the correct lane the 'tapper' may give verbal instructions, but only after clearly identifying the swimmer by name to prevent distraction or interference to other competitors. (IPC 3.8.3.1)*

**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 10.5M** Standing on the bottom during an event shall not disqualify a swimmer, but they shall not walk or push off to resume the swim.

**SW 10.6** Pulling on the lane rope is not allowed.

*Clarification: Holding on to the lane rope during a race shall not disqualify a swimmer but they shall not propel them self forward by pulling on the lane rope when resuming their swim.*

**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.

**MC 10.7.1** *S11, SB11 and SM11 swimmers, with the exception of those with prosthetics in both eyes, shall be required to wear opaque (blackened in) goggles for competition. S11 SB11 SM11 swimmers whose facial structure will not support goggles shall be required to cover the eyes with an opaque covering. The goggles of the S11 SB11 SM11 swimmers shall be checked at the finish of the relevant event. (IPC 3.8.8)*

**MC 10.7.2** *In the event that the goggles accidentally fall off during the dive or break during the race, the swimmer shall not be disqualified. (IPC 3.8.8.1)*

**SW 10.8M** No swimmer shall be permitted to use or wear any device or swimsuit that may aid their speed, buoyancy or endurance during a competition (such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, power bands, or adhesive substances, etc.). Goggles may be worn. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the referee.

**MC 10.8** *No swimmer shall be permitted to use prostheses, except ocular or orthoses during a race. (IPC 3.8.9.1)*

**SW 10.9M** 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 their next scheduled race in the meet. Swimmers may be allowed to remain in their lane while other swimmers are competing until directed by the referee to exit the pool.

**SW 10.10M** Relays shall consist of four swimmers each registered with the same club. No swimmer is allowed to represent more than one club. Mixed relays must consist of two (2) males and two (2) females. The order of swimmers by gender is optional in mixed relays. Split times achieved in these events cannot be used for records and/or entry purposes.

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

**MC 10.11** *In a relay event a swimmer may commence in the water. The swimmer may not lose hand/feet contact with the starting place until such time as the preceding team member touches the wall otherwise the swimmer shall be disqualified. (IPC 3.7.8.1)*

**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.

**MC 10.12.1** *A swimmer, in a relay event, who is to commence with a water start, may enter the water only when the preceding take off at the same end has been executed. (IPC 3.7.9.1)*

**MC 10.12.2** *The tapper is able to convey to the swimmer the relay changeovers and convey the position/place of the relay. An extra tapper may be required, one for tapping the swimmer completing the leg of the relay and one tapper for conveying the changeover. No coaching is permitted. (IPC 3.7.10)*

**SW 10.13M** 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. Failure to swim in the order listed will result in disqualification. Substitutions may be made only in the case of a documented medical emergency.



**MC 10.13.1** *The names of the swimmers and their sport class must be nominated in the order in which they are to swim and for swimmers in medley relay events must be listed for their respective strokes. Failure to swim in the order listed will result in disqualification. Substitutions may be made only in the case of a medical withdrawal. (IPC 3.7.4)*

**MC 10.13.2** *Not Applicable to Masters*

**SW 10.14** Any swimmer having finished their 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 their relay team, shall be disqualified.

*Clarification: If a swimmer believes they cannot safely leave the pool they may stay in their lane until the last swimmer of the team has completed the race. A swimmer remaining in the water shall move a short distance away from the end of the pool, close to the lane rope but shall not obstruct another swimmer in another lane.*

**MC 10.14** *Class 1-5 swimmers may stay in their lane until the last swimmer of the team has completed the race. A swimmer remaining in the water shall move a short distance away from the end of the pool, close to the lane rope but shall not obstruct another swimmer in another lane. (IPC 3.8.11.1)*

**SW 10.15** Should a foul endanger the chance of success of a swimmer, the referee shall have the power to allow them to compete in the next heat or, should the foul occur in a final event or in the last heat, they may order it to be re-swum.

**MC 10.15M** *For swimmers with visual impairment, should an accidental foul occur during a race, caused by a swimmer either surfacing after the start or turn, in a lane that is in use by another competitor, or by swimming too close to the lane rope, etc., the Referee shall have the power to allow one or all swimmers to re-swim the event. (IPC 3.8.7.1)*

**SW 10.16** No pace-making shall be permitted, nor may any device be used or plan adopted which has that effect.

**SW10.17M** In freestyle events, except as in SW 3.6.2M, a swimmer may nominate a form stroke or medley for sealed handicap, Top Ten, Award Swims or record attempt purposes when the nominated form stroke/distance event is not available elsewhere in the program. The swimmer shall comply with all the rules relating to the nominated stroke or strokes. The swimmer must notify the Referee of their intention to swim other than freestyle in the event by the close of entries for the Meet.

## **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. 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 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 two or three timekeepers appointed by the Member 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 11.3.3M** With only two (2) watches working the slower 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 11.6M** Where Automatic Equipment is used, all 25 metre, 50 metre and 100 metre splits shall be recorded for lead-off swimmers during relays and published in the official results.

## **SW 12 RECORDS (Incorporating FINA Masters rules MSW 5.1, MSW 5.2, MSW 5.3 & MSW5.4)**

**SW 12.1** *Not applicable to Masters.*

**SW 12.2** *Not applicable to Masters.*

**SW 12.3** *Not applicable to Masters.*

**SW 12.4** *Not applicable to Masters.*

### **SW 12.5M MASTERS WORLD RECORDS**

**SW 12.5.1M** World Records for all events listed in FINA Masters Rule MSW 2 for both sexes in each age group shall be recognised and maintained in 1/100 second time (2 decimal places) and according to the provisions listed on the application form.

**SW 12.5.2M** World Records will be accepted only when times are recorded by Automatic Officiating Equipment, or Semi-Automatic Officiating Equipment in case of Automatic Officiating Equipment system malfunction.

**SW 12.5.3M** Applications for World Records must be made on the FINA official form and be forwarded to the National Recorder within 30 days of the end of the meet.

**SW 12.5.4M** The length of each lane of the course must be certified by a surveyor or other qualified official appointed or approved by the Member in the country in which it is situated.

**SW12.5.5M** World Records can only be established in a Masters meet:

**SW 12.5.5.1M** formally sanctioned by a FINA Member Federation; and

**SW 12.5.5.2M** organised for on behalf of a club or an organisation, which is a member of this FINA Member Federation or recognised by FINA; and

**SW 12.5.5.3M** conducted under the rules of FINA (and specially those relevant to Masters Swimming); and

**SW 12.5.5.4M** in which only swimmers registered as a club member of a FINA Member Federation participated.

**SW12.5.6M** The first swimmer in relays may apply for a World Record.

## **SW 12.6M MASTERS NATIONAL RECORDS**

**SW 12.6.1M** National records shall be recognised and maintained in 1/100 second time (2 decimal places) each age group and gender for the following recognised events:

**SW 12.6.2M** Individual events swum in a Long Course pool (50m or 55 yard): Freestyle 50, 100, 200, 400, 800 & 1500m  
Backstroke 50, 100, 200, 400, 800 & 1500m  
Breaststroke 50, 100, 200, 400, 800 & 1500m  
Butterfly 50, 100, 200, 400 & 800m  
Individual Medley 200, 400 & 800m.

**SW 12.6.3M** Individual events swum in a Short Course pool (25m):  
Freestyle: 25, 50, 100, 200, 400, 800 & 1500m  
Backstroke: 25, 50, 100, 200, 400, 800 & 1500m  
Breaststroke: 25, 50, 100, 200, 400, 800 & 1500m  
Butterfly: 25, 50, 100, 200, 400 & 800m  
Individual Medley: 100, 200, 400 & 800m.

**SW 12.6.4M** Teams events swum in a Long Course pool (50m or 55 yard):  
Freestyle Relay: 4 x 50m, 4 x 100m, 4 x 200m Women, Men and Mixed; Medley Relay: 4 x 50m, 4 x 100m Women, Men and Mixed.

**SW 12.6.5M** Teams events swum in a Short Course pool (25m):  
Freestyle Relay: 4 x 25m, 4 x 50m, 4 x 100m, 4 x 200m Women, Men and Mixed; Medley Relay: 4 x 25m, 4 x 50m, 4 x 100m Women, Men and Mixed.

**SW 12.6.6M** Records may only be set or broken by members and only in events conducted as scratch start races.

**SW 12.6.7M** To be eligible to break a National Relay Record all members of a team must be registered members of the one club that they have nominated as the club they will represent.

**SW 12.6.8M** In relay events, the first swimmer may request the Referee to have their performance specially timed for possible recognition as a record. The performance shall stand regardless of any subsequent disqualification of the relay team or team member for violations occurring after their distance has been completed.

**SW 12.6.9M** A swimmer in an individual event longer than 100 metres may apply to have their intermediate distances timed for record attempts. A swimmer must complete the scheduled distance of an event to be eligible for a record at the intermediate distance. (See SW 2.9.2).

**SW 12.6.10M** A swimmer who has nominated an MD in an event cannot set a record in that event. (See SW 15M).

**SW 12.6.11M** National Records may be broken or set at:

**SW 12.6.11.1M** any swim meet involving two or more clubs that has been sanctioned by the Association or any of its affiliated branches;

**SW 12.6.11.2M** any official Swimming Australia meet, including those conducted or sanctioned by affiliated State Associations;

**SW 12.6.11.3M** Subject to SW 12.6.11.6M, FINA World Masters meets;

**SW 12.6.11.4M** Subject to SW 12.6.11.6M, any Masters meet which has been sanctioned by FINA or any of its affiliated members, subject to approval by the National Recorder;

**SW 12.6.11.5M** Subject to SW 12.6.11.6M, swim meets that have been sanctioned by FINA or any of its affiliated members, subject to approval by the National Recorder.

**SW 12.6.11.6M** a Meet conducted outside Australia, by a person who:

**SW 12.6.11.6.1M** is a member of a club that is registered with Masters Swimming Australia, and;

**SW12.6.11.6.2M** who is domiciled in Australia, or;

**SW12.6.11.6.3M** who is not domiciled in Australia but has been physically present in Australia for a period of at least the six months immediately prior to the record being broken.

*Clarification: A person is regarded as being domiciled in Australia if he or she was born in Australia (“domicile of origin”) and, at the time of the swim meet, has not changed their domicile to a place located outside Australia. Similarly, a person who was born outside Australia will only be regarded as having a domicile in Australia if they have taken the necessary steps to give up their domicile of origin and have taken up a place of domicile in Australia (“domicile of choice”). Note that a person can have only one place of domicile at any point in time.*

**SW 12.6.12M** Times must be recorded as per SW 11.

**SW 12.6.12.1M** National records require AOE times or two (2) manual times recorded to 1/100<sup>th</sup> second time (2 decimal places in accordance with SW 11.3).

**SW 12.6.13M** All rules must be complied with and verified by the Referee.

**SW 12.6.14M** For a record to be recognised:

**SW 12.6.14.1M** the length of each lane of the course must have been certified by a surveyor or other qualified official;

**SW 12.6.14.2M** a printout of the records from the official meet recording system must be signed by the Referee and submitted to the Branch Recorder by the Meet Recorder within 7 days of the meet;

**SW 12.6.14.3M** the Meet Director must check that all results have been given to the Branch Recorder.

**SW 12.6.15M** The Branch Recorder shall verify all records that are broken or established and notify the National Recorder within 30 days of the meet in the stipulated format.

**SW 12.6.16M** Times which are equal to 1/100 of a second will be recognised as equal records and swimmers achieving these equal times will be called «Joint Holders». Joint Holders include the initial record holder and all swimmers who achieve the same time at later dates.

**SW 12.6.17M** The National Office will issue Certificates for all new records established.

### **SW 13 AUTOMATIC OFFICIATING PROCEDURE**

**SW 13.1** When Automatic Officiating Equipment (See FINA 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 and inspectors of turns .

**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 their 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 their relative order by comparing their Automatic Equipment time with the Automatic Equipment times of the other swimmers.

**SW 13.2.3.3M** A swimmer having neither an Automatic Equipment place nor an Automatic Equipment time shall establish their relative order by the time recorded by the Semi-Automatic Equipment or by two or 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 two or 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 proceeds 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.

## **SW 14M MEDICAL DISABILITY**

*Note: Manifest means that the disability is obvious to the eye, e.g. having only one leg is obvious or manifest.*

**SW 14.1M** In judging the start, stroke, kick, turn or finish of a swimmer with a manifest physical disability, the referee should follow the general principle that, if a part of the body is absent or cannot be used, it is not judged; if it is used during the stroke, kick, turn or finish, it should be in accordance with the relevant MSA Rules.

**SW 14.1.1M** Such swimmers may participate in all the activities and competitions of Masters Swimming Australia.

*Note: These swimmers might not be eligible to compete in some international competitions.*

**SW 14.2M** A swimmer with a non-manifest disability shall provide a medical certificate stating the swimming actions(s) that may/will be affected. The certificate must be signed by an eligible healthcare practitioner, i.e. a medical doctor, physiotherapist, chiropractor or osteopath.

**SW 14.3M** For a non-manifest medical disability to be considered for a meet, the Medical Disability Certificate must be registered with the MSA National Office before the close of entries for that meet.

**SW 14.4M** For a non-manifest medical disability that has occurred after the close of entries, the medical disability or the Medical Disability Certificate may be accepted at the discretion of the Referee.

**SW 14.5M** When a swimmer with a Medical Disability Certificate is allocated a heat and lane number, the Referee's heat program should be marked accordingly, or the Referee notified.

**SW 14.6M** A non-manifest medical disability will not be considered for swimmers competing in the Masters Swimming Australia National Championships.

**SW 14.7M** The time for a swimmer with a Medical Disability Certificate will be eligible for placing, points and the medal in that event and for inclusion in National Top Ten, but cannot be accepted for records (refer SW 12.6.13) or FINA World Top 10.

**SW 14.8M** The Referee, at their discretion, may take non-manifest medical disabilities into account, when determining if a swimmer should be disqualified.

*Clarification: Based on the above, judgements should be made on the actual rule, not the swimmer's technique. For example, the breaststroke swimmer with one arm or leg shorter than the other may have a non-symmetrical stroke or kick, but, as long as the arm or leg action were simultaneous, it would meet that portion of the rule that states that the kick must be simultaneous.*

## **MC 14.9 Support Staff (IPC 2.15)**

**MC 14.9.1 Support Staff is any person designated by the team to assist an athlete logistically or with directional instructions. Support staff shall not coach the competitor when providing this assistance**

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***MC 14.9.2 Support Staff may be required to indicate to the swimmer with a visual impairment that they are approaching the end of the pool. This procedure is called tapping and the person is referred to as the 'tapper'. If tapping is required at both ends of the pool, a separate tapper shall be used at each end (IPC 2.15.1). Also where necessary, a swimmer may have a touch by a person to indicate the start of their leg of the relay.***

***MC 14.9.3 For S11, SB11, SM11 competitors a tapper is mandatory for every turn and finish. (IPC 2.15.1.1)***

***MC 14.9.4 The tapping device must be deemed safe. (IPC 2.15.1.2)***

***MC 14.9.5 Support staff shall not coach the competitor while assisting or tapping. If such coaching occurs, the competitor shall be disqualified.***