



CIRCULAR 21/18

To: Branch Administrators/Secretaries, Branch Delegates, National Board of Management, NTC, NCC, National Recorder
From: Noeleen Dix
Date: Wednesday 14 November 2018
Subject: SW Rules & OWS Rules updates following the 2018 Spring General Meeting

Attachments: Swimming Rules November 2018, OWS Rules November 2018

Good Afternoon All,

At the recent Spring General Meeting changes were made to the Swimming Rules and the Open Water Swimming Rules.

The new versions are attached and the changes are outlined below for your information and the information of your members. Please make sure that the applicable officials are made aware of these changes.

The Rules can be found on the MSA website

SWIMMING RULE UPDATE

SW Rule 12.6M has been amended as follows:

Note: The letters/words that have changed are shown as underlined.

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 12.6.11.2 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, a swim Meet that has ve 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.

OPEN WATER SWIMMING RULE UPDATE

OWS 5.10, 5.11, 5.11.1, 5.11.2, 5.11.3 have been amended as follows

Note: The letters/words that have changed are shown as underlined.

OWS 5.10 No swimmer shall be permitted to use or wear any device that may be an aid to speed, endurance or buoyancy except as per OWS5.11. Goggles, cap, nose clip and earplugs may be used.

OWS 5.11 Swimwear

OWS 5.11.1 Swimwear shall comply with MSA General Rule GR16.1 (Effectively FINA General Rule GR5 and FINA By Law BL 8.) Rash vests may be worn at the discretion of the Meet Director. If worn they may be either long or short sleeve but must not provide compression or buoyancy. They shall be made from materials that meet the FINA requirements for swimwear.

OWS 5.11.2 For open water swimming competitions with water temperature from 20 C swimsuits (FINA BL8.4) for both men and women shall not cover the neck, nor extend past the shoulder, nor extend below the ankle. Subject to these specific shape specifications, swimsuits for open water swimming competitions shall further comply with all other requirements applicable to swimsuits for pool swimming competition.

OWS 5.11.3 For open water swimming competitions in water with temperature below 20 C, men and women may use either swimsuits (BL 8.4) or wetsuits. For the purpose of these rules, wetsuits are swimsuits made of material providing thermal insulation. Wetsuits for both men and women shall completely cover torso, back, shoulders and knees. They shall not extend beyond the neck, wrists and ankles.

*Clarification: When the water temperature is below 20 C wetsuits are allowed and the swimmer is **eligible** for trophies or championship honours and points.*

*When the water temperature is **20 C or above** wetsuits may be allowed at the discretion of the Meet Director, but the swimmer then becomes **ineligible** for trophies or championship honours and points. If awards are given to wetsuit swimmers, they shall be awarded separately from non-wetsuit swimmers.*

***FINA Clarification:** It is clarified that swimsuits, respectively wetsuits which fulfil the shape requirement set forth in BL 8.3, respectively BL 8.4 and 8.5 (for open water swimming competitions) can be accepted even if they do not bear a valid FINA approval label provided they effectively and evidently fulfil the material requirements set forth in the current FINA Requirements for Swimwear Approval.*