

2013-14 SWIMMING AND DIVING MAJOR RULES CHANGES

2-7-2b

Track-style starting blocks with wedges are permitted.

Rationale: The change permits the use of the new design of the track-style starting platform.

3-3 Penalties

No longer requires the field to "step down" if a swimmer in an illegal suit is observed once on the starting blocks, but will disqualify the swimmer in violation at completion of the heat.

Rationale: With the elimination of the high-tech suits, which created a competitive advantage, it is no longer necessary to require the field to "step down" for the wearing of an illegal suit, and is appropriate to now simply disqualify at the completion of the heat.

3-5 New Electronic devices may be used as coaching tools/aids, but shall not be used during the competition phase.

Rationale: Technology advancements in the area of electronic audio and video devices have made such items easy to use and very accessible. Their use, if not used during the actual competition when a competitor is in the pool or on the board, no longer creates an advantage or disadvantage among competitors or teams. The contest officials should be responsible for what takes place in the competition venue, and not monitoring who is using an electronic device in various locations in the facility or on the bench area, which is difficult, at best, to identify.

8-2-2c

In the breaststroke, permits a single butterfly kick to follow the start or turn at any time prior to the first breaststroke kick.

Rationale: Permitting a single butterfly kick following the start or turn at any time prior to the breaststroke kick is more appropriate for the high school swimmer, and will allow greater consistency in officiating the stroke.

9-7-4e New

Clarifies how long the diver must maintain the straight-body position for the flying one and one half somersault dives.

Rationale: Clarifies how long the diver must maintain the straight-body position for the flying one and one half somersault dives, and awarding of points when the position is not held.

POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. General supervision and coaching
2. Breaststroke starts/turns
3. Electronic devices
4. Manufacturer's logo on suits
5. Taping/braces