



Special Olympics

Be a fan™

**2012 Rule Change Summary
Aquatics (Swimming)**

Change From	Change To
Name changed from Aquatics	Name changed to Aquatics (Swimming)
	<p>SECTION B – GENERAL RULES 1. All events. j</p> <p>j. Starts may be from the starting block, beside the starting block or from in-water. For in-water starts the athlete shall place one hand on the end of the pool or hold the starting block with one hand. Two hands shall be used for backstroke starts.</p>
<p>SECTION B – GENERAL RULES 2. Equipment</p> <p>b. Starting devices may include the following: whistle, tone, air horn, electronic buzzer or gun. Athletes with hearing impairments may receive hand signal or touch/ tap starts from the starter or a designated official. A strobe light in accordance with FINA rules is recommended.</p>	<p>SECTION B – GENERAL RULES 2. Equipment</p> <p>b. Starting devices may include the following: whistle, tone, air horn or an electronic buzzer. Athletes with hearing or sight impairments may receive a hand signal or touch/ tap from a designated official or nominated person approved by the Meet Referee. A strobe light in accordance with FINA rules is recommended.</p>
<p>SECTION B – GENERAL RULES 2. Equipment</p> <p>c. Timing system: stop watches, electronic timing system, touch pads</p>	<p>SECTION B – GENERAL RULES 2. Equipment</p> <p>c. Timing system: stop watches, electronic timing system, touch pads. If an electronic timing system is not available and 3 timekeepers per lane are assigned then no Finish Judges are required. In this instance the swimmers official time and place will be taken from the times recorded. If FINA approved electronic timing systems are not available then it is recommended that FINA rules relating to Management of Competitions and Timekeepers be adopted.</p>
<p>SECTION B – GENERAL RULES 8. Maximum Effort – Performance Discrepancy</p>	<p>SECTION B – GENERAL RULES 8. Maximum Effort – Performance Discrepancy</p>

<p>b. An athlete who exceeds a time of <u>20%</u> better than the time recorded for divisioning or a reported time shall be disqualified. This applies to the 25 meter freestyle race, 25m flotation race and shorter distance events.</p>	<p>d. An athlete who exceeds a time of <u>25%</u> better than the time recorded for divisioning or a reported time shall be disqualified. This applies to the 25 meter freestyle race, 25m flotation race and shorter distance events.</p>
<p>SECTION C – PERSONNEL</p> <p>1. Officials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Meet/ Games Director b. Meet Referee c. Judges d. Chief Timekeeper e. Timekeepers f. Starter g. Lifeguard <p>NOTE: Technical Delegate or other Officials may be added for larger events.</p>	<p>SECTION C – PERSONNEL</p> <p>1. Officials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Meet/ Games Director b. Meet Referee c. Judges (stroke and turn judges) d. Chief Timekeeper e. Timekeepers (refer to 2.Equipment- 2c Timing System.) f. Starter g. Announcer h. Results – control desk personnel i. Finish Judges (If 3 Timekeepers per lane and electronic timing cannot be supplied) j. Lifeguard <p>NOTE: Technical Delegate or other Officials may be added for larger events.</p>
	<p>SECTION D – SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS. 1.Basic Rules</p> <p>k. If in the judgment of the referee or competition management an athlete’s swimming competence that the athlete is not capable of completing the race distance and may even put his/her life in danger, the referee may, with the Technical Delegate’s approval, require a test of swimming competence before the athlete is allowed to compete in any further swimming event or in any final.</p>

NOTE: For full detail of Proposed Rule Changes (Accepted and Denied) please contact your Regional Sport Director. This list does not indicate those proposed changes that were not adopted by the Sports Rules Advisory Committee in 2012.