

World Para Swimming Rules and Regulations 2023

Disqualification Descriptors



*This is a quick reference guide to help Technical Officials to write up rule infractions.
It does not cover all rule infractions as it must not be used as a substitute for the thorough knowledge of the rules*

Rule Ref.	Descriptor
STARTS	
10.2.4.2	Irregularity at the start
10.8.1	Support staff coaching or massaging the athlete on deck or in call room (Stopwatches, radios, bags etc.)
11.1.2.2/7/8	Support staff giving momentum or holding athlete beyond 90 degrees vertical
11.1.2.9	More than 1 layer of towel to prevent abrasion used
11.1.5	Initiating the start before the start signal
11.1.7 / 8	Verbal start instruction given
FREESTYLE	
11.2.2	Did not touch wall at the turn or finish
11.2.3	Some part of swimmer not breaking surface of the water throughout the race
11.2.3	Head did not break surface at or before 15m mark following start or turn
11.2.3.1	For S1-S5 athletes, during each complete stroke cycle some part of the athlete must break the surface of the water (stroke cycle - 1 rotation of shoulder joint(s) and/or 1 complete up & down movement of hip joint(s))
11.2.4	Walked on bottom during the race
BACKSTROKE	
11.3.1.3	Starting device shall be cleared and deemed safe by WPS prior to commencement of competition
11.3.2	Left position on the back except when executing a turn
11.3.3	Some part of the athlete not breaking surface of the water throughout the race
11.3.3	Some part of the athlete's head did not break the surface at or before the 15m mark following start or turn
11.3.3	Totally submerged during the stroke (except for first 15m following start or turn or within 5m of the finish)
11.3.3.1	Some part of an S1-S5 athlete, not breaking surface of the water during each stroke cycle
11.3.4	More than one single or double simultaneous arm pull used to initiate the turn
11.3.4	Did not touch the wall during the turn with some part of the athlete's body
11.3.4	Athlete not on back upon leaving wall after the turn
11.3.5	Athlete with no arms or use of arms, once left position on back, the turn not initiated
11.3.6	Did not touch whilst on the back at finish
BREASTSTROKE	
11.4.1	More than one arm stroke following the start or turn
11.4.1	More than one butterfly kick prior to first breaststroke kick after the start or turn
11.4.1	Head did not break the water surface before the hand/s turn inwards at the widest part of the second stroke following the start or turn
11.4.2	Body not on the breast during stroke or after leaving the wall
11.4.2	Stroke cycle not one arm stroke and one leg kick throughout race
11.4.2	Arm movements not simultaneous/or alternating movement
11.4.3	Hands not pushed forward together from the breast on, under, or over the water
11.4.3	Elbows not under the water (except final stroke before turn or finish)
11.4.3	Hands brought back beyond the hip line (except after start or turn)
11.4.3.1	Athletes with a Vision Impairment approaching a turn or finish may push their hands forward from any point in the stroke cycle immediately after they have been tapped
11.4.4	Head not breaking water surface during each complete stroke cycle
11.4.4	Leg movements not simultaneous
11.4.4.1	Athlete with a lower limb impairment not showing a simultaneous intent to kick throughout the race or trail/drag the leg(s) throughout the race
11.4.5	Feet/foot not turned out during the propulsive part of the kick
11.4.5	Alternating movements or downward Butterfly kicks are not permitted (except 11.4.1)
11.4.6	Touch not made with both hands separated and simultaneously at the turn or finish
11.4.6	Head submerged after the last arm pull prior to the touch, but did not break the surface of the water during the last complete or incomplete cycle preceding the touch
11.4.6.1	Both arms not stretched forward at turn or finish. <i>(Where an athlete has different arm lengths, only the longer arm must stretch forward to touch but both arms must be stretched forward simultaneously)</i>
11.4.6.3	At turn and finish of race, where an Athlete can only use one (1) arm for stroke cycle the athlete must touch with the one (1) hand/arm that is used for stroke. Where an Athlete's impairment results in only one (1) arm , the non-functioning arm shall be dragged or stretched forward.
11.4.6.4	Both arms not stretched forward at turn or finish of a race. <i>(Where an athlete who uses both arms only but has restriction in the shoulder/elbow, only the longer arm must touch, but both arms must be stretched forward simultaneously.)</i>

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BUTTERFLY	
11.5.1	Body not on the breast during stroke
11.5.2	Both arms not brought forward simultaneously over the water. <i>(subject to 11.5.2.1/2/3/5)</i>
11.5.2	Both arms not brought backward simultaneously under the water <i>(subject to 11.5.5)</i>
11.5.2.2	Vision Impairment athletes approaching a turn or finish may bring their arms forward under the water immediately after they have been tapped
11.5.2.3	Athlete with part of an arm missing, the remaining part not being brought forward over the water simultaneously with the other arm
11.5.2.4	Where an athlete can only use one (1) arm for stroke, the arm shall be brought forward over the water. The position of the body must remain in line with the water surface. Where athlete's impairment results in only one arm being used, the non-functioning arm shall be dragged or stretched forward. ("the body" is the trunk)
11.5.3	Up and down movements of the legs not simultaneous
11.5.3	Alternating movement of legs or feet
11.5.3	Breaststroke kicking movement is not permitted
11.5.3.1	Athlete's Impairment results in only 1 leg is used, the non-functional leg shall drag
11.5.4	Touch not made with both hands separated and simultaneously at the turn or finish
11.5.4.1 / 4.4	Both arms not stretched forward at the turn/finish
11.5.5	More than one arm pull under water following start or turn
11.5.5	Head did not break surface at or before 15m mark following start or turn
11.5.5	Not on surface during stroke
MEDLEY	
11.6.1/1	Incorrect individual medley stroke order
11.6.1	I/M Stroke did not cover ¼ of distance (200m or 100m IM) <i>(Fly/Back/Breast/Free)</i>
11.6.1.1	I/M Stroke did not cover ⅓ of distance (150m or 75m IM) <i>(Back/Breast/Free)</i>
11.6.2	Incorrect MEDLEY RELAY stroke order <i>(Back/Breast/Fly/Free)</i>
11.6.3	In the freestyle section, did not return to the breast before any kick or stroke
11.6.4	Finish of section not in accordance with the rules which apply to the stroke concerned
RELAYS	
11.7.5	Team swum not in listed order of competing / athletes in medley relay not listed for respective strokes
11.7.9	Team member swum more than once
11.7.9	Mixed Relay Team - not two male and two female athletes
11.7.10	Athlete lost contact with starting platform before preceding team member touches the wall
11.7.10.1	Athlete lost contact with starting place before preceding team member touches
11.7.11	Relay team member entered water during race other than designated to swim that length <i>(Before all finished)</i>
11.7.11.1	Relay team member water starting enters water before preceding takeoff at the same end has been executed
11.7.13/13.1	Athlete finished relay leg must exit pool ASAP (except S/SB1-5)
11.7.14	During relay exchanges, foot behind movable backplate or foot/feet on top of moveable backplate
THE RACE	
3.6.2/1.1.1	Advertising violation contrary to WPS Advertising Guidelines 1.1.1 v1 Jan 18
3.6.3	Body advertisements and tobacco/alcohol advertising
10.8.1	Support staff coaching or massaging the athlete on deck or in call room <i>(Stopwatches, radios, bags etc.)</i>
10.8.2	Deck access is permitted only when swimmer has support staff requirement on classification list <i>(10.2.1.2. TD)</i>
10.8.3	S11 swimmer - Tapper not present at each end of the pool
10.8.3.1	Swimmer with tapper did not receive a single or double tap prior to touching the wall
10.8.3.2	Swam with tapping devices not approved, recorded and deemed safe by WPS
10.16.1/3	Swam in swimwear not approved by WPS
10.16.2	Swam with a modification of swimwear not approved and recorded by WPS prior to competition
10.16.6	Swam in more than one swimsuit
11.8.2	Swimmer did not cover the whole distance
11.8.3	Swimmer did not remain and finish the race in the same lane in which he started
11.8.4	When turning took stride or step from pool bottom
11.8.5	Pulled on the lane ropes
11.8.6	Obstructing or interfering with another athlete
11.8.8	S11 swimmer without prosthetic eyes did not use opaque goggles or covering
11.8.9	Device aiding speed, buoyancy or endurance used (hand in costume, fins, flippers, strapping)
11.8.9.1	No prosthesis except ocular or orthoses during race by swimmer
11.8.10	Swimmer not entered in race, enters the water during a race before all swimmers therein have completed the race
11.8.13	Pace making, device used or plan adopted which has that effect
11.8.9 & 6.6.2	Athlete competed with unapproved taping/strapping or open wound, pressure sores, stoma or sensitive skin