The 2017-2018 NCAA Swimming and Diving season is well under way, and our NCAA Officials Program is progressing very well. To ensure the success of the program, we intend to expand our communications to all officials, including occasional revisions, reminders, and official interpretations, as they occur. In addition to newsletters and select emails, you are encouraged to visit the NCAA Swimming & Diving Playing Rules site. [http://www.ncaa.org/championships/playing-rules/swimming-and-diving-rules-game/](http://www.ncaa.org/championships/playing-rules/swimming-and-diving-rules-game/)

### NCAA Officials Registration - Reminder

All NCAA registered officials, regardless of when they took the NCAA officials test must re-register and take the new version of the rules test. All registrations become void and need to be renewed effective September 1st, 2017. The official’s registrations are only good for the period that the rulebook is in effect – those registering or renewing will have their registration good through August 31, 2019. Officials will need to go online [https://www.usaswimming.org/utility/landing-pages/officials/ncaa-officials](https://www.usaswimming.org/utility/landing-pages/officials/ncaa-officials) to take the NCAA officials test.

**Note:** Only those currently certified as Referee’s, Starters or Chief Judges by USA Swimming are eligible to take the supplemental rules test. All other officials must take the full NCAA rules test. Scores of 85% or better are required to pass the test. Questions are based upon the newest version of the NCAA playing rules, effective September 1, 2017. The new test is available on the USA Swimming/NCAA officials’ site.

### Rules Reminders

1. A swimmer need only touch the wall (not the pad) to finish a race.
2. It is now permissible to use lighting systems (LED or Strobes) that are fully integrated to the timing system and are used to assist with verbal and hand commands to start races – especially those with Deaf or Hard of Hearing athletes involved. This system is used in addition to the required verbal and hand commands. The required commands cannot be eliminated.
3. Mixing genders is not permissible in any meet or championship.
4. If video is being used, all disqualifications must be reviewed to determine if the electronic judging system failed.
   - Only the referee has jurisdiction over the review and is the only single person who makes a determination on the review. This is a judgement decision and cannot be appealed.
• A representative of the NCAA Sport Committee or Conference Office can view the video along with the referee *as long as they do not represent an institution entered in the competition*.  
• No other official or committee member is permitted to view the video.  
• Coaches cannot view the video during or after the review.

5. A contestant is permitted to compete in a maximum of three events during a men’s or women’s 13-event dual, double-dual, triangular or quadrangular meet., and is permitted to compete in a maximum of four events including relays, of which not more than three may be individual events, during a men’s or women’s 15- or 16-event dual, double-dual, triangular or quadrangular meet.

**Rules Corrections**

**Rule 2-2-6d.2**

**Breaststroke to freestyle** - The swimmer must touch as described in Rule 2-2-2-d. Once a legal touch has been made, the swimmer may turn in any manner they desire as long as they return to the breast prior to the initiation of any kicking or arm action.

**Butterfly to backstroke** - The swimmer must touch as described in Rule 2-2-3-e. Once a legal touch has been made, the swimmer may turn in any manner, but the shoulders must be at or past the vertical toward the back when the swimmer leaves the wall.

**Rule 4-21-2c.2**

When stationary overhead cameras recording 100 images per second and that are fully integrated into the primary electronic system are in place at a competition, it is permissible to use the system as the primary back-up system, and no other back-up system is necessary. If the referee and head judge determine a discrepancy between the primary electronic touchpad system and the back-up camera, they may use the camera's time to establish the correct time.

**Rule 5-3-1 a.**

**ARTICLE 1. a.** A contestant is permitted to compete in a maximum of three events (in any combination of individual and/or relay events) during a men’s or women’s 13-event dual, double-dual, triangular or quadrangular meet. This limit also applies during a concurrent men’s and women’s 26-event dual, double-dual, triangular or quadrangular meet.

**b.** A contestant is permitted to compete in a maximum of four events including relays, of which not more than three may be individual events, during a men’s or women’s 15- or 16-event dual, double-dual, triangular or quadrangular meet. This limit also applies during a concurrent men’s and women’s 30- or 32-event dual, double-dual, triangular or quadrangular meet.

**Rule 5-7-3b.**

**b.** Four Heats or More. The last three heats of an event shall be seeded in accordance with Rule 5-7-3-a. The heat before the last three heats shall consist of the next fastest swimmers;
the heat before the last four heats shall consist of the next fastest swimmers, etc. Lanes shall be assigned in accordance with the pattern outlined in Rule 5-6-5.

**Rule 8-1-4 b.**

(1 Meter)
In championships meets without platform as an event, each diver will do one of the following formats: (1) six optional dives, including one from each of the five groups plus an additional dive that may be selected from any group. The dives will be performed in any order without limit on degree of difficulty; (2) five voluntary dives, including one from each of five groups, in any order, with total degree of difficulty not to exceed 9.0, followed by six optional dives including one from each of five groups, plus an additional dive that may be selected from any group; or (3) six optional dives including one from each of five groups, plus an additional dive that may be selected from any group, followed by five voluntary dives, including one from each of five groups, in any order, with total degree of difficulty not to exceed 9.0.

(3 meter)
In championships meets without platform as an event, each diver will do one of the following formats: (1) six optional dives, including one from each of the five groups plus an additional dive that may be selected from any group. The dives will be performed in any order without limit on degree of difficulty; (2) five voluntary dives, including one from each of five groups, in any order, with total degree of difficulty not to exceed 9.0, followed by six optional dives including one from each of five groups, plus an additional dive that may be selected from any group; or (3) six optional dives including one from each of five groups, plus an additional dive that may be selected from any group, followed by five voluntary dives, including one from each of five groups, in any order, with total degree of difficulty not to exceed 9.5.

**Situation on page 116.**

**SITUATION:** In the 100 backstroke, the swimmer in lane 3 is swimming in a circle pattern and at the end of the race touches at the near side of the lane but misses the touchpad. Fortunately, the backup timer stopped their watch when the hand touched the wall. Should the referee integrate the manual time to replace the missing pad time?

**RULING:** Yes. Rule 2-4-1 states the swimmer shall have finished the race when any part of his/her person touches the wall after completing the prescribed distance.

**The NCAA Rules Making Process**

As previously mentioned, the NCAA publishes a rule book every two years. Rule changes are generally only considered every two years unless there is a major rule change centering on a health and safety issue or one that has major financial implications on NCAA member institutions.

The rule change process begins with a call for rule changes from the membership. These submissions are combined with potential changes that come directly from the NCAA Swimming & Diving Rules Committee and are compiled into a survey that is shared with the memberships. The results of this non-binding survey along with discussion at the annual CSCAA Swimming & Diving Convention in early May are considered by the Rules Committee when they vote on changes in the spring of each rule change year. The final step is the
forwarding of these changes to the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP); a committee comprised of athletic administrators and conference commissioners who give final approval to rule changes that will appear in the new edition of the Swimming and Diving Playing Rules Book.

The NCAA Swimming and Diving secretary-rules editor acts on behalf of the committee in the interim to give interpretations and resolve any rules situations during the playing season.

The current NCAA Swimming and Diving Rules Committee is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Div I:</th>
<th>Petra Martin</th>
<th>Rutgers University</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Div I:</td>
<td>Jamie Lindsay</td>
<td>Drexel University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Div I:</td>
<td>Joe Nicastro</td>
<td>Providence College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Div I:</td>
<td>Currently Vacant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Div II:</td>
<td>Mary Kay Samko</td>
<td>Bentley University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Div II:</td>
<td>Rebecca Tidwell*</td>
<td>University of Nebraska at Kearney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Div III:</td>
<td>Peter Solomon</td>
<td>Wesleyan University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Div III:</td>
<td>Daniel Gelderloos*</td>
<td>Calvin College</td>
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<tr>
<td>SRE:</td>
<td>Greg Lockard</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCAA:</td>
<td>Ben Brownlee</td>
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*New Committee Members

**Key Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 18</td>
<td>Pre-Championships Teleconference*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 23</td>
<td>Pre-Championships Teleconference*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 14-17</td>
<td>Division II Championships (Greensboro, NC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 14-17</td>
<td>Division III Championships (Indianapolis, IN)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 14-17</td>
<td>Women’s Division I Championship (Columbus, OH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 21-24</td>
<td>Men’s Division I Championship (Minneapolis, MN)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Limited to NCAA or Conference Meet Referees – call in information forwarded to Conference Offices for distribution.

**Questions/Interpretations**

For Questions and Rules Interpretations, please contact the Secretary-Rules Editor at greg@swimdiverules.com or (973) 486-5501.