The 2018 season marks the 4\textsuperscript{th} year of the NCAA Swimming and Diving Officials program, which has been very successful overall.

As we continue to refine and expand the program, we will strive to expand communication and share pertinent information to ensure the most effective application of the rules at all levels of collegiate competition. In addition to more Officials Newsletters, there will be monthly features in the College Swimming Coaches Association Newsletter.

I look forward to working with you throughout the upcoming collegiate swimming and diving season and assist you in any way I can.

Respectfully,

Greg Lockard
NCAA Swimming and Diving secretary-rules editor

**NCAA Rules Process**

- The NCAA publishes a rules book every two years. The current rules book took effect September 1, 2017. Rule changes are 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 will begin in September 2018, with a call for rule change suggestions from the membership, which will be combined with the suggested changes from the NCAA Swimming and Diving Rules Committee. A non-binding survey will be distributed to the entire NCAA membership, followed by discussions at the College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association Annual Meeting.
- The NCAA Swimming and Diving Rules Committee discuss and vote on the proposed rules changes at their annual meeting in May. Approved recommendations will be submitted to the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) for final approval.
- The current rulebook is available to be downloaded or purchased from NCAA publications ([www.ncaapublications.com](http://www.ncaapublications.com)).

**NCAA Officials Programs**

- All NCAA registered officials will remain current through August 31, 2019.
- The NCAA Officials’ program continues to grow with over 1,100 registrants.
- Most conferences mandate the use of NCAA registered officials, and only registered officials can be selected to officiate at the NCAA Championships, in the three divisions.
Interpretations

Rule 2-2 & Rule 2-4  Relay Swimmer Finishes

Rule 2-2-7-f states: “When automatic judging and timing equipment is used, swimmers must touch the pads in their lanes at the end of the racing course to have finished their legs of the relay”.

Rule 2-4-1 states: “The swimmer shall have finished the race when any part of his person touches the wall after completing the prescribed distance”.

**Interpretation:** The first three swimmers in both freestyle and medley relay events must touch pad at the end of their respective leg of the relay. The final swimmer in all relays must touch the wall, to complete the race.

Rule 3-4: Use of Technology and Automated Data Collection Devices

ARTICLE 4. No swimmer or diver is permitted to wear or use any device or foreign substances to help his or her speed, pace, buoyancy or body compression in competition.

**Interpretation:** The use of technology and automated data collection devices is permissible for the sole purpose of collecting data. Automated devices shall not be utilized to transmit data, sounds, or signals to the athlete and may not be utilized to effect pace or tempo. The device(s) may be worn in any fashion, including on the wrist.

Rule 4-14-7 - Electronic Equipment Video Review

ARTICLE 7. Video replay may be used at championship or invitational competitions governed by a meet or games committee composed of representatives of multiple institutions to determine if the electronic judging equipment has failed. Prior to the beginning of the competition a decision should be made by the meet committee as to when video reviews will be conducted and all participants should be informed (i.e. after each heat where review is needed or after the final heat of a multiple heat relay, etc.) All reviews must be conducted before qualifiers/results are announced. If video replay is in place for the championships all disqualifications must be reviewed to evaluate whether the electronic system failed. The referee shall review the video to determine if there was a machine malfunction and clear video evidence exists to overturn the call. The referee has sole jurisdiction over the review and their decision is a judgement call not subject to further review or appeal. Only the referee and a conference or NCAA meet committee representative – with no participating institutional affiliation may view the video that is being used for review. Challenges by coaches are not permitted as part of this rule and coaches are not permitted to view the video being used at any time.

**Interpretation:** At the NCAA Championships, the Swimming and Diving Championships Committee Chair shall be the designee, unless otherwise delegated, to view the video and oversee the review process by the referee, even if the designee is affiliated with a participating institution.

Rule 5-4-7-b:  Lane Assignments in Championship Meets

ARTICLE 4-b. Lane assignments must be done in the same fashion for all events as follows: Lane assignments must be done the same for all timed final events. Lane assignments must be done the same for all final events that require a preliminary qualifying heat. However, lane
assignments for timed final events and events with qualifying heats (i.e. preliminaries) can be
determined differently as long as each type of event is assigned consistently for the entire meet.

**Interpretation:** The number of lanes used in events that have preliminary and finals may
be different than the number of lanes that are used for time final events, as long as each
type of event is assigned consistently for the entire meet. As an example, preliminary heats
and finals may be assigned to 8 lanes, and timed finals for relays and the 1650 freestyle
may be assigned to 10 lanes

**Pre-Season Review Items:**

**September 1:** Deadline for host institutions to notify opponents that they are required to eliminate
diving at home meets because of a facility that does not conform to minimum depth standards (6-
1-3-c). Under these circumstances, diving must be eliminated from all home competition during
the current academic year, and no points will be awarded for diving events.

**September 1:** If an institution not having three-meter equipment does not wish to compete in
three-meter events at away meets, it must notify each host institution at the time of contract or not
later than September 1 of that academic year. In this case, two one-meter events shall be held as
prescribed in Rule 6-1-2a.

**September 1:** A host institution has no three-meter equipment available, it must notify all
opponents of the facility limitations at the contracted time of the agreement, or not later than
September 1 of the academic year. In this case, two, one-meter events shall be held as prescribed
in Rule 6-1-2a.

**Failure to Notify:** If the host institution fails to notify the visiting team as prescribed (by
September 1) that is does not have a one-and/or three-meter facility, then the events shall be
forfeited by the host institution with the visiting team being awarded the maximum number of
points any one team could score in both events had both events been held. The host institution
shall receive no points for either the one-meter or three-meter events (6-1-2d). Additionally, the
choice to not have divers or a diving program is an individual institutional decision, but, does not
automatically eliminate the diving events when an institution travels to an away contest or at a
conference championship meet. The events are still conducted for any institutions with divers
entered.

**7 Days Prior to First Competition:** Deadline to seek a waiver for customization of a competitive
swimsuit from the secretary-rules editor.

**2019 NCAA Championships:**
- Division II Men and Women – Indianapolis, IN (March 13-16, 2019)
- Division III Men and Women – Greensboro, NC (March 20-23, 2019)
- Division I Women – Austin, TX (March 20-23, 2019)
- Division I Men – Austin, TX (March 27-30, 2019)
The NCAA Swimming and Diving Rules Committee

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<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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<tr>
<td>Div. I</td>
<td>Matt Gianiodis</td>
<td>Michigan State University</td>
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<td>Div. II</td>
<td>James Graves</td>
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<td>Div. II</td>
<td>Rebecca Tidwell</td>
<td>University of Nebraska at Kearney</td>
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<td>Daniel Gelderloos*</td>
<td>Wesleyan University (CT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SRE:</td>
<td>Greg Lockard</td>
<td>Calvin College</td>
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<td>NCAA liaison:</td>
<td>Ben Brownlee</td>
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*Chair

Questions/Interpretations
For Questions and Rules Interpretations, please contact secretary-rules editor, Greg Lockard at greg@swimdiverules.com or (973) 486-5501.