



RULE CONSIDERATION GUIDELINES

Adopted or Amended	By Whom	Date
Adopted	Board of Directors	29 th May 2012

SNSW Rule Consideration Guidelines

Background

The Swimming Australia Junior Sports Policy dated September 2008 outlines the requirements for the development of young swimmers.

“The purpose of this junior sport policy for Swimming Australia is to assist in the provision of quality sport experiences for young people. It will encourage the provision of safe, enjoyable and accountable environments for everyone involved in junior swimming”

The key stakeholder groupings in Swimming’s junior sport policy and their roles are as follows;

1. *“State/Territory Swimming Organisations
assist in the review of the junior sport policy; implement the Junior Sport policy at the State/Territory level.*
2. *Swimming Officials
the continued development of and ability to implement modified rules, known as rule tolerances, for the sport for appropriate levels of competition determined by the state”*

The Junior Sports Policy is implemented by Swimming NSW at the state level through the Competition Strategy Policy June 2011.

The Competition Strategy outlines the requirements for development meets that are targeted at developing swimmers.

It states that *“rule considerations apply at development meets.*

Rule Considerations include:

- 1 *8 & Under: Swimming NSW recommends applying rule considerations. Times may be used for qualifying purposes only if the referee deems stroke to be correct.*
- 2 *9 & Over: Swimming NSW does not recommend applying rule considerations.”*

Aim

The aim of these Rule Consideration Guidelines is to outline for Swimming NSW technical officials what rule considerations are and how these can be applied at swim meets.

Introduction

The objectives of all swimming clubs are to promote and encourage the sport of swimming. When considering the number of competing junior sports in NSW, it is crucial to the future of the sport that policies/guidelines are developed to retain and grow our junior swimmers.

These policies/guidelines should help create an environment which fosters a positive and constructive approach and ensures that the younger swimmers are encouraged at every step with guidance and constructive developmental feedback. Where a young swimmer is disqualified at an early stage of development, it may ultimately discourage them from continuing in the sport.

Although the rules of swimming are applicable to all levels of competition, rule considerations allow for a less stringent application of the rules (i.e. fewer disqualifications). The Rule Consideration Guidelines will provide guidance for referees regarding disqualification of developing or novice swimmers.

Implementation

At all development events, SNSW referees will make every effort to avoid disqualifying swimmers 8 year olds and under, or novice swimmers by applying rule considerations to the swimming rules. This may also occur at qualifying meets if the host Club or Area has designated certain events where Rule Considerations apply.

Swimmers who participate in events where rule considerations apply will be given a Swimming Stroke Correction Form, Appendix 1, when they infringe the rules of swimming. This form outlines what the Referee or other authorised Officials observed of the swimmers actions that under normal circumstances may have resulted in disqualification. This enables coaches to specifically address stroke correction for the swimmer.

The Swimming Stroke Correction Form should be completed and given to the swimmer at the conclusion of the race. Where multiple corrections could be applied, only one (1) correction should be noted,. The referee or judge of strokes who observed the infringement should wait until the swimmer has left the water to do this. The official should speak to the swimmer in a friendly, helpful and non intimidating manner. The Referee or Judge of Strokes who observed the infringement should wait until the swimmer has left the water to do this. Do not speak to the swimmer in full view of other swimmers or spectators. Take the swimmer aside and give them the form and ask them to give the form to their parents/swim teacher/coach; if considered appropriate explain in simple terms what was observed. Always give the swimmer words of encouragement.

SNSW Referees must be consistent in the application of rules considerations throughout the competition.

Times recorded where Rule Considerations are applied cannot be used to qualify for meets conducted by Swimming NSW, Championship Meets run by the Area or for the Australian Junior Excellence Program. Times may be used for qualifying purposes only if the Referee deems the stroke to be correct.

The host Club/Area should decide whether awards/medals will be given for events where Rules Considerations apply, and if medals are to be given, how the result for the event will be determined. It is suggested that participation ribbons, which are available from Swimming NSW, are given for these events.


The host Club may choose to provide a development meet where rule considerations apply to older swimmers. The Swimming NSW Competition Strategy Policy provides a guideline for Development Meets. It specifies the recommended event and age group matrix. Using this guideline the host Club/Area will determine the events to be provided within the meet program. The host Club/Area should identify the specific events where rules consideration will be applied. For example 25 m events for all strokes. This same program could offer 50m events for 9 years and 10 years applying full rules to allow more capable junior swimmers to achieve qualifying times. It is recommended that when meet programs are advertised that the program identifies the specific events where rule considerations will apply.

Swimming Stroke Correction Forms are available from Swimming NSW.

Conclusion

Implementation of the Rules Consideration Guidelines will ensure the provision of quality sport experiences for young people and will continue to encourage the development of young swimmers.

Appendix One

	
Swimming Stroke Correction Form This swimmer has been noted by the Referee doing something which under the Swimming Rules could have resulted in a disqualification.	
Start	
Started before the starting signal or wasn't still for the start of the race	
Freestyle	
Pulled on the lane ropes	
Swam underwater during the race	
Backstroke	
Turned over off their back before the turn or the finish of the race	
Pulled on the lane ropes	
Did not turn correctly	
Breaststroke	
Head did not surface when required after the start/two arms strokes under water after the start	
Swam with an alternating type of kick	
Swam with a butterfly kick	
Swam with legs not on the same horizontal plane	
Head not breaking the water during each stroke cycle	
Swam with a scissor type kick	
Hands went past the hipline during the race	
Swam underwater during the race	
Moved off the breast during the race	
Hands not pushed forward together from the breast	
Touched with only one hand or two hand non-simultaneous touch at the turn or finish	
Butterfly	
Moved off the breast during the race	
Arms not brought forward together over the water	
Swam with an alternating kick	
Did not kick correctly during the race	
Touched with only one hand or two hand non-simultaneous touch at the turn or finish	
General	
Didn't finish in the same lane as they started	
Did not touch the wall at the turn	
Head did not surface by the 15 metre mark in freestyle, butterfly or backstroke	
Stood up and walked in Freestyle	
Other	
GOOD SWIM - KEEP TRYING	