

PART 1 - MASTERS GENERAL RULES 2013-2017

The Canadian Masters swimming programs shall promote fun, fitness, friendship and participation including sanctioned competitions in pool and open water events. These Canadian Masters Rules are based on FINA Rules and Regulations for such competitions and shall govern all Masters swimming competitions in Canada except FINA sponsored Masters competitions such as FINA World Masters Championships in Canada.

Masters Swimming Canada (MSC) is the governing body of Masters swimming in Canada and is responsible for producing, maintaining and interpreting the Rules for Masters swimming competitions. Their goal in producing this Rule Book is to facilitate and promote the conducting of well organized, uniform and rewarding competitions for the benefit of their members and Masters from other National Federations.

CMGR 1 MSC RULES AND REGULATIONS

CMGR 1.1 The MSC Constitution, By-Laws, and Policies shall apply to all Masters Swimming activities in Canada.

CMGR 1.2 Masters Swimming Canada Rules and Regulations shall apply to all Masters Swimming competitions, in both pools and open water in Canada with the exception of the FINA World Masters Championships.

CMGR 1.3 When a conflict occurs between a FINA Rule and a MSC Rule, the MSC interpretation shall apply.

CMGR 1.4 In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires, words importing the singular shall include the plural, and vice versa and words importing persons shall include bodies corporate and member organizations. The word "shall" shall be interpreted as meaning the action is mandatory, the word "should" shall be interpreted as meaning that the action is recommended and the word "may" shall be interpreted as meaning that the action is optional at the discretion of those indicated.

CMGR 2 MEMBERSHIP AND ELIGIBILITY

CMGR 2.1 All competitors shall be registered with Masters Swimming Canada or as Masters with another National Federation affiliated with FINA and shall have attained 18 years of age by the first day of competition to be eligible to compete.

CMGR 2.2 All competitors shall be registered with a registered Masters club, including a provincial club established by their Provincial Masters Organization (PMO) for their unattached members.

CMGR 2.3 Age shall be determined as of December 31 of the year of competition.

CMGR 2.4 Any competitor may join as many clubs as they wish, but they are allowed to represent only one club at a competition.

CMGR 2.5 PARA swimmers who comply with CMGR 2.1 may compete as Masters Swimmers however IPC designations do not apply. See also CMSW 2.1.6.

CMGR 3 SWIMMING IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

CMGR 3.1 MSC members may participate in Masters' competitions outside Canada where such competitions have received sanction as such by the Member where the competition takes place.

CMGR 3.2 In every case of a dispute, the rules of the Member or recognised Continental Body under whose jurisdiction the competition is held shall be enforced.

CMGR 4 FINA WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS, RECORDS AND RANKINGS

CMGR 4.1 FINA World Masters Championships currently take place every two years, registered members of MSC and qualified Canadian senior officials are encouraged to participate. During FINA World or Regional Masters Championships FINA Masters Rules shall apply.

CMGR 4.2 Competitors under the age of 25 (CMGR 2.3) and relay teams with a swimmer under the age of 25 cannot compete in FINA World Masters Championships and are not eligible for FINA Masters World Records or FINA Top Ten Rankings.

CMGR 4.3 FINA recognizes all events listed in CMSW 10.2.1 and 10.2.2 for World Records and Top Ten World Rankings with the exception of the 800m Medley Relays.

CMGR 5 SWIMWEAR

CMGR 5.1 In swimming competitions the swimmer must wear only one swimsuit in one or two pieces. Any type of tape on the body or divergence from the swimsuit description outlined in CMGR 5.2 and 5.3 is not allowed unless required for medical reasons. This must be brought to the attention of and be approved by the session referee prior to the swim. No zippers or other fastening systems are allowed.

CMGR 5.2 Swimwear for pool competition for men shall not extend above the navel or below the knee, and for women shall not cover the neck, extend past the shoulder, nor shall extend below knee. All swimsuits shall be made from textile materials. See also CMSW 10.11.

CMGR 5.3 Swimwear for Open Water Swimming, for both men and women, shall not cover the neck, extend past the shoulder, nor shall extend below the ankle and shall be made of textile material. See also CMOWS 1.3, CMOWS 5.5 and CMOWS 6.6.

CMGR 6 SMOKING BAN AND DRUG TESTING

CMGR 6.1 At any MSC competition including open water swimming, no smoking shall be permitted in any area designated for competitors, officials or spectators, one hour prior to or during competitions. Smoking at an OWS event can only take place down wind from the competitors and course and a distance of at least 50m from them.

CMGR 6.2 There shall be no drug testing for Masters Swimming in Canada.

CMGR 7 GENERAL RULES FOR MASTERS COMPETITIONS IN CANADA

CMGR 7.1 Meet Management

CMGR 7.1.1 All MSC competitions shall be organized by a meet manager or organizing committee who shall be responsible for organizing the meet, booking an appropriate facility, obtaining the necessary sanction, preparing the program, carrying out the registration of swimmers, obtaining the services of required officials, ensuring that all equipment is available for the officials to run the meet, assisting them during the competition and shall report on all results and records at the end of the meet, all in accordance with CMGR 7.1.2 through 7.1.6. All sanctioned competitions shall be open to all registered Masters swimmers on an equal basis. A host club may establish a limit to the number of entries they will accept for a meet or an event at that meet.

CMGR 7.1.2 Initially meet management should request approval from the PMO's sanctioning officer for the date, venue, host and general nature of the competition. The date should not conflict with other nearby Masters' competitions. The venue must comply with the Facility Rules outlined in Appendix A. The hosts should include a local Masters club. The hosts shall indicate the general nature of the competition, SCM or LCM, whether all events shall be provided, whether it will focus on sprints, long distance or pentathlon, special fundraiser, etc. Once approved this should be listed as "Planned" on both the PMO and MSC websites.

CMGR 7.1.3 Once the "Planned" designation is received meet management shall prepare the detailed Meet Program for submission to the PMO's sanctioning officer for "Sanction". This shall include a detailed description of the venue, the dates and times with list of events, the entry fees, contact information and registration process, the name of the Meet Referee (certified to level 4 or 5) also general information including on local accommodation where appropriate. The meet package may not be publicized until the competition is sanctioned.

CMGR 7.1.4 When "Sanctioned" the competition shall be listed as such on the PMO and MSC website. Meet management shall promote the event and shall appoint a meet registrar who shall register participants in compliance with MSC Rule CMGR 2. Entry deadlines may be established and for championships the relay entry deadline shall be at least four days after the entries for individual events are posted.

CMGR 7.1.5 The meet referee shall obtain the services of required qualified senior officials and meet management shall obtain services of other officials including timers and all volunteers to fully staff the event. Meet management shall print programs as required for officials and competitors and shall acquire all necessary equipment to run the competition and obtain accurate results. Meet management shall ensure the facility complies with Appendix A and that life guards are provided and medical emergencies prepared for. For pools used for competition with bulkheads the meet manager shall ensure that CMFR 1.5 and CMFR 2.14.2 are complied with.

CMGR 7.1.6 Meet management shall assist the meet referee as required in running the competition and ensuring that all MSC Rules are complied with and meet results are accurate. Meet management shall post on the pool wall current MSC and PMO records, also the MSC warm up/warm down procedures as outlined in CMSW 1.6 and ensure, with the meet referee, their compliance. Meet management shall provide food and drink for all officials and volunteers and refreshments for the competitors during the competition. Meet management shall, if required, establish a "Jury of Appeal" in accordance with CMGR 7.3.

CMGR 7.1.7 Meet management shall complete documentation on results and records as soon as possible after the meet and ideally prior to the meet referee leaving the venue where there are documents that require signatures. Meet management shall prepare required documentation for potential records including World, National or Provincial and including record forms for competitors from other provinces or national federations and submit these no later than forty-eight hours after completion of the competition. Meet management shall send results in the required format to their provincial and MSC recorder within seven days. For pools without bulkheads meet management shall provide MSC with a professional survey of the pool which predates the competition if requested.

CMGR 7.2 Protests

CMGR 7.2.1 Protests are possible if the rules and regulations for the conduct of the competition are not observed, if other conditions endanger the competitions and/or competitors, or against decisions of the referee; however, no protest shall be allowed against decisions of fact.

CMGR 7.2.2 Protest must be submitted to the Session Referee, in writing, by the swimmer, the club coach or another club representative within 30 minutes of the conclusion of an event.

CMGR 7.2.3 All protests shall be considered by the Session Referee. If he rejects the protest, he must state the reasons for his decision. The swimmer, club coach or another club representative may appeal the rejection to the Jury of Appeal.

CMGR 7.3 Jury of Appeal

CMGR 7.3.1 If required as per CMGR 7.2.3, a Jury of Appeal shall be established by the meet manager consisting of three experienced officials who were not involved in the incident and have no connection to the swimmer. The meet manager shall chair the jury but shall have no vote. The jury shall speak to those involved independently and shall make a decision which they will give to the session referee in writing who will then speak to and give a copy of the written decision to those involved. The decision of the Jury of Appeal is final.

CMGR 8 SAFETY AND WELL BEING OF MASTERS COMPETITORS

CMGR 8.1 Masters Competitors must be aware of the need of being well prepared and medically fit before entering into Masters' competitions. They shall assume full responsibility for the risks included in competing in such competitions. In consideration of their entry, they must agree to waive and release MSC, the Provincial Masters Organisation, the Meet Manager or Organising Committee and the host clubs from any kind of liability for accidents, which may cause death, injury or property loss. Entry Forms containing a warning of the risks, an Accident Waiver and Release of Liability must be signed by each participant.

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