

Appendix C - Differences between Masters Rules and SNC Rules

Based on material prepared by the Ontario Swimming Officials Association

There are a number of differences between MSC Rules and SNC Rules which one should be aware of when officiating at Canadian Masters competitions.

Note that the MSC numbering system is based on the proposed numbering prepared by the FINA Masters Technical Committee for use at FINA Masters World Championships and is similar to the FINA and SNC numbering systems for elite swimmers. The MSC rules and their numbers are in most cases either identical to SNC or cover the same topic.

CMGR 5.7 Age Determination. Age shall be determined as December 31 of the year of competition. Unlike FINA, MSC recognizes an 18 to 24 age group. Eighteen year olds must have attained their 18th birthday by the first day of the meet in order to compete.

CMGR 6.2 Doping Control. There shall be no drug testing at Masters' sanctioned events.

CMGR 7 For managing Masters' competitions in Canada.

CMSW 1.5 Qualifying Times. There shall be no qualifying times for Canadian Masters sanctioned events.

CMSW 1.6 Warm-up procedures. MSC warm-up procedures shall be posted at the pool and complied with under the direction of the Meet Referee. See Appendix F.

CMSW 2.1.6 Considerations of age or infirmity. The referee should note that some Masters swimmers through age or infirmity may not be able to adhere strictly to the technicalities of the stroke rules, such as symmetry in breaststroke. In these cases, the theory of illegally gaining an unfair advantage shall apply before a disqualification is declared. The swimmer shall be responsible for notifying the session referee of any such infirmity before the start of the race.

CMSW 3.1 Seeding of Heats. Seeding shall be slowest to fastest and oldest to youngest. Seeding shall be by time or, by gender and time or, by age, gender and time.

CMSW 3.2 When swimming an event two per lane, the same starting options must be offered to all swimmers.

CMSW 3.4 All Masters events shall be conducted on a timed final basis. Circle seeding shall not be used.

CMSW 4 The Start. Officials should recognize the difficulty some older or less experienced Masters have in getting on and off the blocks. It is advisable when briefing the timers to draw this to their attention and suggest that if they see an unsteady swimmer on the block, it is appropriate for one of them to stand beside the block so that the swimmer may steady them self by placing a hand on the timers shoulder. Consideration should be given to inexperienced and unsteady swimmers during the starting process. It may be appropriate to state “Relax swimmers” rather than “Step down swimmers” in an aborted start.

CMSW 4.1 Upon mounting the block the swimmer must immediately place at least one foot at the front of the block. It is permissible in Masters’ competitions for the swimmer to start from the deck with at least one foot at the edge of the deck, or in the water with one hand having contact with the starting wall or block until the starting signal is given.

CMSW 5.1 Freestyle. If a swimmer swims another stroke during freestyle, some part of the swimmers body must break the surface of the water during each stroke cycle, excluding during the first 15 metres after the start or turn.

CMSW 5.2 If a swimmer misses the wall on a freestyle turn they may return to the wall, touch and continue their swim without penalty.

CMSW 6 Backstroke. Swimmers may start with one hand on the block or edge of the pool.

CMSW 6.2 Double arm pull, flutter, butterfly or whip kick is allowed in backstroke at any time during the race.

CMSW 6.4 The “Reverse backstroke turn” is allowed. This is where a swimmer turns on their breast just as they reach the wall, may place their hands on the wall or gutter and bring their feet up to the wall. They are then in a similar position as in the start. They push off on their backs to continue the race. A swimmer may not take any arm stroke after turning on their breast as they approach the wall if using the “reverse backstroke turn”.

CMSW 7.4 During the butterfly kick off the wall in breaststroke for the start or turn the body need not be fully submerged.

CMSW 8.2 Both arms shall be brought forward simultaneously over the water and brought backward simultaneously under the water throughout the race. Continuous kicking in a layout position is not allowed, all subject to CMSW 8.5.

CMSW 8.3 A breaststroke kicking movement is allowed in butterfly but only one kick per arm stroke or after the start or turn. Butterfly kicks or one breaststroke kick are allowed off the wall to 15m and prior to the first over the water arm recovery at the start and turn. A powered downward butterfly kick is allowed at the end of a breaststroke kicking movement.

CMSW 10.2 MSC Recognizes all 400m and 800m relays for records. FINA recognizes all 400m relays and 800m free relay for records.

CMSW 10.3 MSC allows open events including relays. A swimmer may swim only once in an open event. Results from each component of the open event must be reported separately.

CMSW 10.13 Swimmers may be allowed to remain in their lane holding onto the lane rope, including during relays, until instructed by an official to exit the pool.

CMSW 10.15 Relays shall consist of four swimmers from the same club. A swimmer may only swim for one club at a competition. The age of a relay team is the total age of the four swimmers. A mixed relay team consists of two men and two women who may swim in any order.

CMSW 10.21 No watches or sharp jewelry shall be worn during warm-up or competition.

CMSW 10.22 There shall be no penalty for failing to swim an event except forfeiture of entry fee.

CMSW 12.1 Results for MSC Rankings or Records can only be established at Masters sanctioned competitions.

CMSW 12.8 Results shall be forwarded to MSC and the local PMO within seven (7) days of the end of the meet.

CMFR 1 Yard (SCY) Events. MSC does not recognize or keep results, records or rankings for competitions in yard pools. MSC acknowledges that some Provincial Masters Organizations may do so, sanction such meets and recognize results from their members in these meets, also from their members participation in yard meets in other jurisdictions. MSC has no objection to this.

CMFR 2.2.1 Dimensional Tolerances. Against the nominal length of 50.000 metres, a tolerance of minus 0.000 metre in each lane on both end walls at all points from 0.3 metre above to 0.8 metre below the surface of the water is allowed. The maximum tolerance at Canadian Masters sanctioned events is plus 0.030 metre for Championships and plus 0.060 for other competitions.

CMFR 2.2.2 Dimensional Tolerances. Against the nominal length of 25.000 metres, a tolerance of minus 0.000 metre in each lane on both end walls at all points from 0.3 metre above to 0.8 metre below the surface of the water is allowed. The maximum tolerance at Canadian Masters sanctioned events is plus 0.030 metre for Championships and plus 0.060 for other competitions.

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