

# RULES 2019 APPENDICES

## Appendix A - Facility Rules

The Masters Swimming Ontario (MSO) Facility Rules are intended to provide the best possible environment for Masters swimming training and competition in Ontario. These rules are not intended to govern facilities used by the general public. It is the responsibility of the owner or controller of the facility to provide supervision of the activities undertaken by the general public and to manage the facility in accordance with provincial and municipal regulations. See also OMGR 6.1 regarding smoking.

The 2019 Edition of the MSO Facilities rules is a major review and revision. Every effort is made to bring these rules and guidelines into line with those prepared by FINA and Swimming Canada, both in wording and numbering. However, FINA facility rules are primarily used for international competitions, including World Championships and Olympic Games. Some of Swimming Canada's facilities rules relate to elite national championships. Neither set of rules are entirely suitable to the Ontario masters environment. It is for these reasons that masters-specific rules documents is needed.

The following prefixes are used to indicate the source of the rule:

- FR – FINA Facility Rule (unaltered)
- CFR – Canadian Facility Rule, per Swimming Canada (unaltered)
- OMFR – MSO Facility Rule

An MSO edited rule will reference the original FINA or Swim Canada version in trailing brackets.

This 2019 Edition of MSO's Facilities Rules differs from previous editions in the following notable areas:

- Addition of Notes and Explanations to clarify the meaning of a rule
- Addition of Yard pools for MSO-sanctioned competition (OMFR 2)
- Depth Rules (CFR 2.3.1) brought in line with Swim Canada rules and guidelines for diving
- Lane Width (CFR 2.5.1 and CFR 2.5.2) to reflect Swim Canada standards, especially for 2 per lane swimming

*... approved by the MSO Board of Directors February 24, 2019*

## Glossary

*FINA* – Fédération international de Natation

*Reasonable Variance* – to be determined having regard to the health and safety of all users, including but not limited to the age and ability of the swimmer(s), the type of training and/or competition to take place at the venue, and respecting all rules, policies, standards, or legislation applicable to the facility.

*Sanctioned Competition* – a swimming competition approved under the authority of Masters Swimming Ontario (MSO) in a facility having the minimum standards determined by MSO with the expectation of qualified officials who conduct the competition under the published rules; and where the results of the competition are entered in the MSO results data base.

*Starting Platform* – is also known as the starting block and is used when diving during sanctioned competition or training. The height of the platform above the water surface shall be measured from the level of the water surface to the top (front) of the starting platform.

*Water depth* – measured from the bottom of the pool to the water level at the end was or any given point in the course of the pool per the rules defined.

### OMFR 1 GENERAL

**OMFR 1.1** Pools for MSO Championships shall be held in pools that comply with all standards below.

**OMFR 1.2** Pools for other MSO sanctioned competitions should be held in pools that comply with minimum standards below. MSO may waive certain standards for existing pools including minimum standards if they do not materially interfere with safety or the integrity of the competition.

**OMFR 1.3** Pools used for training by MSO Masters clubs must comply with the water depth clauses CFR 2.3.1 as well as health and safety clauses FR 1.4.

**FR 1.4** In order to protect the health and safety of persons using swimming facilities for the purpose of recreation, training and competition, owners of public pools or pools restricted only to training and competition must comply with the requirements established by law and the health authorities in the province or municipality where the pool is located.

**OMFR 1.5** All pools used for competition shall have a survey on file indicating compliance with OMFR 2. In the case of a 50m pool with movable bulkheads. See also OMFR 2.14.2.

## OMFR 2 SWIMMING POOLS FOR COMPETITION

### FR 2.1 Length

**FR 2.1.1** 50.000 metres. When touch panels of Automatic Officiating Equipment are used on the starting end, or additionally on the turning end, the pool must be of such length that ensures the required distance of 50.000 metres between the two panels.

**FR 2.1.2** 25.000 metres. When touch panels of Automatic Officiating Equipment are used on the starting end, or additionally on the turning end, the pool must be of such length that ensures the required distance of 25.000 metres between the two panels.

**OMFR 2.1.3** 25.000 yards. When touch panels of Automatic Officiating Equipment are used on the starting end, or additionally on the turning end, the pool must be of such length that ensures the required distance of 25.000 yards between the two panels.

### FR 2.2 Dimensional Tolerances

**OMFR 2.2.1** The admissible tolerance in 50.00 metre pools will be +0.010 and -0.000.

Tolerances to be measured as follows:

Wall to Wall: Minimum 50.020 / Maximum 50.030.

Tolerance shall be consistent 0.300 metres above to 0.800 metres below the water surface. These measurements should be certified by a surveyor or other qualified official. Tolerances cannot be exceeded when touch pads are installed.

[FR2.2.1]

**OMFR 2.2.2** The admissible tolerance in 25.00 metre pools will be +0.010 and -0.000.

Tolerances to be measured as follows:

Wall to Wall: Minimum 25.020/Maximum 25.030. Tolerance shall be consistent 0.300 metres above to 0.800 metres below the water surface. These measurements should be certified by a surveyor or other qualified official. Tolerances cannot be exceeded when touch pads are installed. [FR 2.2.2]

*Note: FINA FR Standards for length of pool and dimensional tolerances are the minimum standard required. When the FR 2.1 Length and FR 2.2 Admissible Tolerances are taken together with OMFR 2.14.2 Bulk Heads and FR 4.3.4 Touch panels for Automatic Equipment, the admissible tolerances are as follows:*

The admissible tolerance in 50.00 m / 25.00 m swimming pools will be +0.010, -0.000. Tolerances will be measured as follows:

1. Wall to Wall: Minimum 50.020 / 25.020 - Maximum 50.030 / 25.030
2. Touch pad to Touch pad: Minimum 50.000 / 25.000 - Maximum 50.010 / 50.010

Tolerances have to be consistent 0.300 mm above to 0.800 metre below the water surface. These measurements should be a surveyor or other qualified official.

**FR 2.3 Depth** A minimum depth of 1.35 metres, extending from 1.0 metre to at least 6.0 metres from the end wall is required for pools with starting blocks. A minimum depth of 1.0 metre is required elsewhere.

**CFR 2.3.1** A minimum water depth of 1.20 metres, extending from 1.0 metre to at least 5.0 metres from the end wall is required for pools where diving takes place from the permanent deck or bulkhead, where the height is not more than 0.35 metres from the water surface.

Water Depth	
Less than 1.2 m	No Diving; in-water starts only
1.2m – 1.35m	Diving from the permanent deck or bulkhead where height is not more than 0.35m from the water surface is permitted
1.35m (equal or greater than)	Diving from starting Platform (max 0.75m from water surface as per FR 2.7)

**CFR 2.3.2** The water depth at the turn end for sanctioned competitions should comply with a minimum standard depth of 1.0 metre, or a reasonable variance that would meet the approved rules, policies, and standard of safety of the pool facility.

## **FR 2.4 Walls**

FINA FR 2.4 details the highest possible standard for competition pools. Reasonable variances are possible for MSO sanctioned competition.

**FR 2.4.1** End walls shall be vertical, parallel and form 90 degrees right angles to the swimming course and to the surface of the water. They shall be constructed of solid material with a non-slip surface extending 0.8 metre below the water surface so as to enable the competitor to touch and push off in turning without hazard.

**FR 2.4.2** Rest ledges along the pool walls are permitted; they must be not less than 1.2 metres below the water surface, and may be from 0.1 metre to 0.15 metre wide. Both internal and external ledges are acceptable, however internal ledges are preferred.

**FR 2.4.3** Gutters may be placed on all four walls of the pool. If end wall gutters are installed they must allow for attachment of touch pads to the required 0.3 metre above the water surface. They must be covered with a suitable grill or screen.

**FR 2.5 Lanes** Lanes shall be at least 2.5 metres wide, with two spaces of at least 0.2 metre wide outside of the first and last lanes.

*Note: FINA FR 2.5 requires a 2.5 metre wide lanes for International Competition, which MSO would not be requested to sanction. Swimming Canada lane width requirements are a minimum of 1.8 metres or a reasonable variance and, for 2 per lane distance events, a minimum of 2.0 metres or a reasonable variance. Ontario Masters lane width rules are further modified to accommodate yard competitions.*

**CFR 2.5.1** Lanes should be at least 1.8 metres wide or a reasonable variance that would meet the approved rules, policies and standards of safety of the pool facility.

**OMFR 2.5.2** Lanes should be at least 2.0 metres wide, or a reasonable variance that would meet the approved rules, policies and standards of safety of the pool facility, when swimming 2 swimmers per lane during distance freestyle events (800 m, 1500 m, 1000 y, 1650 y), as per CSW 3.4.2 [CFR 2.5.2]

**OMFR 2.5.3** Pools used for MSO championships shall have a minimum of eight lanes. All pools used for other MSO sanctioned competition must have a minimum of four lanes.

## **OMFR 2.6 Lane Ropes**

**OMFR 2.6.1** Lane ropes shall extend the full length of the course, secured at each end wall to anchor brackets recessed into the end walls. The anchor shall be positioned so that the floats at each end wall of the pool shall be on the surface of the water. Each lane rope will consist of floats placed end to end having a minimum diameter of 0.10 metre to a maximum of 0.15 metre. The lane ropes shall be firmly stretched. The colour of lanes ropes is of no consequence for MSO-sanctioned events. [FINA 2.6.1]

**OMFR 2.6.2** For LCM and SCM pools, the floats extending for a distance of 5.0 metres from each wall shall be of a different colour from the rest of the floats. For SCY pools this distance shall be 15 feet. [USMS 106.13.2]

**OMFR 2.6.2.1** At the 15-metre mark from each end wall of the pool the floats shall be distinct in colour from the surrounding floats. [FINA 2.6.2]

**OMFR 2.6.2.2** In 50 metre pools the floats shall be distinct at the 25 metre mark. [FINA 2.6.3]

**OMFR 2.6.3** There shall not be more than one lane rope between each lane. A minimum standard option for facilities with no warm up/cool down pool is to use one outside lane for this purpose during the competition. In this case two lane ropes

may be located between the warm up/cool down lane and the adjacent lane being used for competition.

## **FR 2.7 Starting Platforms**

**OMFR 2.7.1** Starting Platforms shall be firm and give no springing effect. The height of the platform shall be from 0.5 metre to 0.75 metre above the water surface. The surface area shall be at least 0.5 metre by 0.5 metre and covered with non-slip material.

Maximum slope shall not be more than 10 degrees. The starting platform may have an adjustable setting back plate. An adjustable back stroke starting platform may also be used.

The platform shall be constructed so as to permit the gripping of the platform by the swimmer at the front and the sides.

Handgrips for the forward start may be installed on the sides of the starting platforms. Handgrips for backstroke starts shall be placed within 0.3 metre to 0.6 metre above the water surface both horizontally and vertically. They shall be parallel to the surface of the end wall, and must not protrude beyond the end wall. *[FINA FR 2.7]*

**OMFR 2.7.2 Backstroke Ledge** – A backstroke ledge may be used:

- The ledge may be adjustable to 4 cm above or 4 cm below the water level.
- The ledge is a minimum of 65 cm in length
- The ledge must be 8 cm in height, 2 cm at the width with 10 degrees of slope. *[FINA 2.10]*

**OMFR 2.7.3** See FR 2.3 and CFR 2.3.1 for starting platform water depth requirements.

**OMFR 2.8 Numbering** Each starting block should be distinctly numbered for competitions. It is recommended that lane number 0 or 1 be on the right hand side when facing the course from the starting end. *[FR 2.8 & CFR Guideline]*

## **OMFR 2.9 Backstroke Turn Indicators**

**OMFR 2.9.1** For SCM and LCM competition, flagged ropes shall be suspended across the pool, minimum 1.8 metres and maximum 2.5 metres above the water surface, from fixed standards placed 5.0 metres from each end wall.

**OMFR 2.9.2** For 25 yard pool, the backstroke turn indicators shall be from a fixed standard placed 15 feet (3 yards) from each end wall. *[USMS 106.14.2]*

**OMFR 2.10 False Start Rope** False Start Rope may be suspended across the pool not less than 1.2 metres above the water level from fixed standards placed

15 metres in front of the starting end. It should be attached to the standards by a quick release mechanism. The rope must effectively cover all lanes when activated. [FINA FR 2.11 & CFR Guideline]

**OMFR 2.10.2** Distinctive marks must be placed on both sides of the pool and where possible on each lane rope, 15.0 metres from each end wall. (FINA FR 2.9)

## **OMFR 2.11 Water Temperature**

**OMFR 2.11.1** Water Temperature shall be 25 to 28 degrees for competition. During competition the water in the pool must be kept at a constant level, with no appreciable movement. In order to observe health regulations in force across Canada, inflow and outflow is permissible as long as no appreciable current or turbulence is created. [FR 2.12]

**FR 2.12 Lighting** Light intensity over starting platforms and turning ends shall not be less than 600 lux. [FINA 2.13]

**OMFR 2.13 Lane Markings** Lane Marking shall be of a dark contrasting colour, placed on the floor of the pool in the center of each lane. *Each lane line should be 2.0 metres from the end wall of the pool with a distinctive cross line 1.0 metres long.*

Lane markings should also be placed on the end wall in the centre of each lane or on the *touchpad*. [CFR Guideline & FINA FR 2.14]

## **OMFR 2.14 Bulkheads**

**OMFR 2.14.1** When a bulkhead serves as an end wall, it must extend the full width of the course and present a solid smooth, non-slippery stable vertical surface on which touch pads may be mounted extending not less than 0.8m below and 0.3m above the surface of the water, and must be free of hazardous openings above or below the waterline which may be penetrated by a swimmer's hands, feet, toes or fingers. A bulkhead must be of a design that provides for the free movement of officials along its length without such movement creating any appreciable current or water turbulence. [FINA FR 2.15]

**OMFR 2.14.2** Where a pool or tank used for Championship competition contains a bulkhead the pool shall be surveyed immediately prior to the start of the competition. Bulkhead securing devices should be checked throughout the competition and the pool length should be measured by a competition official once each day of the competition or should the bulkhead be moved. See related OMFR 1.5.

## **FR 3 Swimming Pools for Olympic Games and World Championships**

*This FINA section is not applicable to Masters Swimming Ontario. The title is displayed to retain the section numbering.*

## **FR 4 AUTOMATIC OFFICIATING EQUIPMENT**

*MSO NOTE: Pools used for Championships shall comply with all standards below. Other MSO-Sanctioned competitions may be held in pools with different or partially automatic or semi-automatic officiating equipment. For pools without automatic or semi-automatic officiating equipment see OMSW 11.3, Timing.*

**FR 4.1** Automatic and Semi-Automatic Officiating Equipment records the elapsed time of each swimmer and determines the relative place in a race. Judging and timing shall be to 2 decimal places (1/100 of a second). Equipment that is installed shall not interfere with the swimmers' starts, turns, or the function of the overflow system.

**FR 4.2** The Equipment must:

**FR 4.2.1** Be activated by the starter.

**FR 4.2.2** Have no exposed wires on the pool deck, if possible.

**FR 4.2.3** Be able to display all recorded information for each lane by place and by **lane**.

**FR 4.2.4** Provide easy digital reading of a swimmer's time.

### **FR 4.3 Starting devices**

**FR 4.3.1** The starter shall have a microphone for oral commands.

**FR 4.3.2** If a pistol is used, it shall be used with a transducer.

**FR 4.3.3** Both the microphone and the transducer shall be connected to loudspeakers at each starting block where both the starter's commands and the starting signal can be heard equally and simultaneously by each swimmer.

### **FR 4.4 Touch panels for Automatic Equipment**

**FR 4.4.1** The minimum measurement of the touch panels shall be 2.4 metres wide and 0.9 metre high, and their thickness shall be 0.01 metre.

They shall extend 0.3 metre above and 0.6 metre below the surface of the water. The equipment in each lane shall be connected independently, so it may be controlled individually. The surface of the panels shall be of a bright colour and shall bear the line markings approved for the end walls.

**FR 4.4.2 Installation** The touch panels shall be installed in a fixed position in the centre of the lanes. The panels may be portable, allowing the pool operator to remove them when there are no competitors.



**FR 4.4.3 Sensitivity** The sensitivity of the panels shall be such that they cannot be activated by water turbulence, but will be activated by a light hand touch. The panels shall be sensitive on the top edge.

**FR 4.4.4 Markings** The markings on the panels shall conform with and superimpose on the existing markings of the pool. The perimeter and edges of the panels shall be defined by a 0.025 metre black border.

**FR 4.4.5 Safety** The panels shall be safe from the possibility of electrical shock and shall not have sharp edges.

**FR 4.5 With Semi-Automatic Equipment**, the finish shall be recorded by buttons pushed by timekeepers at the finish touch of the swimmer.

**FR 4.6** The following accessories are essential for a minimum installation of Automatic Equipment:

**FR 4.6.1** Printout of all information, which can be regenerated during a succeeding race.

**FR 4.6.2** Spectator readout board.

**FR 4.6.3** Relay take-off judging to 1/100 of a second. Where overhead video cameras are installed they may be reviewed as a supplement to the automatic system's judgment of relay take-off. For the differential in the relays take-off the manufacturer of the device shall be consulted.

**FR 4.6.4** Automatic lap counter.

**FR 4.6.5** Readout of splits.

**FR 4.6.6** Computer summaries.

**FR 4.6.7** Correction of erroneous touch.

**FR 4.6.8** Automatic rechargeable battery operation possibility.

#### **FR 4.7 Accessories for Olympic Games and World Championships**

*This FINA section is not applicable to Masters Swimming Ontario. The title is displayed to retain the section numbering.*

**FR 4.8** Semi-Automatic Equipment may be used as a backup to the Automatic Officiating Equipment if there are three buttons per lane, each operated by a separate official (in which case other finish judges shall not be required). An inspector of turns may operate one of the buttons.

Facility Summary: *[based on CFR Guideline]*

	Championships	All other meets
Water Depth for start (diving) from starting platform 0.75m from water surface)	1.35m (extending 1.0 metre to at least 6.0 metres from the end wall)	1.35m (extending 1.0 metre to at least 6.0 metres from the end wall)
Water Depth for start (diving) from deck or bulkhead (height not more than 0.35 m from water surface)	Will not be used for provincial championship competitions	1.2-1.35m ( extending from 1.0 metres to at least 5.0 metres from the end wall)
Water Depth elsewhere	1.0m or reasonable variance	1.0m or reasonable variance
Starting Platforms	Starting platforms available	Starting platforms or end wall starts
Backstroke ledges	When available	When available
Length of Course	Per FINA FR 2.1	Per FINA FR 2.1
Warm-up/Warm-down pool available	WU/WD pool preferred; otherwise WU/WD lanes required	WU/WD lanes or 15 minute WU at least every 2 hours (OMSW 1.6.2)
Lane Width	Minimum 2.0m or a reasonable variance	1.8m or a reasonable variance
# Lanes	Minimum 8 lanes	Minimum 4 lanes
Pool Temperature	25-28C or a reasonable variance	25-28C or a reasonable variance