

Masters Swimming Rule Book

for meets sanctioned by

Canadian Independent Masters Swimming and Masters Swimming Ontario

Note to Readers

There is a long history of masters oversight of the rules that apply to masters swim meets. In 1977, Beth Whittall became the first Chair of the Masters Swimming Rules Committee. The Rule Book was first published by Masters Swimming Ontario (MSO) in 1990-91 and nationally by Masters Swimming Canada (MSC) in 1992-93.

In 2017, MSC abandoned the Rule Book and opted to refer only to the FINA Rules, ignoring previous Canadian variations or interpretations of FINA rules¹. Again, MSO stepped in to retain this comprehensive document. In 2019, *Canadian Independent Masters Swimming (CIMS)* took shape and adopted the Rule Book for national application.

This comprehensive document ensures that officials, coaches and swimmers have a common understanding of the competition rules.

A review of the 2017-2021 FINA Handbook revealed no significant changes related to strokes or other matters. However, it contains some additional clarifications that may be useful to incorporate as the Canadian Masters Rule Book is updated.

¹ FINA General Rules state, "FINA recognizes that these Rules may be adjusted for competitions within a given Federation but recommends that all Members adhere to these Rules as closely as possible."

MASTERS SWIMMING RULE BOOK

These swimming rules were initially prepared by the Masters Swimming Canada (MSC) Rules Committee. However, in 2017, MSC abandoned their rule book and opted to refer only to the FINA Rules which are aimed at Olympic, international and world championship swimming. *Canadian Independent Masters Swimming (CIMS)* and *Masters Swimming Ontario (MSO)* have retained these masters rules for their swimming events and continue to update them as needed.

With the exception of FINA Masters World Championships, these Rules are in force and shall govern all Masters Competition sanctioned by *CIMS* or *MSO*. They adhere as closely as possible to the FINA Masters Swimming Rules & Regulations but have been adjusted for the range of masters competition. The Rules are regularly updated to comply with changes and clarifications made by FINA.

The Rule Book consists of the General Rules (GR), Swimming Rules (SW), Open Water Swimming Rules (OWS) and Appendices. The format is based on a stand-alone version initially developed in 2008 by the FINA Masters Technical Committee. The prefixes on the rules have the following meaning:

- SW – indicates the FINA swimming rule
- M (e.g., MSW) indicates the FINA Masters rule
- C (e.g., CSW) indicates a Swim Canada rule or Swim Canada's variation of a FINA rule
- CM (e.g., CMSW) are CIMS variations of a FINA or Swim Canada Rule.

Wherever possible the FINA numbering system is retained. Variations will reference the original rule.

These rules are posted on the CIMS website in English and French. If there is a conflict between versions, the English standard-format version shall prevail.

Please contact the CIMS if you have questions, comments or suggested corrections at info@canadianmastersswimmers.ca

The Rule Book may be reproduced unaltered, in whole or in part, for Canadian masters swimming purposes.

MASTERS SWIMMING RULE BOOK

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Revision History

2014-07-30	<p>Appendix E – Record Form Replace Canadian age verification requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove <i>Birth Certificate or Passport</i> • Replace with <i>Government-issued photo-ID</i>
2014-12-03	<p>FINA Rule changes instituted at the FINA Extraordinary Congress November 29, 2014. Rules affected CMSW 2.1, CMSW 2.6, CMSW 6 Backstroke, CMSW 7 Breaststroke CMSW 10.21</p>
2017-09-18	<p>MSW 8.1 Clarification on Butterfly text</p>
2017-12-26	<p>Warm Up Rules Updated to reflect the intent of the MSC and SNC Warm Up procedures.</p> <p>Appendix E – Record Form To reflect MSO records only</p>
2019-09-30	<p>Adoption by CIMS Updates of the introductory paragraphs and numbering explanations</p>

NOTES