



JUDGES OF STROKES, TURNS & FINISHES COURSE



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1. INTRODUCTION

Officials are there for the sport of swimming and enjoyment of being involved. Rules should be *applied with understanding and common sense, not dictatorship.*

The **primary role** of any official is to *ensure that all swimmers have a fair and equitable opportunity to perform to their maximum potential.*

To ensure the fairest possible competition, the judges of stroke and inspectors of turns must:-

Know the Rules – Read the rule book and know it. Officiate on pool deck and apply the rules to actions of the swimmers.

Apply the rule uniformly – It should make no difference whether the swimmer is an Olympian or a 10-year-old.

Observe swimmers to verify conformity with the rules – Although the outside lanes are the easiest to see, all assigned lanes must be watched. The official's attention must be on the swimmers at all times during the race.

Call disqualification's when the rules are broken – **A rule is either broken or it is not. There is no middle ground.**

The judge of strokes ensures that the rules pertaining to the style of swimming designated for each race are being observed.

The inspector of turns ensures that when starting, turning or finishing, the swimmer complies with the turn and finish rules of the stroke used.

The Referee will **assign an area of responsibility** to each official prior to the start of the meet. *An official may do both stroke and turn judging and both responsibilities described above will then pertain to one person.* The judge's responsibilities begin after a fair start has been achieved. Any action prior to the start is the starter's responsibility. The judges should observe the start.

2. STROKE JUDGES

- Two Stroke Judges will be assigned to each side of the pool.
- Strokes are best judged by walking abreast or slightly behind the swimmers. The judge should walk at a pace that is sufficient to stay with the swimmers. If the field starts to spread out, the judge should maintain a position slightly ahead of the trailing swimmers. By turning at the waist the judge will be able to observe each swimmer.
- The judge of strokes should develop a pattern of observation that assures that all swimmers are judged fairly. The shift of eyes from head to arms to feet and from lane to lane will vary. The key is consistency.

3. INSPECTOR OF TURNS

Starts, turns and finishes are best judged from the end of the pool, slightly to the side of the swimmer, not directly over the swimmer as the turn is executed.

To observe a backstroke turn the judge should stand directly over the swimmer as the turn is executed.

If assigned to judge more than one lane, the official will need to move to a position to best observe all assigned lanes.

The inspector of turns at the starting end of the pool must move to a position to be able to step forward quickly and observe the swimmer as soon as the starting signal is given.

Caution : Judges must not block the timer's view of the starter, or the starter's view of the swimmers.

The Inspectors of Turns shall:

- a. at the direction of the Referee, operate any judging device approved by the Association and place any necessary equipment in position;
- b. ensure that swimmers comply with the relevant rules from the start, when turning and at the finish;
- c. ensure competitors comply with the relevant rules for change-overs in relay events.
- d. report any infringement or violation of the rules to the Chief Inspector of Turns, detailing the event, heat, lane number and infringement in terms of the relevant rule.
- e. Under certain conditions the Chief Inspector of Turns could be directed, during pre-competition briefing, to report infringements to the Judge of Strokes.
- f. **At the turning end** record the number of laps completed by each competitor, and in events of 800 and 1500 metres keep the competitor informed of the remaining number of laps by displaying lap cards.

- The cards indicate the number of laps to be completed after the swimmer turns, the numbers are thus uneven and the first lap display is:

	<u>800m</u>	<u>1500m</u>
long course	15	29
short course	31	59

- The cards should be turned after the turn, generally as the swimmer passes under the backstroke turn indicators.

- g. **at the starting end**, in events of 800 and 1500 metres give a warning signal, as the swimmer approaches the wall, when the swimmer has two laps plus five metres to finish. NB: At major competitions bells are used by the Inspectors of Turns to give the warning signal.

At certain galas, depending on the equipment available, a whistle could be blown, a bell rung or a shot fired by the Starter over the lane of the leading swimmer when the swimmer reaches this stage of the race. When a full complement of Inspector's of Turns is not available, another official (Judge of Strokes, Starter) can be requested to give the warning signal.

- h. if required, take the time by operating a push button for SAT purposes.

The Inspector of Turns, **at the start**, *has jurisdiction from the start and ending with completion of the first arm stroke*, and **at the turn** *commencing from the beginning of the last arm stroke before touching and ending with the completion of the first arm stroke after turning* and **at the finish**, *commencing from the beginning of the last arm stroke before touching*.

4. COMBINED DUTIES: INSPECTOR OF TURNS AND STROKE JUDGE

When the *duties of the inspector of turns and stroke judge are combined* then, at the start, the judges should be as close to the end of the pool as possible to observe the first kick and arm pull, then assume the appropriate position for judging the strokes.

As the swimmers approach the far wall, the judge must be at the wall when the first swimmer begins the turn, and remain at the wall until all the swimmers have completed their turns, then move to the position for observing the swimmers strokes

When the field is spread out the Stroke Judges can separate so that one can concentrate on the leading swimmers while the other judges the rest. The judge must maintain proper position and movement to ensure that *each swimmer receives fair judging through accurate observation*.

Movement is the key to good performance when an official serves as combined stroke and turn judge. It is difficult to evaluate turns and finishes from the backstroke flags, or strokes from the center of the pool. This is especially necessary when there are diving boards, lifeguard stands, television cameras and crews, which may be barriers to the judge's quick movement.

The techniques for watching the swimmers are the same as when assigned only one position as either judge of strokes or inspectors of turns.

5. SWIMMING JUDGEMENT

In order to ensure equitable conditions of competition and uniformity in the application of the swimming rules Judges must have a sound knowledge of the rules and understand the reasons for the rules.

Stroke and turn judges must be protective of those swimmers who do obey the rules. The intent must be to ensure fairness for all. *Swimmers are entitled to the benefit of the doubt.*

A rule is either broken or it is not. It does not matter if there was no advantage gained by the violation. *At higher level competitions swimmers will be disqualified for any infractions incurred.*

*This situation can, however, change when, at entrance/lower level competitions, the competitors could be young, inexperienced or development level swimmers and the Referee will have to decide whether to apply the rules strictly or whether to **give them a warning in the interests of encouragement.***

In fairness to swimmers, the Referee may at times, also *need to consider the experience of the reporting Official, when there is doubt concerning the possible misinterpretation of a rule.*

6. PROCEDURES: STROKE AND TURN JUDGES

Stroke and turn judges must use the same procedures of observation for all swimmers. When watching more than one swimmer, they should give equal attention to each one, judging each from the same relative position. Swim meets require standardised enforcement of rules, being in the correct position for each swimmer, giving the same attention to Heat 6 as to Heat 1, and so on.

Violations should be submitted to the referee on signed slips detailing the event, the heat number, the lane number, and the infraction.

Swimmers have the right to have a disqualification explained so that they understand the rule violation. Always be courteous in explaining an infraction to a swimmer, coach or parent.

Before commencement of a session the Referee will brief Judges on any special conditions to be applied during the gala.

These instructions could be as follows:

- The application of new rules or clarification of certain rules.
- Guidance on disqualification procedures.
- Gala management procedures. eg Judges movement at the start and during the races.
- Special consideration to be given when judging swimmers participating in entrance or lower level competitions

7. DISQUALIFICATION PROCEDURES

(a) REPORTING

- When a disqualification is observed, the judge should signal the referee by a predetermined system or procedure.
- While continuing to observe the race, the judge should record the lane, heat, event and a brief description of the violation on a disqualification card.
- At the conclusion of the race, the disqualification card should be given to the chief inspector of turns or the referee for consideration and approval. An explanation of the violation should then be given to the swimmer.
- The disqualification should only be discussed with the Referee. All queries should be directed to the Referee, who can give permission to the Judge to discuss the infraction with the swimmer, parent or coach. All protests should be directed to the Referee. Stroke and turn judges should not be afraid to overrule their original decisions.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION

- If disqualification slips or cards are used, the event number, heat and lane number and a brief description of the infraction should be recorded. The judge should make notes about the disqualification since there may be a question later concerning the circumstances of the infraction.
- The procedure for reporting disqualifications should be established prior to the start of the meet. Disqualification cards/slips should be scrutinized and signed by the Referee before they are sent to the Recorders. *As swimmers are allowed to leave the pool immediately on completing an event a 'disqualified swimmer' could be missed by the Referee/Judges while they are busy judging the trailing swimmers.* The swimmer and/or coach should receive an explanation for the disqualification. Although the swimmer may already know why the disqualification was called, the Referee must *ensure that the swimmer and/or coach is always advised rather than assume that the swimmer understood.*
- Coaches, parents and sometimes other officials may question a disqualification. Judges should not discuss disqualification with anyone else. The judges' responsibilities are to the swimmers. Questions should be referred to the referee. If necessary, the referee may request clarification from the judge. *A disqualification is a judgement call and a judge should be prepared to explain the three "W's": **What** was seen? (infraction) ; **Where** was the judge? (position and jurisdiction) ; **Why** was the disqualification called? (rule definition).*
- The judge should take the responsibility for calling a disqualification seriously. **If a judge is not sure a violation occurred, the swimmer should not be disqualified and should be given the benefit of the doubt.** *The Judge's responsibility ends once an infraction*

has been clearly reported. The Referee will then make his decision after considering all aspects of the infringement. A Judge must thereafter **not attempt to further influence** the Referee in order to force a disqualification.

8. FINISH JUDGE

The single most important duty of the judge is to place all competitors in the order of finish.

To do this you need to observe competitors from the start and throughout the race, count laps completed, be aware when a competitor changes lanes, or fails to finish the course.

On conclusion of the race you need to record your placing by lane number on a pad in order of finish as soon as any part of the swimmer's body contacts the finish wall.

Always use lane numbers to record placing as these can be written quickly and easily and in any case it is unlikely that you will know the names of competitors. Indeed, anonymity guarantees your impartiality.

When recording your placing do not murmur or speak out loud as this may distract or influence the other Judges. (It is recommended that all Judges refrain from speaking in the concluding 25m of the race.)

All placing must be written down so that you have *a written record of the finish.*

You must place all competitors irrespective of whether you are of the opinion that the competitor is going to be or should be disqualified. Only the Referee has authority to disqualify a competitor.

The method of touch is not the responsibility of Finish Judges.

When you see *two or more competitors touch the finish wall at the same time*, whether above, on or below the water surface then you can declare a DEAD HEAT in the race.

You must be certain that the swimmers involved did finish together, not that you are unable to decide who touched first.

When a majority of Judges consider the result to be a dead heat then that is the **Judges' decision.**

To help "get your eye in", identify at the finish some distinguishing feature that helps you to locate particular lanes without reference to lane numbers above the water level e.g. on the sides of blocks or on the finish wall. In no time you will do this automatically.

Do not guess the finish. Only record what you see. If you miss placing one or more lanes, tell the Chief Judge who will discard your result.

9. CHIEF FINISH JUDGE

- positions Judges in line with the finish
- in an elevated position on both sides of the pool with an unobstructed view of the course and finishing line so that they can best perform their duties; except that when it is not possible to judge from a side of the pool due to, for example, lack of working space or reflection of the sun on the water, the Chief Judge should consult with the Referee and arrange to Judge from another position (but still in line with the finish etc);
- gives directions on how Judges shall operate and remind them of their duties generally
- instructs them to record their placing of each race on the result slip supplied and to sign it before passing it on to the Chief Judge, at the completion of the race.
- establishes the order of finish of the race by scrutinizing the result slips from each Finish Judge.
- the placing of the Chief Judge is only used to finalise the result when a clear decision is not reached by the Judges from both sides of the pool.
- records all Judges' placing on the Result Sheet.
- discarding any Judge's result when all the competitors have not been placed.
- informs the Referee if unable to establish the result.
- adds the placing of the Referee to any area of disagreement in order to determine the final result. The Referee's placing is only utilised in relation to the actual lanes concerned in the disagreement.
- Note: Only the Chief Finish Judge and Referee are to be involved in the collation of the Result.
- notates any disqualification advised by the Referee on the Results Sheet. Normally done by circling the disqualified competitor's lane number and writing "DIS" beside the number eg. DIS (6).
- presents the Results Sheet to the Referee for signature
NB: The Referee must check the compilation, returning the sheet to the Chief Judge for correction if there is an error, before signing the Result Sheet.
- ensures that the Result Sheet is then collected and taken to the Chief Recorder.

10. FINA SWIMMING RULES [FINA Handbook 2002 – 2005]

FREESTYLE

Refer to FINA Swimming Rule SW 5

- SW 5.1** Freestyle means that, in an event so designated, the swimmer may swim any style, except that in individual medley or medley relay events, freestyle means any style other than butterfly, breaststroke or backstroke.
- SW 5.2** Some part of the swimmer must touch the wall upon completion of each length and at the finish.
- SW 5.3** **Some part of the swimmer must break the surface** of the water throughout the race, except it shall be permissible for the swimmer to be completely submerged during the turn and for a distance of not more than 15 metres after the start and each turn. By that point, the head must have broken the surface

Note:

The forward start shall be used.

If a swimmer stops during a Freestyle race and stands on the bottom, it is not a disqualification as long as the swimmer does not leave the pool, walk, push off or spring from the bottom.

BACKSTROKE

Refer to FINA Swimming Rule SW 6

- SW 6.1** Prior to the starting signal the swimmers shall line up in the water facing the starting end, with both hands holding the starting grips. The feet, including the toes, shall be under the surface of the water. Standing in or on the gutter or bending the toes over the lip of the gutter is prohibited.
- SW6.2** At the signal for starting and after turning the swimmer shall *push off and swim upon his back throughout the race* except when executing a turn. The normal position on the back can include a roll movement of the body up to, but not including 90 degrees from horizontal. The position of the head is not relevant.
- SW6.3** *Some part of the swimmer must break the surface of the water throughout the race.* It shall be *permissible for the swimmer to be completely submerged during the turn,*

at the finish and for a **distance of not more than 15 metres after the start and each turn**. By that point the **head** must have broken the surface.

SW 6.4 During the turn the shoulders may be turned over the vertical to the breast after which a continuous single arm pull or a continuous simultaneous double arm pull may be used to initiate the turn. *Once the body has left the position on the back, any kick or arm pull must be part of the continuous turning action.* The swimmer must have returned to a position on the back upon leaving the wall. When executing the turn there must be a touch of the wall with some part of the swimmer's body.

SW 6.5 Upon the finish of the race the swimmer must touch the wall while on the back. *The body may be submerged at the touch.*

Note: A novice swimmer may occasionally use a two-handed or two-arm backstroke, which is legal. The only stroke requirement in backstroke is that the swimmer remains on the back.

CLARIFICATION OF TURN

1. The turn begins when the body leaves the back. (Turns past 90 degrees). Any action thereafter must be part of the continuous turning action. **Athens March 2000**
2. **OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION: FINA Technical Committee.**

BACKSTROKE TURN

The second sentence of FINA Rule SW 6.4: "Once the body has left the position on the back, there will be no kick or arm pull that is independent of the continuous turning action." **Some National Swimming Federations interpret this to mean that there is no kicking once on the breast. THIS IS NOT CORRECT.**

Kicking is acceptable if it is part of the continuous turning action. The swimmer must be observed in total.

Turning from back to breast too far from the wall and kicking to make up distance to begin the turn is **illegal**. Kicking as part of the turn is legal.

3. *When turning, without using a tumble,* a swimmer can touch while on the back or turn over onto the breast to touch. This action is legal provided that *a stroke is not taken* or the swimmer *does not kick while on the breast* in order to reach the wall to touch.

BREASTSTROKE

Refer to FINA Swimming Rule SW 7

- SW 7.1** From the beginning of the first arm pull after the start and each turn, the swimmer must be on the breast, it is not permitted to roll onto the back at any time.
- SW 7.2** All movements of the arms shall be simultaneous and in the same horizontal plane without altering movement.
- SW 7.3** The hands shall be pushed forward together from the breast on, under, or over the water. **The elbows shall be under the water except for the final stroke before the turn, during the turn and for the final stroke at the finish.** The hands shall be brought back on or under the surface of the water. The hands shall not be brought back beyond the hip line, except during the first stroke after the start and each turn.

Note:

- a) The elbows may come out of the water at the end of the backward pull, but must be under the water during recovery. (FINA Technical Swimming Officials Seminar: Vancouver.)
- b) Common sense must be used before disqualifying a breaststroke swimmer, who swims with one arm higher than the other. If the arm movements are simultaneous, and in the same horizontal plane the stroke is correct. The key to watching the arms is to make sure they move simultaneously. Most infractions occur with young swimmers who have not developed good co-ordination.
- SW 7.4** All movements of the legs shall be simultaneous and in the same horizontal plane without alternating movement.
- SW 7.5** The feet must be turned outwards *during the propulsive part of the kick*. A scissors, flutter or downward dolphin kick is not permitted. *Breaking the surface of the water with the feet is allowed unless followed by a downward dolphin kick.*
- SW 7.6** **At each turn** and at the finish of the race, the touch must be made with both hands simultaneously at, above, or below the water surface. The head may be submerged after the last arm pull prior to the touch, provided it breaks the surface of the water at some point during the last complete or incomplete cycle preceding the touch

Note:

- a) Dolphin' kick after the start and out of the turn. Unless there is an obvious drive of the legs, any doubt must be given to the swimmer. A downward dolphin kick without the feet turned outwards, is interpreted as a downward propulsive kick.

b) It is not permitted to be on the back at any time; i.e. *when the feet lose contact with the wall, after turning, the body must be past the vertical approaching the breast.*

SW 7.7 During each complete cycle of one arm stroke and one leg kick, in that order, some part of the swimmer's head shall break the surface of the water, except that after the start and after each turn the swimmer may take one arm stroke completely back to the legs and one leg kick while wholly submerged. The head must break the surface of the water before the **hands turn inward at the widest part of the second stroke.**

BUTTERFLY

Refer to FINA Swimming Rule SW 8

SW 8.1 From the beginning of the first arm stroke after the start and after each turn, the **body shall be kept on the breast.** Under water kicking on the side is allowed but it is not permitted to roll onto the back at any time.

SW 8.2 Both arms must be *brought forward together* **over the water** and *brought backward simultaneously throughout the race*, subject to SW 8.5.

NB: A swimmer is not allowed to kick into the wall with the arms stretched out in front of the head. The arms must be brought forward together over the water..

SW 8.3 All up and down movements of the legs must be simultaneous. *The position of the legs or the feet need not be on the same level, but they shall not alternate in relation to each other.* **A breaststroke kicking movement is not permitted.**

SW 8.4 At each turn and at the finish of the race, the touch shall be made with both hands simultaneously at, above, or below the water surface.

SW 8.5 At the start and at turns, the swimmer is permitted one or more leg kicks and one arm pull under the water, which must bring him to the surface. It shall be permissible for a swimmer to be completely submerged for a distance of not more than 15 metres after the start and after each turn. By that point, the head must have broken the surface. The swimmer must remain on the surface until the next turn or finish.

INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY

Refer to FINA Swimming Rule SW 9

- SW 9.1** In individual medley events, the swimmer covers the four swimming styles in the following order: butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle.
- SW 9.2** In medley relay events, swimmers will cover the four swimming styles in the following order: backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly and freestyle.
- SW 9.3** Each section must be finished in accordance with the rule, which applies to the style concerned.

Note:

Each swimmer must conform to the rules for the stroke applicable to the respective leg. Turns from one stroke to another are considered finishes, and must conform to the finish rule applicable to respective stroke.

Guidance on judging the turns:

Butterfly to Backstroke – Once a legal touch has been made, the swimmer may turn in any manner desired. The swimmer must have returned to a position where the shoulders are at or past the vertical toward the back before the feet leave the wall.

Backstroke to Breaststroke - Upon the finish of the backstroke, the swimmer must touch the wall while on the back. Once a touch has been made, the swimmer may turn in any manner desired. The shoulders must be at or past the vertical toward the breast when the feet leave the wall.

Breaststroke to Freestyle – Once a legal touch has been made, the swimmer may turn in any manner desired. The freestyle leg may not be the backstroke, butterfly or breaststroke. NB: If a swimmer leaves the wall on the back for the freestyle leg and then turns over onto the breast it will be considered "backstroke" and therefore illegal.

THE RACE: SW 10

The following rules are applied during the course of an event.

- SW 10.1** A swimmer swimming over the course alone shall cover the whole distance to qualify.
- SW 10.2** A swimmer must finish the race in the same lane in which he started.
- SW 10.3** In all events, a swimmer when turning shall make **physical** contact with the end of the pool or course. The turn must be made from the wall, and it is not permitted to take a stride or step from the bottom of the pool.

- SW 10.4** Standing on the bottom during freestyle events or during the freestyle portion of medley events shall not disqualify a swimmer, but he shall not walk.
- SW 10.5** Pulling on the ropes is not allowed.
- SW 10.6** Obstructing another swimmer by swimming across another lane or otherwise interfering shall disqualify the offender. Should the foul be intentional, the referee shall report the matter to the Member promoting the race, and to the Member of the swimmer of offending.
- SW 10.7** No swimmer shall be permitted to use or wear any device that may aid his speed, buoyancy or endurance during a competition (such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, etc)
Goggles may be worn. No device for communication from a Coach, etc., is allowed.
- SW 10.8** Any swimmer not entered in a race, who enters the water in which an event is being conducted before all swimmers therein have completed the race, shall be disqualified from his next scheduled race in the meet.
- SW 10.9** There shall be four swimmers on each relay team.
- SW 10.10** In relay events, the team of a swimmer whose feet lose touch with the starting platform before the preceding teammate touches the wall, shall be disqualified, unless the swimmer in default returns to the original starting point at the wall, but it shall not be necessary to return to the starting platform.
- SW 10.11** Any relay team shall be disqualified from a race if a team member, other than the swimmer designated to swim that length, enters the water when the race is being conducted before all swimmers of all teams have finished the race.
- SW 10.12** The members of a relay team and their order of competing must be nominated before a race. Any relay team member may compete in a race only once. The composition of a relay team may be changed between the heats and finals of an event, provided that it is made up from the list of swimmers properly entered by a Member for that event. Failure to swim in the order listed will result in disqualification. Substitutions may be made only in the case of a documented medical emergency.
- SW 10.13** Any swimmer having finished his race, or his distance in a relay event, must leave the pool as soon as possible without obstructing any other swimmer who has not yet finished his race. Otherwise the swimmer committing the fault, or his relay team, shall be disqualified.

SW 10.14 Should a foul endanger the chance of success of a swimmer, the referee shall have the power to allow him to compete in the next heat or, should the foul occur in a final event or in the last heat, he/she may order it to be re-swum.

SW 10.15 No pace-making shall be permitted, nor may any device be used or plan adopted which has that effect.

NB: No mechanical or electronic device that can receive information concerning pace or speed may be worn in competition.

CLARIFICATIONS ON RELAYS

There are two types of relays : Freestyle and Medley.

In the freestyle relay, there are four swimmers on a team with each individual, swimming one fourth of the distance using any desired stroke. Freestyle finish rules apply.

Each relay slip or card lists the swimmers in the order they are to swim. They may not swim out of turn and no swimmer may swim more than one leg of the relay.

In the medley relay, four swimmers are in the team, with each swimming one fourth of the distance. The strokes must occur in the following order : backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly and freestyle. Rules pertaining to each stroke shall be applied. At the end of each leg, the finish rule for that stroke applies. As with the freestyle relay, the swimmers must swim in the order listed on the slip or card.

RELAY TAKE-OFF

In relay events, the starting swimmer's feet may not lose contact with the block until the incoming swimmer touches the wall. The individual assigned relay take-off responsibility (usually the inspector of turns) is to observe this exchange and determine if the feet of the swimmer on the block have not left before the incoming swimmer has made contact with the wall. For the fairest judging, it is preferred that there be one individual assigned per lane. For back up confirmation of a relay take-off disqualification, additional personnel should be assigned to observe from the side of the pool. (Chief inspector of turns)

The individual assigned relay take-off responsibility should be positioned with a clear view of the incoming swimmer and the starting swimmer on the block. The feet of the starting swimmer should be watched. At the instant that the feet lose contact with the starting platform, the gaze should drop to the wall surface of the pool. If the incoming swimmer has not yet reached the wall, there is a break in the relay and an infraction has occurred.

The individual assigned relay take-off responsibility should stand next to the starting block and without touching the swimmer, without kneeling or crouching or without talking to the swimmers.

Only the assigned lane should be watched. A perfectly timed exchange takes only a split second. The departing swimmer is allowed to move as long as the feet maintain contact with the starting platform.

Consistent calls should be made and, unless dual relay take-off judging is used, signal (by a predetermined signal) any infraction immediately.

All violations must be reported, signed and delivered to the referee in writing. *The event, swimmer, lane and heat must be designated.*

JUDGES: PROFICIENCY LEVEL REQUIREMENTS

Level I:

- a. To be at least 16 years of age.
- b. Qualified Level 1 Timekeeper
- c. Completed a 2 1/2 hour course in Judging and obtained an 80% pass for the Course Worksheet.
- d. Verbal assessment and guidance by an experienced Judge (Level II min.)

Level II:

- a. Qualified Level I Judge with experience of 10 Level I galas.
- b. Verbal assessment by an experienced Judge (Level II minimum) to determine knowledge of current FINA rules.
- c. Practical evaluation on pool deck by two or more experienced Judges (Level II or higher) over three separate galas to determine ability to interpret and apply the rules correctly.

Level III:

- a. Qualified Level II Judge with experience of 16 Level II galas over a minimum period of 2 years.
- b. Verbal assessment and practical evaluation on pool deck by a Senior Judge or an experienced Judge (Level III or higher) to determine degree of proficiency displayed in the interpretation and application of the swimming rules.

Level IV:

- a. Qualified Level III Judge.
- b. Experience of a minimum of two official International galas.