

Rule Infractions National Championships 2012

At the recent National Championships in Adelaide only 25 disqualifications for rule infractions were recorded from the 3038 entries swum in 319 heats.

The infractions were as follows;

General Infractions

- 6 GA - False Starts. Rule SW4.4M
- 1 GS - Non-conforming swimwear worn. Rule GR16.1
- 1 GE - Did not swim stroke specified.

Backstroke Infractions

- 1 BaF - Did not touch while on the back at the finish. Rule SW6.5

Breaststroke Infractions

- 1 BrD - Leg movements not simultaneous or on same horizontal plane. Rule SW7.4
- 1 BrH - Hand touch not simultaneous at turn/finish. Rule SW7.6
- 5 BrJ - Performed an illegal downward butterfly kick. Rule SW7.1
- 1 BrC - Arm movement not simultaneous or on same horizontal plane. Rule SW7.2
- 1 BrA - Head did not break the surface before the hands turned inward at widest part of the second stroke after the start and each turn. Rule SW7.4

Butterfly Infractions

- 1 BfF - Movement of the feet not simultaneous. Rule SW8.3

Individual Medley Infractions

- 1 IMC - BfM - Rolled past vertical onto back after turning – Butterfly leg. Rule SW8.1
- 1 IMC - BaF - Did not touch while on the back at the finish – Backstroke leg. Rule SW6.5
- 1 IMC - BrJ - Performed an illegal downward butterfly kick – Breaststroke leg. Rule SW7.1
- 1 IMB - Not swum in correct order of strokes. Rule SW9.1

Relay Infractions

- 1 RA - Feet lost touch with starting platform before incoming swimmer touched. Rule SW10.11

The underwater pull out at the start and after each turn in Breaststroke was one of the main reasons for disqualification at the meet. The swimming rule applicable is:

'SW 7.1 - After the start and after each turn, the swimmer may take one arm stroke completely back to the legs during which the swimmer may be submerged. A single butterfly kick is

permitted during the first arm stroke, followed by a breaststroke kick.'

The timing of the single butterfly kick in this action is critical. The butterfly kick must be executed during the first arm stroke, not before the arm stroke has commenced or after the arm stroke has finished. Six infractions were recorded at the meet due to the incorrect execution of the butterfly kick as set out in rule SW7.1.

The other common infraction, was swimmers' starting before the starting signal had been given, (False Starts) as per swimming rule SW4.4M. Even though the one start rule has been in force for a number of years now it is still one of the sport's disciplines' that catches out competitors. A further six infractions were recorded at the meet for infractions of this rule.

The remaining disqualifications were one of infractions of different rules covering all the strokes. In the main, simply swimmer errors due to lack of concentration, e.g. incorrect stroke swum, non-conforming swimwear worn, tumble turn at end of backstroke leg in an IM etc.

The standard of the swimming in general at the meet was excellent and it was a pleasure to work with a team of Technical Officials comprising of representatives from all the states. I would like to express my appreciation to all the officials whose efforts meant that the meet ran well and made for an enjoyable four days of competition.

Phil Beames
Meet Referee