

## **PART 2**

# **OPEN WATER SWIMMING RULES**

**To be considered at the  
FINA Technical Open Water  
Swimming Congress**

**15 July 2009 // 14:00 hours  
Rome, Italy**

## FINA OPEN WATER SWIMMING RULES

<i>RULE N°</i>	<i>SUBMITTING BODY</i>	<i>PROPOSAL</i>
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OWS 1	DEFINITIONS	
OWS 1.1	<b>AUS Fed.</b> <i>Bureau &amp; TOWSC</i> <i>do not recommend</i>	OPEN WATER SWIMMING shall be defined as any competition that takes place in rivers, lakes, oceans or water channels, <u>dams or rowing courses</u> except for 10km events.
OWS 1.2	<b>AUS Fed.</b> <i>Bureau &amp; TOWSC</i> <i>do not recommend</i>	The age limit for all FINA Open Water Swimming events <del>should</del> <u>must</u> be at least 14 years of age <u>on the day of competition</u> .
OWS 1.2	<b>DEN, FAR, NOR, SWE Feds.</b> <i>Bureau &amp; TOWSC</i> <i>do not recommend</i>	The age limit for all FINA Open Water Swimming events should be at least <del>14</del> <u>15</u> years of age.
OWS 1.2	<b>TOWSC</b> <i>Bureau recommends</i>	The age limit for all FINA Open Water Swimming events <del>should</del> <u>must</u> be at least 14 years of age.
OWS 2	OFFICIALS	
	<b>TOWSC</b> <i>Bureau recommends</i>	The following officials shall be appointed at Open Water Swimming competitions:  A <u>Chief Referee (one per race)</u> <del>Assistant</del> Referees <u>Chief Judge</u> Chief Timekeeper plus <del>3</del> <u>2</u> Timekeepers Chief <u>Finish</u> Judge plus 2 Finish Judges Safety Officer Medical Officer Course Officer Clerk of the Course Race Judges (one per competitor) except for events of 10 km or less Turn Judges (one per alteration of Course) Starter Announcer Recorder Officials to be renamed as above thereafter

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<a href="#">OWS 2.1</a> <a href="#">NEW</a>	AUS Fed. <i>Bureau &amp; TOWSC do not recommend</i>	<u>For events of 10km or less the safety officer and course officer's positions and duties are combined</u>
OWS 3	DUTIES OF OFFICIALS	
	TOWSC <i>Bureau recommends</i>	The <u>Chief</u> Referee shall:
OWS 3.6	AUS Fed. <i>Bureau &amp; TOWSC do not recommend</i>	disqualify any swimmer for any violation of the rules that he personally observes or which is reported to him by another authorised officials. <u>Notwithstanding the provisions of OWS 6.3 hereof the Referee may decide to enforce the disqualification at the end of the race.</u>
<a href="#">OWS 3.7</a> <a href="#">NEW</a>	TOWSC <i>Bureau recommends</i>	<u>ensure that all necessary officials for the conduct of the competition are at their respective posts. He may appoint substitutes for any who are absent, incapable of acting or found to be inefficient. He may appoint additional officials if considered necessary.</u>  <i>Renumber thereafter</i>
<a href="#">OWS 3.8</a> <a href="#">NEW</a>	TOWSC <i>Bureau recommends</i>	<u>receive all reports prior to the start of the race from the Clerk of the Course, Course Officer and Safety Officer.</u>  <i>Renumber thereafter</i>
	TOWSC <i>Bureau recommends</i>	The <del>Assistant</del> Referees shall:
<del>OWS 3.7</del>	TOWSC <i>Bureau recommends</i>	<del>ensure that all necessary officials for the conduct of the competition are at their respective posts. He may, with the approval of the Referee, appoint substitutes for any who are absent, incapable of acting or found to be inefficient. He may appoint additional officials if considered necessary.</del>
<del>OWS 3.8</del>	TOWSC <i>Bureau recommends</i>	<del>receive all reports prior to the start of the race from the Clerk of the Course, Course Officer and Safety Officer.</del>
<del>OWS 3.9</del>	TOWSC <i>Bureau recommends</i>	<del>Approve the draw for Race Judges and allocate them to their respective escort safety craft.</del>
<a href="#">OWS 3.7</a> <a href="#">NEW</a>	TOWSC <i>Bureau recommends</i>	<u>Have authority to intervene in competition at any stage to ensure that FINA Rules are observed.</u>

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		<i>Renumber thereafter</i>
<a href="#"><u>OWS 3.8 NEW</u></a>	TOWSC  <i>Bureau recommends as amended:</i>	<u>In addition to the Chief Referee he may disqualify any swimmer for any violation of the Rules that he personally observes.</u>  ..... <u>disqualify any swimmer for any violation of the Rules that he personally observes.</u>  <i>Renumber thereafter</i>
OWS 3.9	AUS Fed. <i>Bureau &amp; TOWSC do not recommend</i>	approve the draw for race judges and allocate them to their respective escort safety craft <u>or such other locations as directed by the referee;</u> <u>and</u>
OWS 3.9	TOWSC <i>Bureau recommends</i>	Approve the draw for Race Judges and allocate them to their respective position <del>escort safety craft</del>
<a href="#"><u>OWS 3.9.1 NEW</u></a>	AUS Fed. <i>Bureau &amp; TOWSC do not recommend</i>	<u>Under delegation of the Referee, disqualify any swimmer for any violation of the rules personally observed</u>
	<b>The Starter shall:</b>	
<del>OWS 3.10</del>	TOWSC <i>Bureau recommends</i>	<del>be stationed in such a position as to be clearly visible to all competitors.</del>
<del>OWS 3.11</del>	TOWSC <i>Bureau recommends</i>	<del>on signal of the Referee raise a distinctive flag into the vertical position.</del>
<del>OWS 3.12</del>	TOWSC <i>Bureau recommends</i>	<del>simultaneously bring the flag holding arm down, with arm kept straight, and activate an audible signal.</del>
<a href="#"><u>OWS 3.10 NEW</u></a>	TOWSC <i>Bureau recommends</i>	<u>start the race in accordance to OWS 4 following the signal by the Chief Referee.</u> <i>Renumber thereafter</i>
<a href="#"><u>OWS 3.12.1 NEW</u></a>	AUS Fed. <i>Bureau &amp; TOWSC do not recommend</i>	<u>When swimmers start open water swimming events from a fixed platform, the starter shall give the command “take your marks” and then comply with OWS 3.12 immediately upon all swimmers complying with OWS 4.6.1</u>

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THE CHIEF JUDGE SHALL:		
<a href="#"><u>OWS 3.21</u></a> <a href="#"><u>NEW</u></a>	TOWSC <i>Bureau recommends</i>	<u>Record and communicate any decision received from the Referees during the competition</u> <i>Renumber thereafter</i>
	TOWSC <i>Bureau recommends</i>	FINISH JUDGES (three, <del>one of whom shall be the Chief Judge</del> ) shall:
EACH RACE JUDGE shall:		
OWS 3.24	AUS Fed. <i>Bureau &amp; TOWSC do not recommend</i>	<del>be positioned in an escort safety craft, assigned by random draw prior to the start, so as to be able to observe, at all times, his appointed swimmer.</del>
OWS 3.25	AUS Fed. <i>Bureau &amp; TOWSC do not recommend</i>	<del>ensure at all times that the Rules of competition are complied with, violations being recorded in writing and reported to the Referee at the earliest opportunity.</del>
OWS 3.26	AUS Fed. <i>Bureau &amp; TOWSC do not recommend</i>	<del>have the power to order a swimmer from the water upon expiry of any time limit so ordered by the Referee</del>
OWS 3.27	AUS Fed. <i>Bureau &amp; TOWSC do not recommend</i>	<del>ensure that his appointed swimmer does not take unfair advantage or commit unsporting impediment on another swimmer and if the situation requires instruct a swimmer to maintain clearance from any other swimmer.</del>
<a href="#"><u>OWS 3.24</u></a> <a href="#"><u>NEW</u></a>	AUS Fed. <i>Bureau &amp; TOWSC do not recommend</i>	<u>be assigned by random draw prior to the start to either an escort safety craft or such other locations as directed by the Referee, so as to be able, at all times, to observe:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>an appointed swimmer;</u></li> <li>• <u>the conduct of swimmers and/or the swimmers' approved representative during feeding from a fixed pontoon and when swimmers are passing such locations;</u></li> <li>• <u>to ensure that an appointed swimmer and/or a swimmer's approved representative does not take unfair advantage or commit unsporting impediment on another swimmer and if the situation requires instruct a swimmer to maintain clearance from any other swimmer or instruct a swimmer's approved representative to stop the activity that is causing unfair advantage or impence;</u></li> </ul> <u>to ensure at all times that the Rules of competition are complied with, violations being recorded in writing and reported to the Referee at the earliest opportunity</u>
<a href="#"><u>OWS 3.25</u></a> <a href="#"><u>NEW</u></a>	AUS Fed. <i>Bureau &amp;</i>	<u>when assigned to an escort safety craft, have the power, when directed by the Referee, to order a swimmer from the water upon the</u>

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	<i>TOWSC do not recommend</i>	<a href="#"><u>expiration of any time limit</u></a>
	<b>EACH RACE JUDGE shall:</b>	
OWS 3.24	TOWSC <i>Bureau recommends</i>	be positioned in an escort safety craft ( <a href="#"><u>where applicable</u></a> ), assigned by random draw prior to the start, so as to be able to observe, at all times, his appointed swimmer.
OWS 3.25	TOWSC <i>Bureau recommends</i>	ensure at all times that the Rules of competition are complied with, violations being recorded in writing and reported to <del>the</del> <a href="#"><u>a</u></a> Referee at the earliest opportunity.
	<b>THE CLERK OF THE COURSE shall:</b>	
OWS 3.45	TOWSC <i>Bureau recommends</i>	ensure each competitor is identified correctly with their race number and that all swimmers have trimmed fingernails <a href="#"><u>and toenails</u></a> and are not wearing any jewellery, including watches
	<a href="#"><u>ALL RACE OFFICIALS shall:</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>OWS 3.51</u></a> <a href="#"><u>NEW</u></a>	TOWSC <i>Bureau recommends as amended:</i>	<a href="#"><u>Report any violation to the referee on a signed card detailing the event, and the rule infringement.</u></a> ..... <a href="#"><u>Report any violation to the Chief Referee on a signed card detailing the event, and the rule infringement.</u></a>
OWS 5	<b>THE VENUE</b>	
OWS 5	AUS Fed. <i>Bureau &amp; TOWSC do not recommend</i>	<i>Move the entire rule OWS 5 to Facilities Rules as FR 14</i>
OWS 5.3	USA Fed. <i>Bureau &amp; TOWSC do not recommend</i>	A certificate of suitability for use of the venue shall be issued by the appropriate local health and safety authorities. In general terms the certification must relate to water purity <a href="#"><u>as specified by an internationally accepted standard (i.e., World Health Organization) within the seven (7) days prior to the start of the meet</u></a> and to physical safety from other considerations.
OWS 5.5	ISL, DEN, FAR, NOR, SWE Feds. <i>Bureau &amp; TOWSC does not recommend</i>	The water temperature should be <del>a minimum of 16°C. It should be</del> checked the day of the race, 2 hours before the start, in the middle of the course at a depth of 40 cm. This control should be done in the presence of a Commission made up of the following persons present: a Referee, a member of the Organising Committee and one coach from the teams present designated during the Technical Meeting.
<a href="#"><u>OWS 5.5.1</u></a> <a href="#"><u>NEW</u></a>	ISL, DEN, FAR, NOR, SWE Feds. <i>Bureau &amp;</i>	<a href="#"><u>Swimsuits according to GR 5 shall be used in water temperatures of 20°C and higher. In water temperatures between 14°C and up to but not beyond 20°C, wetsuits shall be allowed. In water temperatures below 14°C competitions shall not be held.</u></a>

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	<i>TOWSC do not recommend</i>	
OWS 5.8	TOWSC  <i>Bureau recommends</i>	All <u>Feeding Platforms</u> , turning apparatus and Turn Judges craft/platforms shall be securely fixed in position and not be subject to tidal, wind or other movements.
OWS 6	THE RACE	
OWS 6.3.1	AUS Fed. <i>Bureau &amp; TOWSC do not recommend</i>	If in the opinion of the referee or an assistant referee, any swimmer or escort safety craft, <u>or a swimmer's approved representative</u> takes advantage of, by interfering with any swimmer <u>during the race or when feeding</u> , by making intentional contact with any swimmer, by placing or by slip streaming, the following procedures shall apply: 1st infringement: A yellow flag and a card bearing the swimmer's number shall be raised to indicate and to inform the swimmer that he is in violation of the rules. 2nd infringement: A red flag and a card bearing the swimmer's number shall be raised by the referee (ows 3.6) to indicate and to inform the swimmer that he is for the second time in violation of the rules. The swimmer shall be disqualified. He must leave the water immediately and be placed in an escort craft, and take no further part in the race.
OWS 6.3.1	TOWSC  <i>Bureau recommends</i>	If in the Opinion of the <u>Chief Referee</u> or <del>an Assistant Referees</del> , any swimmer, <u>or swimmer's approved representative</u> , or escort safety craft, takes advantage <del>of by committing any violation of the rules by interfering with any swimmer</del> , by making intentional contact with any swimmer <del>by pacing or by slip streaming</del> , the following proceeding shall apply: 1st Infringement: A yellow flag and a card bearing the swimmer's number shall be raised to indicate and to inform the swimmer that he is in violation of the Rules. 2nd Infringement: A red flag and a card bearing the swimmer's number shall be raised by the Referee (OWS 3.6) to indicate and to inform the swimmer that he is for the second time in violation of the Rules. The swimmer shall be disqualified. He must leave the water immediately and be placed in an escort craft, and take no further part in the race.
OWS 6.3.2	AUS Fed.  <i>Bureau &amp; TOWSC do not recommend</i>	If in the opinion of the Head Referee <u>and/or the Assistant Referee</u> , an action of a swimmer or an escort <u>safety</u> craft, <u>or a swimmers approved representative</u> is deemed to be 'unsporting' the referee or assistant referee shall disqualify the swimmer concerned immediately according to the FINA Rule <u>OWS 3.6 A red flag and a card bearing the swimmer's number shall be raised by the Referee or Assistant Referee to indicate and inform the swimmer and/or the swimmers approved representative of the disqualification.</u>
OWS 6.3.2	TOWSC	If in the opinion of <del>the</del> <u>a</u> Referee, an action of a swimmer or an escort

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	<i>Bureau recommends</i>	<u>safety</u> craft, <u>or a swimmer's approved representative</u> is deemed to be 'unsporting' the referee <del>or assistant referee</del> shall disqualify the swimmer concerned immediately. <del>according to the FINA Rule.</del>
OWS 6.12	TOWSC <i>Bureau recommends</i>	Coaching and the giving of instructions by the <u>approved</u> swimmer's representative <u>on the feeding platform or</u> in the escort safety craft is permitted. No whistle shall be allowed. <del>on an escort boat.</del>
OWS 6.14	TOWSC <i>Bureau recommends</i>	All swimmers shall have their competition number clearly displayed in waterproof ink on their upper back, <del>and</del> arms <u>and hands</u> .
OWS 7	<b>The Finish of the Race</b>	
OWS 7.2.1	TOWSC <i>Bureau recommends</i>	When automatic Officiating Equipment is used for timing of competitions in accordance with rule SW 11, microchip transponder technology <u>capable of providing split times is mandatory and</u> should be added to the Equipment. Use of microchip transponder technology is mandatory for competitions at the World Championships and Olympic Games. Microchip transponder timing technology will be recorded officially in tenths of seconds. The final places will be determined by the referee based upon the finish judges' report and the finish video tape.
OWS 7.2.2	AUS Fed. <i>Bureau &amp; TOWSC recommends</i>	It is mandatory for all swimmers to wear a microchip transponder on each wrist throughout the race. If a swimmer loses a transponder the <del>boat</del> <u>Race</u> Judge or other authorised Official, will immediately inform the Referee who will instruct the responsible Official on the water to issue a replacement transponder. Any swimmer who finishes the race without a transponder will be disqualified.