

To: NPC's widely and regularly practicing swimming

Bonn, 14 January 2016

Dear NPC/NF Representatives,

IPC Swimming has received few question and feedback from NPC's and in response to these we would like to draw your attention to the following information:

- **Codes of Exception**

The IPC Swimming Codes of Exception have been revised, removing some of the codes that are not necessary for officials anymore. The removed Codes of Exception are listed below:

The 'W' and 'F' have been withdrawn as the IPC Swimming Rules and Regulations allow for these exceptions (3.1.3.5 and 3.1.3.6).

The 'G' has been withdrawn – technical officials check the goggles of Class 11 athletes at the finish of the event, unless they have prosthetics in both eyes. It is not necessary for the technical officials to be informed that an athlete has prosthetics. The 'B' code still remains, which informs the technical official which S11/SB11/SM11 swimmers are required to wear blackened goggles (those who do not have two (2) prosthetic eyes or eyes).

The 'P' has been withdrawn – this code of exception had no use for the technical official.

IPC Swimming published the [Codes of Exception Information Sheet](#), which provides further information and the relevant rule requirements and numbers.

- **Feet / Foot Start**

Rule 3.1.3.6 states ‘Sport Class S1-3 swimmers are permitted to have their foot/feet held to the wall, until the starting signal is given. Giving momentum to the swimmer at the start is not permitted.’

Based on IPC Swimming interpretation any swimmer with a Sport Class of 1 – 3 can utilise this rule. For example, an athlete with the Sport Class S4/SB3/SM4 can utilise a foot/feet start for Breaststroke designated events.

IPC Swimming will change this wording in future rule books to read S/SB/SM 1 – 3.

- **Heats at IPC Swimming Events**

If based on the official start list a heat is scheduled to take place, and for some reason only 8 or less swimmers appear, the heat will still be swum.

Only scheduled direct finals will be swum as direct finals.

- **Reporting to the Call Room at IPC Swimming Competitions**

Athletes are required to report to the call room no later than 15min before their scheduled event. If an athlete is late from the call room and receives DNS, rule 2.6.3 will apply.

Reserves for finals must also report on time to the call room officials and register their attendance (rule 2.7.3). It is not sufficient for an athlete to look and see that the 8 swimmers for the final are already in the call room and therefore not register. In case the reserve(s) don’t report properly to the call room officials then rule 2.6.3 will apply.

- **Body Advertisement**

Rule 2.14.4 states ‘Body advertisements are not allowed in any way whatsoever (this includes tattoos and symbols)’. IPC Swimming hereby confirms that the wearing of the IPC Swimming logo or Agitos symbol is permitted.

This regulation may be superseded by specific rules and regulations for the Paralympic Games.

- **Re-swims**

Occasionally it is necessary to hold a re-swim of an event; this could be because of an incident within a race or to determine the finalist or reserves to progress through to a final.

In those cases, it is useful if NPC’s understand how the process is undertaken.

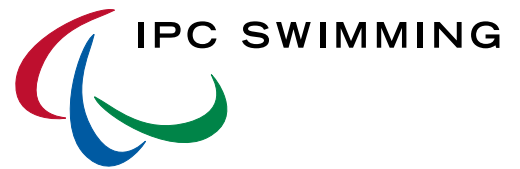
When a re-swim is required, IPC Swimming will make an announcement calling for specific Team Leaders. All Team Leaders are requested to report to the TD/IPC Swimming office and the TD will individually ask the Team Leaders if their athlete wishes to re-swim. The athlete usually has the choice to re-swim or not, however if the incident occurs in a final, the Referee may order the final to be re-swum.

If the athlete chooses to re-swim, the time of the re-swim will become the athlete’s official time and the time from the initial swim will be null and void.

Once the final number of swimmers to re-swim is known, the time of the re-swim will be decided by the TD and inserted into the programme. It is important that the Team Leader remains on site, to avoid any delays in this process and wherever possible the athlete should also remain on site.

- **Change of Sport Class and qualification (MQS)**

Further to rule 2.5.2, if and when an athlete is re-classified and changes class (either having a higher or lower Sport Class class), the athlete must achieve an MQS in their new Sport Class to qualify for future competitions.



Should you have any questions please contact the office at your convenience.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Agnes Szilak".

Agnes Szilak
IPC Swimming Sport Senior Manager
International Paralympic Committee