

Coaches

Inclusion of Swimmers with a Disability

105.1 **Authority** -The USA Swimming Rules & Regulations grant the Referee the authority to modify the rules for the swimmer with a disability. Disability is defined as a permanent physical or cognitive disability that substantially limits one or more major life activities. This section contains guidelines and suggestions for making such modifications. Reference 701.24 for Open Water competitions.

.2 Responsibilities

A. **Swimmer** — The swimmer (or the swimmer's coach) is responsible for notifying the Referee, prior to the competition, of any disability of the swimmer and of the requested modification. The swimmer/coach shall provide a Personal Assistant(s) or any equipment (tappers, deck mats, etc.) if required.

May use Meet Accommodation Form when entering your Swimmer with a disability to alert the Meet Referee of any accommodations/ technical modifications your swimmer(s) may need. Form is below.

- ❖ Any information regarding a swimmer's needs to be sent by entry deadlines specific to any meet information.
- ❖ Suggestion: You, as coaches, know your swimmers and the strokes. Be early and proactive in communicating with the meet referee about what your swimmer needs to have a parallel competitive experience.

The following information is to help facilitate the conversation between coaches and meet referees to provide a parallel performance for Central Zone athletes.

Accommodations - Necessary for a swimmer with a disability to access the facility and maneuver to the block.

Examples of Meet Accommodations:

- Towel on the block to start.
- Assistance at the block before the start.
- Takes longer to get to block or exit the pool.
- Lane preference, the outside lane closest to the starter
- Personal Assistant for mobility or communication.
- Strobe at the blocks

Modifications - Any modification of the technical rules allowing a parallel performance for a swimmer with a disability.

Examples of Modifications per Art. 105 in accordance with 105.1.2.

- Sitting position on block 105.5.1.E(1).
- Starter's arm signals 105.3.1
- Personal Assistant for mobility, tapper (B/VI) or communication, etc. 105.1.3.C and elsewhere.
- Legs, due to immobility, are unable to perform Breaststroke Kick 105.5.2.
- Arms, due to immobility, are unable to perform Breaststroke Touch 101.2.4 Butterfly Touch 101.3.4 Backstroke start 101.4.1

Questions, contact: Your LSCs Disability Contact or Susan Mechler CZ Disability Coordinator (513)305-2848
susan.mechler@gmail.com

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