

# OFFICIALS' BRIEFING

- Assignments
- Deck Protocol

- Jurisdiction
- Special Information

## BREASTSTROKE

**Start:** Forward start.

**Stroke:** Body kept on breast (shoulders at or past vertical towards the breast). Stroke cycle is one arm pull and one leg kick in that order. Simultaneous arm movement in same horizontal plane. After start and each turn one arm stroke may be completely back to legs. Head must break surface at widest part of second pull. Recovery by the hands from the breast on, under, or over the water. Elbows under water except last stroke before turn or finish. During each complete cycle, some part of head shall break the surface of the water.

**Kick:** After start and each turn, prior to the first breaststroke kick, a single butterfly kick is permitted. Movement of the legs shall be simultaneous vertically and horizontally. Feet turned out during propulsive part of kick. No alternating, scissors, or butterfly kick, except as stated, is allowed.

**Turns/** Shoulders at or past vertical toward breast when feet leave wall.

**Finish:** Touch shall be made with both hands separated and simultaneously at, above, or below the water surface. At the last stroke before the turn and at the finish an arm stroke not followed by a leg kick is permitted. 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 last complete or incomplete stroke cycle preceding the touch.

## BUTTERFLY

**Start:** Forward start.

**Stroke:** Body kept on breast (shoulders at or past vertical towards the breast). Multiple kicks permitted but first arm pull must bring swimmer to the surface. Some part of the swimmer must break surface throughout the race except swimmer may be submerged after start and each turn not more than 15 meters where head must break surface. Arms, shoulder to wrist, brought forward over water and pulled back simultaneously.

**Kick:** Simultaneous up and down movement. No alternating, scissors, or breaststroke kicking movements.

**Turns/** Shoulders at or past vertical toward breast when the swimmer leaves wall.

**Finish:** Touch shall be made with both hands separated and simultaneously at, above, or below the water surface.

## BACKSTROKE

**Start:** In water facing start end with both hands on gutter or starting grips.

- (a) guttered pool - feet/toes may be above the water, but may not be in, on, above lip, or bent over the gutter at any time before or after start.
- (b) flat wall pads - feet/toes may be placed above the water level.
- (c) when using backstroke ledges – one toe from each foot must be in contact with the wall.

**Stroke/** Any style as long as swimmer remains on back (shoulders at or past vertical towards the back).  
**Kick:** Some part of the swimmer must break surface throughout the race except swimmer may be submerged after start and each turn not more than 15 meters where head must break surface.

**Turns:** During turn swimmer may go past vertical to the breast and may utilize a continuous single or continuous simultaneous double arm pull to initiate the turn. Some part of swimmer must touch wall at completion of each length. Shoulders at or past vertical toward back when feet leave wall.

**Finish:** Some part of swimmer must touch the wall while on the back.

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## FREESTYLE

**Start:** Forward start.

**Stroke/** Any style may be used.

**Kick:** Some part of the swimmer must break surface throughout the race except swimmer may be submerged after start and each turn not more than 15 meters where head must break surface.

**Turns/** Some part of swimmer must touch the wall at completion of each length or required distance.

**Finish:**

## INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY

**Start:** Forward start.

**Stroke:** Rules for each stroke apply.  
Must swim  $\frac{1}{4}$  of event distance as prescribed stroke, in order of Butterfly, Backstroke, Breaststroke, and Freestyle.  
May not swim in the style of the other three strokes during the freestyle leg. During freestyle leg, swimmer must be on the breast (shoulders at or past vertical towards the breast) except when executing a turn.

**Kick:** Rules for each stroke apply.

**Turns/** Intermediate turns conform to turn rules for the stroke. During freestyle to freestyle turn, swimmer must return to breast (shoulders at or past vertical towards the breast) prior to any kick or stroke.

**Finishes:** Transition turns conform to finish rules for the stroke being finished and start rules for the stroke being started. During breaststroke to freestyle turn, swimmer must return to breast (shoulders at or past vertical towards the breast) prior to any kick or stroke. Some part of swimmer must touch the wall at completion of each length or required distance.

## RELAYS

### **FREESTYLE RELAY**

Freestyle rules apply.  
Each swimmer must swim  $\frac{1}{4}$  of distance.

### **MEDLEY RELAY**

Rules pertaining to each stroke apply.  
Each swimmer must swim  $\frac{1}{4}$  of event distance as prescribed stroke, in order of Backstroke, Breaststroke, Butterfly and Freestyle.  
May not swim in the style of the other three strokes during the freestyle leg. During freestyle leg, swimmer must be on the breast (shoulders at or past vertical towards the breast) except when executing a turn. Swimmer must return to breast (shoulders at or past vertical towards the breast) prior to any kick or stroke.

**Takeoffs:** Swimmers feet/foot must remain in contact with the starting platform until the incoming swimmer has touched the finish wall or pad.

## JURISDICTION

**Stroke Judge:** Wall to wall - start to finish.

**Turn Judge:** Start - From entry into water through completion of first arm stroke.  
Turn - Last stroke and kick prior to touch and through first arm stroke after the turn.  
Finish - Ensure completion conforms to finish rules.

**OR:** As assigned by the Referee who has full control and authority over all officials.

## **BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT GOES TO THE SWIMMER**

Call what you see and see what you call.