
Swimmers with Disabilities – Meet Situations & Resolutions

Situation 1: Tourette's & False Start Concern

Scenario:

Coach requests swimmer with Tourette's not be disqualified for a false start.

Resolution:

- Rule 101.1.2.c: Starter gives signal when all are stationary.
- Rule 101.1.3A: Early starts = DQ if confirmed by both Referee & Starter.
- No specific allowance for involuntary forward movement.

Action:

- Inform Starter & Deck Referee of swimmer's condition.
 - Clarify uncontrolled movement ≠ false start.
 - Coach or Personal Assistant (PA) may remain at block.
-

Situation 2: Autistic Swimmer – Coach Unsure About Accommodations

Scenario:

Coach unsure how to support a new swimmer with autism.

Resolution:

- Needs vary: sensory issues, communication, anxiety, etc.
 - Permitted:
 - Parent or PA to accompany swimmer.
 - May bypass Clerk of Course and go directly to blocks.
 - Needs may decrease with experience.
-

Situation 3: Breaststroke – Leg Modification Clarified

Scenario:

Swimmer with modified leg use commits a non-leg rule violation (non-simultaneous touch).

Resolution:

- Only leg actions are modified.
- All other rules still apply.
- DQ should be called for non-leg violation.

Situation 4: Breaststroke – Feet Not Turned Out

Scenario:

Swimmer inconsistently fails to turn out feet during the kick.

Resolution:

- Breaststroke requires outward foot rotation.
 - DQ is appropriate — violation of stroke rule.
-

Situation 5: Breaststroke – Extra Butterfly Kicks

Scenario:

Swimmer with one modified leg performs two butterfly kicks with unmodified leg.

Resolution:

- Rule allows one downward butterfly kick at start/turn.
 - DQ should be made — modification does not cover unmodified limb.
-

Situation 6: Missing Accommodation Info – One Working Limb

Scenario:

Swimmer has only one functioning arm/leg. No advance notice or modification form submitted.

Resolution:

- Official must report non-simultaneous movement.
 - Notify Deck Referee.
 - No pre-approved modification = DQ is correct.
 - Coach should be informed; MR may overturn based on Rule 105 after discussion.
-

Situation 7: Butterfly – No Legs, One Partial Arm

Scenario:

10U swimmer arrives on skateboard, swims butterfly with arms out of sync. No notice given.

Resolution:

- No formal accommodation = standard rules apply.
- DQ accepted for non-simultaneous arms.

Situation 8: Backstroke – Delay of Turn

Scenario:

13&O swimmer with partial paralysis has significant delay in backstroke turn.

Resolution:

- No disability modification allows delay of turn.
- DQ upheld by Deck and Meet Referees.

Situation 9: Breaststroke – Breathing Every Other Stroke

Scenario:

Swimmer with dwarfism breathes every other stroke but head surfaces each time.

Resolution:

- Rule requires head to break surface each stroke.
- No DQ – Legal performance confirmed.

Situation 10: Freestyle – Standing & Push-Off

Scenario:

Swimmer turns, stands up, and pushes off bottom mid-race. Disability not disclosed.

Resolution:

- Standing/pushing off = clear rule violation.
 - DQ correct and upheld.
 - Coach later connected to Disability Chair for education and clarification.
-