



GUIDELINES FOR REFEREES FOR FINA EXCEPTIONS - MULTIDISABILITY

S1 – S10	SB1 – SB9	SM1 – SM10	=	Functional Classification System	FINA with exceptions below
S11 – S13	SB11 – SB13	SM11 – SM13	=	Blind	FINA with exceptions below
S14	SB14	SM14	=	Intellectual Disability	FINA with no exceptions

Strokes	Exceptions	Interpretation
Start SW 4	Nil	No exceptions
	Assistance – own country’s support staff Volunteer – assistance required	Requires someone to assist ie assistance required to get onto the block; assistance is required to steady the swimmer on the block. Cannot be held past the vertical
SW 4.1	Water with one hand in contact with the poolside	Starting in the water but is required to remain stationary
SW 4.1	Feet – classes S1, S2 & S3 only	Start in the water with someone holding the swimmers feet onto the wall.
SW 4.1	Light or touch	Swimmer is deaf
SW 4.1	Touch start	Swimmer is blind and/or deaf
SW 4.1	Beside the platform	Unable to start on the platform
SW 4.1	Sit dive	Sitting on the platform to dive. For protection one layer of towel or chamois can be used
SW 4.1	Assisted water start	Requires someone to hold the swimmers arm/hand on poolside
	Starting device	Device is not to enhance the swimmers true ability above their classification level
Freestyle SW 5	Nil	No exceptions
SW 5.3	Swimmer may be completely submerged during part of the stroke cycle after the start and turn 15m rule	Swimmers performing ie two arm backstroke, may be completely submerged during part of the stroke cycle but are required to break the surface during some part of each stroke cycle
Backstroke SW 6	Nil	No exceptions
SW 6.1	One hand start	One hand only is capable to grip the starting grip
SW 6.1	Assistance required for the start. Or the use of a starting device	Someone is required to assist the swimmer due to the disability ie no arms; arms are restricted; legs are restricted. No sculling allowed
SW 6.1	Feet start – classes S1, S2 & S3 only	Someone holding the feet onto the wall. Toes must be under the water.
SW 6.1	Making contact with the end of the pool	Not able to hold the starting grips but is to remain stationary
SW 6.1	Unable to grip starting grips (holding onto pooldeck/or top of touch pads)	Hands not able to grip starting grips
SW 6.3	Swimmer may be completely submerged during part of the stroke cycle after the start and turn 15m rule	Swimmers performing ie two arm backstroke may be completely submerged during part of the stroke cycle but are required to break the surface during some part of each stroke cycle

Breaststroke SW 7	Nil	No exceptions
SW 7.1	Body not on the breast at start or turns	Swimmer with no leg use. Is able to perform one asymmetrical stroke
SW 7.4	Show intent to kick and show intent on the horizontal plane	Both legs are affected to some point and therefore the feet do not have to turn out and there is an attempt to perform the breaststroke kick
SW 7.5	Left or right foot must turn out	Left or right leg with no disability
SW 7.5	Leg drag	No kick
SW 7.6	One hand touch	Stroke is performed with only one arm
SW 7.6	One hand touch with simultaneous intent to touch with other	Stroke is performed with two arms with one full good arm and the other being only a part of an arm or it is an affected arm
SW 7.6	Part of the upper body touch	No arms or the arms are too short to extend above the head
SW 7.7	One arm stroke constitutes a full cycle	Non functional arm. Leg movement only
SW 7.7	One arm cycle to constitute a complete cycle	No use of legs. Arm movements only
SW 7.7	One leg kick cycle to constitute a complete cycle	No arms or no use of arms
Butterfly SW 8	Nil	No exceptions
SW 8.1	Able to perform one asymmetrical stroke at start & turn	No use of legs
SW 8.1	The body must be kept on a breast	All swimmers also required to have both shoulders in line with the normal water surface unless identified as having a disability where this is not possible (dropped shoulder)
SW 8.2	If too close to the lane ropes and not able to bring arms forward together or simultaneously	Blind swimmer [S11 & S12]
SW 8.2 SW 8.5	At the final stroke at the turn and/or finish a breaststroke arm movement is permitted	No use of legs
SW 8.3	Simultaneous movement of the legs constitutes the stroke	No arms or use of arms.
SW 8.2	One arm stroke constitutes a full cycle	One arm or part of an arm or a non functional arm
SW 8.3	Breaststroke kick permitted	All swimmers
SW 8.3	No kick	No leg movement or non functional legs
SW 8.4	One hand touch	Stroke is performed with only one arm
SW 8.4	One hand touch with simultaneous intent to touch with other	Stroke is performed with two arms with one full good arm and the other being only a part of an arm or it is an affected arm
SW 8.4	Part of the upper body touch	No arms or the arms are too short to extend above the head
	Breaststroke arm stroke	No leg function therefore may perform a half stroke with the arm/s recovering forward

Medley SW 9	Nil	No exceptions
SW 9.1	150m individual medley offered	No butterfly included
The Race SW 10		
SW 10.2	Swimmer may inadvertently surface in the wrong lane	Blind swimmers – S11 & and some S12
SW 10.13	Swimmers may remain in their lane until the completion of the race	Classes S1, S2, S3, S4 & S5 only may stay in the water but must move away from the touch pads but not interfere with the next lane
Others	Tapper	Compulsory for S11, SB11, SM11 swimmers required having someone to indicate when the swimmer is to turn and finish. For any event over 50m [Long Course] or a 50m event [Short Course] two tapers per swimmer are required ie one at each end. Also includes FCS swimmers who have applied due to medical reasons.
	Blackened in goggles	Compulsory for S11, SB11, SM11 swimmers Goggles that no light can be seen through. Exceptions are those swimmers who have prosthetic or glass eyes.
	No prosthetics [artificial limb] to be worn when competing	
	Medical/lifeguard	Medical alert due to existing condition
SW 10.7	Strapping/Taping	The strapping/taping the swimmer is required to gain clearance from the IPC Swimming medical officer prior to competition. If the clearance is not received it will result in the swimmer being disqualified.

For further information the IPC Swimming rule booklet may be obtained, free of charge, at the following address

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