

2024 Instructions to Competitors for the Australian Winter Swimming Titles at ORANGE AQUATIC CENTRE

1. **7.45am CHECK IN & CAPTAINS MEETING** with Carnival Referee. Captains must submit names for ALL Relay Teams at this time. Nominated Time Relay entries will be accepted in the Marshalling Area up until 9.30am. Entries will be not accepted after this time.
2. **8am - CARNIVAL START**
3. **CAPS** – All competitors in all events must start with their own clubs caps securely in place.
4. **STARTING & FINISHING BOARDS** - Only officials and members competing are allowed in these areas.
5. **MARSHALLING** – All competitors must assemble promptly in the marshalling area when called. Failure to do so at the appropriate time may result in disqualification. **Watches are not to be worn** by any competitor in any event, disqualification may occur, officials in this area will advise competitors to remove all jewellery and watches where applicable.
6. **STARTS – THE ONE START RULE SHALL APPLY** – On a long whistle from the Referee the swimmers shall step onto the starting platform and remain there. On the Starters command “Take Your Marks” they shall immediately take up the starting position with at least one foot at the front of the starting platforms. The position of the hands is not relevant. When all swimmers are stationary, the Starter shall give the starting signal.

Any swimmers starting before the starting signal shall be disqualified. This shall include swimmers who enter the water after the command “Take your mark” has been given. If the starting signal sounds before the disqualification is declared, the race shall continue and the swimmer(s) shall be disqualified upon completion of the race. If the disqualification is declared before the starting signal, the signal will not be given until the remaining swimmers are called back. They will be reminded of the penalties and the race will then be started.

It is permissible for the Starter to give a “Stand Up” command if a swimmer is not stationary or is slow taking his starting position. If the swimmers are asked to “Stand Up” and a swimmer or swimmers do go into the water, if in the opinion of the Deputy Referee the false start was caused by the Starter, then the Deputy Referee shall have the discretion to allow the swimmers to start again.

7. **REFEREE** – The Carnival Referee will have the authority to disqualify any swimmer for any violation of the rules that he personally observes or which is reported to him by authorised officials (SW2.16A refers)
8. **ELIGIBILITY-1** – The carnival is open to members of clubs affiliated with the Winter Swimming Association of Australia prior to the August Council Meeting. **All Competitors must have competed in at least FIVE (5) separate swims/days with their club between the months of May to September in outdoor venues unless specific exemption has been granted by the WSAA or Rule 9.3 applies.** All competitors in the individual and relay championships including the nominated time relay are restricted to swimmers of **18 years and older**.
9. **ELIGIBILITY-2** – Competitors’ are eligible to swim/compete for **ONE Club Only** at the Australian Winter Swimming Titles.

10. **POINTS** – Points allocated for the Championship Finals will be 4-3-2-1-1-1-1-1-1(10 places) If disqualified in a Final, points earned in the heat will still count. NIL Points for Disqualification in Heats.
Mixed Open Relay & Timed Relay's are NOT Championship Event's, therefore no points will be awarded to overall Pennant Pointscore. **Mixed Open Relay will count towards the Combined Trophy.**
11. For an Event to be classified as a **Championship Event there must be a minimum of 4 nominations** when swim entries are due and at least **3 competitors/teams start in the event at the Championships**. For those events that are not Championship events, medals will still be awarded but **NO** points will be awarded to the overall Pennant Pointscore or Combined Trophy.
12. **PROTEST'S** – All protest's must be **'in writing to the referee within 30 minutes'** from the Posting of Results at the Pool or the Announcement of Results at the Presentation Dinner. As per the Official Swim Rules of the Winter Swimming Association of Australia.