

## SWIMMING RULES FOR WINTER SWIMMING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

### 1. GENERAL

These rules shall apply to the WSAA National Championships to be held each year, preferably on the third Sunday in the month of September. The Association will conduct the National Championships in accordance with the rules of Australian Swimming Incorporated (ASI) except as herein varied. Reference to a club means an affiliated member club of the Association.

### 2. EVENTS

The events to be conducted in the Championship program are:

#### Individual

- Over 90 Years: 50 Metre Sprint (Male)
- Over 85 Years: 50 Metre Sprint (Male)
- Over 80 Years: 50 Metre Sprint (Male and Female)
- Over 75 Years: 50 Metre Sprint (Male and Female)
- Over 70 Years: 50 Metre Sprint (Male and Female)
- Over 65 Years: 50 Metre Sprint (Male and Female)
- Over 60 Years: 50 Metre Sprint (Male and Female)
- Over 55 Years: 50 Metre Sprint (Male and Female)
- Over 50 Years: 50 Metre Sprint (Male and Female)
- Over 45 Years: 50 Metre Sprint (Male and Female)
- Over 40 Years: 50 Metre Sprint (Male and Female)
- Over 35 Years: 50 Metre Sprint (Male and Female)
- Over 30 Years: 50 Metre Sprint (Male and Female)
- Over 25 Years: 50 Metre Sprint (Male and Female)
- Open : 50 Metre Sprint (Male and Female)

#### Relays

- Over 80 Years: 4 x 50 Metres (Male)
- Over 70 Years: 4 x 50 Metres (Male) and 4 x 50 Metres (Female)
- Over 60 Years: 6 x 50 Metres (Male) and 4 x 50 Metres (Female)
- Over 50 Years: 6 x 50 Metres (Male) and 4 x 50 Metres (Female)
- Over 40 Years: 6 x 50 Metres (Male) and 4 x 50 Metres (Female)
- Over 30 Years: 6 x 50 Metres (Male) and 4 x 50 Metres (Female)
- Open : 10 x 50 Metres (Male) and 6 x 50 Metres (Female)
- Mixed Open : 4 x 50 Metres (2 x Male + 2 x Female) Points to Combined Pointscore Trophy

**For and Event to be classified as a Championship Event there must be a Minimum of 4 Nominations when Entries are due and a Minimum of 3 Competitors Starting at the Championships. In the event of only 1 or 2 swimmers/teams at the Championships then Medals may be presented but no Championship Points will awarded.**

### **Open Mixed Timed Relay**

A Nominated Time, ten x 50 metre trophy event will be conducted but will not be included in the Carnival Point score. Clubs may enter a maximum of three teams. Clubs must, prior to the commencement of the event, nominate which teams are to be eligible for the "A" Grade Trophy & Medals or "B & C" Grade Medals. Timing assistance of any type will result in disqualification.

## **3. COMPETITORS**

- 3.1. Each competitor in the Championships shall be a financial member of his club and have competed on at least five (5) separate days in that club's weekly swimming competition during the current winter season. It is up to the President and Captain or Secretary of each competing club to sign a declaration at the back of the Championship Entry Form that all of their swimmers comply with the 5-swim rule otherwise disqualifications may occur.
- 3.2. New members joining a club after 31st July, and nominated by that club as a championship competitor, may be required by the WSAA Secretary to provide a birth certificate or statutory declaration as to his/her age and the dates of his/her qualifying swims.
- 3.3. Each competitor shall start in his/her event with their own club cap securely in place.
- 3.4. Competitors may represent and swim for only one club at the Championships.

## **4. COMPETITOR QUALIFICATIONS**

- 4.1. Each club is restricted to two (2) entries per age event.
  - 4.1.1. Replacements for individual events will be accepted from close of entry nominations up until 1 week prior to the Championships. All replacements must be sent to the Carnival Referee only and will not appear in the official Championship printed programme. After this date entries may only be accepted in writing at the discretion of the Carnival Referee.
  - 4.1.2. Each club is permitted to enter one (1) team per relay age group. The names of the individuals in each relay team, including up to two (2) reserves are to be written on the entry cards and handed to the Marshalls prior to the event commencing. These individuals are the only competitors that can comprise the team for both heat and final.
- 4.2. In age events each competitor must have reached the minimum age on or before the day of the competition.
- 4.3. Competitors may swim down in age groups in both individual and relay events providing it causes no undue delay between events.
- 4.4. Open events are restricted to competitors who are eighteen (18) years of age or over, on or before the day of competition.

## **5. SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES**

- 5.1. Each club that intends to compete in the Annual Championships must complete an entry form. This form must be presented to the Carnival Secretary within the time limit as decided by the WSAA to enable inclusion in the program. The Referee must approve subsequent alterations or amendments to the nominated listings.

- 5.2. Each entry form must be accompanied by a declaration, in the format and content decided by the WSAA, to the effect that the club has complied with the Rules of the Association so far as the Rules affect that club. Such declaration is to be signed by the President, Secretary or Club Captain of the club at the time of submission of entries.
- 5.3. Each club is required to keep an accurate listing of financial members and weekly competition records of all club competitors.

## **6. POINT SCORES**

- 6.1. Points in all final events shall be as follows:

First:	4 Points
Second:	3 Points
Third:	2 Points
Fourth to Tenth:	1 Point (from fastest times in heats)
- 6.2. A point will still be allocated to an individual or relay team should they be disqualified during a final.
- 6.3. A finalist must notify the Referee or Chief Marshall of his/her intention to withdraw from a race final in sufficient time for arrangements to be made for a reserve swimmer to compete.
- 6.4. If a finalist fails to report for a final without prior notification his/her club point is forfeited.
- 6.5. Separate Point Score Championship awards will be made for the male and female events.

## **7. DEAD HEAT**

- 7.1. In the event of a Dead Heat points shall be allocated as follows.

First:	3 1/2 Points each
Second:	2 1/2 Points each
Third:	1 1/2 Points each
- 7.2. In the event of a dead heat for first place in the overall point score the winner will be decided on the basis of most points scored in the relay events.
- 7.3. A championship pennant will be awarded to the Club or clubs winning the overall male and female point scores.

## **8. POOL CONDITIONS**

- 8.1. All Annual National Championships shall preferably be conducted in an open-air, fifty (50) metre pool containing at least eight (8) lanes.
- 8.2. An automatic timing and officiating device must be utilised at the Championships. Any such device must meet the standards set down by ASI. For a Championship to be conducted without such equipment, consent must be obtained from the Association.

## **9. COMPETITION RULES AND OFFICIALS DUTIES**

- 9.1. The Annual Championships shall be conducted under the Rules of Swimming as detailed in Section 3 of the ASI Handbook. (SW2 Items 1 to 18A inclusive), and variations as herein listed.
  - 9.1.1. Bodysuits, aquaskins and the like are banned from use in the Association's National Championships.

- 9.1.2. If a competitor needs to wear a different type of costume than a normal competition type, he/she must produce a medical certificate or other evidence to the Carnival Director/Referee, who shall decide if he/she can compete in that different costume.
- 9.2. Championship swimming events will be conducted under the One Start Rule unless clubs are advised differently in writing prior to the Championships and subject to the discretion of the Referee where undue circumstances affect the start.
- 9.3. Long serving members of clubs who have at least ten (10) years of competitive swimming with that club, shall still be eligible to swim for that club, provided that they remain financial members of that club. They may complete their five (5) qualifying swims (Rule 3.1) with any Association affiliated club.
- 9.4. These Rules are an adjunct to, but do not form part of the WSAA Inc Constitution. Permanent or temporary changes to these Rules can only be made by passing a resolution to that effect at a Council or General Meeting of the Association. Member Clubs or the Competition Committee may propose changes to these Rules. Such proposed changes must be advised in writing to clubs and be listed as a business item to be determined at the next Council or General Meeting held after the proposal is made to and received by the Secretary. N.B. All references to ASI are deemed to include WSAA.

## **10. COMPETITION COMMITTEE**

A Competition Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Association each year. This committee is responsible for the management of the competition, ensuring that all championship events are concluded according to WSAA and ASI requirements. The committee will comprise, amongst others:

- (i) Carnival Director/Referee (elected as an Office Bearer of the Management Committee)
- (ii) Carnival Secretary (elected as an Office Bearer of the Management Committee)
- (iii) Deputy Referee A
- (iv) Deputy Referee B
- (v) Chief Marshall
- (vi) Registrar
- (vii) Chief Timekeeper
- (viii) Chief Judge
- (ix) Communications Officer/Announcer (one or two)
- (x) Host Organiser (if applicable)
- (xi) Publicity Officer
- (xii) Liaison Officer

Duties of these Competition Committee members shall include:

- 10.1. The Carnival Secretary shall be responsible for:
  - (i) calling for entries from all eligible clubs
  - (ii) determining, in consultation with the Carnival Director/Referee, the eligibility of competitors
  - (iii) advising the Registrar of entries
  - (iv) distributing the results to all clubs
  - (v) any correspondence relating to the conduct of the Competition
  - (vi) preparing a program for the National Championships

- 10.2. The Carnival Director/Referee shall be responsible for ensuring that the Championships are conducted in accordance with the WSAA guidelines and the ASI Rules and for the liaison between the WSAA and the host club regarding any issues involving the venue or pool.
- 10.2.1. Prior to the Championships, the Carnival Director/Referee shall:
- (i) ensure that the host club is aware of the division of responsibility between the host club and WSAA in regard to the Championships as agreed upon
  - (ii) where the host club cannot provide an item or items as required in the check list, make the necessary arrangements from another source
  - (iii) prepare a layout sketch of the pool and surrounds
  - (iv) ensure the availability of an efficient public address system
  - (v) ensure the availability of an effective telecommunication system for linking the Carnival Director/Referee with the:
    - Secretary - Deputy Referees A & B
    - Chief Marshall
    - Communications Officer/Announcer
    - Host Club Organiser
  - (vi) approve the arrangements for travel and accommodation for NSW Swimming Inc. personnel (computer and electronic timing and judging equipment)
  - (vii) arrange with the Secretary for delivery and pick up of entry sheets to the NSW Swimming Inc. official for the entry of competitors names in to the computer Check the computer list against each club's entry list. Check with the Secretary and NSW Swimming Inc. official if there is any anomaly
  - (viii) ensure help for NSW Swimming Inc. personnel prior to the carnival, if required
  - (ix) in conjunction with the Secretary collect programs
  - (x) calculate the estimated running time of the carnival, including time for the presentation of individual medals and for the formal addresses, once the computer listing of competitors' entries has been received
- 10.2.2. On the day of the Championships, the Carnival Director/Referee shall:
- (i) Check all areas prior to commencement of events:
    - Marshalling area
    - Start area and starter's positioning
    - Announcer location
    - Presentation area
    - Finish area for timekeepers and judges
    - Electronic computer and recording area
    - Area for judging changeover in relay events
  - (ii) conduct a tour around the pool and surrounds with the Competition Committee to confirm all facilities are as required
- 10.3. The Carnival Director/Referee shall have full control and authority over all swimming officials on the day of the Championships. The Carnival Director/Referee shall also convene and chair such meetings of the Competition Committee necessary to ensure the efficient running of the Annual Championships and

shall submit a written report to the first delegates meeting following the Championships. The Carnival Director/ Referee shall:

- (i) meet with club captains prior to the commencement of the carnival to outline entry card requirements, start procedure, disqualifications and appeals
- (ii) enforce all the Rules and decisions of the WSAA
- (iii) decide all questions relating to the actual conduct of the Championships
- (iv) adjudicate on all protests relating to the competition in progress
- (v) ensure all necessary officials for the conduct of the events or competition are at their respective posts
- (vi) decide on the disqualification of any competitor or team for any violation of the Rules as reported to him by other officials
- (vii) determine, in consultation with the Secretary, the eligibility of competitors
- (viii) convene, as necessary, a Disputes Committee to hear any protest or charge relating to a swimmer or team qualification to compete

10.4. Two Deputy Referees shall assist the Carnival Director/Referee in any area required. In the absence of the Carnival Director/Referee either deputy will be nominated to assume the same responsibilities and powers as the Carnival Director/Referee Specific duties shall include:

10.4.1. Deputy Referee A shall be responsible to the Carnival Director/Referee for the control of the Championship swimming events from the time the competitors are marshalled behind their blocks. This shall include:

- (i) control of the starter and any disqualification at the start. Such disqualification shall be notified to the Carnival Director/Referee
- (ii) ensuring the satisfactory placement and efficient working of timekeepers and judges (if applicable) in conjunction with the Chief Timekeeper and Chief Judge
- (iii) liaison with the officials operating the electronic timing equipment

10.4.2. Deputy Referee B shall be responsible to the Carnival Director/Referee for the smooth flow of competitors for the start of each race and for liaison with other officials to ensure the requirements of the Carnival Director/Referee, and the organising committee are met. This shall include:

- (i) ensuring that the Chief Marshall has established a satisfactory method for the competitors to report and for the allotment of competitors to heats and lanes
- (ii) liaison with the Carnival Director/Referee, Announcer and other officials regarding the presentations
- (iii) arranging for the provision of swim cards to competitors who have misplaced cards
- (iv) ensuring, in conjunction with the Chief Marshall, that the next fastest qualifier replaces any withdrawal from a final
- (v) co-ordinate with the relay changeover judging and notify Deputy Referee A for any agreed team disqualification

10.4.3. Disqualifications in Competition are to be reported by Deputy Referee A (or by Deputy Referee B at the turn end of Deputy Referee A) who shall advise the offending competitor or team. All disqualifications are to be notified verbally as well as formalised on the Infraction Report Form to the Carnival Referee who will forward this to the Computer Room.

10.5. The Chief Marshall shall be responsible to the Carnival Director/Referee through Deputy Referee B for:

- (i) ensuring that each competitor who reports with an entry card has been listed in the program and is marked off on the program
- (ii) ensuring that competitors report for their event and are allocated their heat and lane number in sufficient time to avoid any delays
- (iii) arranging for sufficient assistant Marshalls to achieve this, normally with two groups at separate tables who will handle alternate age group events to avoid congestion and delays in reporting
- (iv) ensuring the assistant Marshalls compile a listing, in lane order for each heat, of all competitor's names and clubs as they report and forward this to the computer operators for the Registrar
- (v) ensuring that the heat and lane numbers are also written on each card and that the cards for each heat are forwarded heat by heat to an assistant Marshall to place competitors behind the starting blocks in their correct lanes
- (vi) ensuring that the event board is kept up to date

10.6. The Registrar shall be responsible for:

- (i) the correct correlation of records prepared from the electronic timing by the computer operator and from the assistant Marshalls, Chief Timekeeper and Chief Judge
- (ii) the preparation and distribution to the responsible officials of a list of finalists and their lanes for each Championship event
- (iii) the compilation of a record of the results of all events for the Carnival Director/Referee and the Secretary
- (iv) the compilation of a point score from the results in accordance with Rules 6&7

10.7. The Chief Timekeeper shall be responsible for:

- (i) the collection of competitors' cards from the assistant Marshall behind the blocks and forwarding them, together with the computer printouts of the finish from both methods of electronic timing (touch pads and push buttons), to the Registrar
- (ii) if only one method of electronic timing is being used and manual stopwatches are required as the back-up, the competitors' cards shall first be distributed to the manual timekeepers to enter times, then collected for forwarding to the Registrar

10.8. The Chief Judge shall be responsible for:

- (i) arranging, in conjunction with Deputy Referee B, for at least two judges at each end of the pool to check for breaks in relay events. Additional judges should preferably be NSW Swimming Inc officials. If there is a majority decision of judges at one end for a disqualification on a relay changeover, Deputy Referee B shall notify Deputy Referee A so that the team/s can be advised before the last swimmers are whistled from the water. Such disqualifications shall be notified to the Carnival Director/Referee
- (ii) If only one method of electronic timing is being used, arranging for a panel of three judges to check judge each event and deciding a tentative result as a back-up to the electronic timing

10.9. Communication Officer/Announcer (one or two) shall be responsible for:

- (i) testing the telecommunications system linking the officials detailed in Rule 10.2.1(v) as arranged by the Carnival Director/Referee
- (ii) testing the public address system and advising the Carnival Director/Referee of any faults
- (iii) announcing the marshalling for events and the results
- (iv) announcing other information as requested by the Carnival Director/Referee or their authorised representative

- (v) keep competitors, officials and spectators informed in such a manner as to maintain a high level of interest in all aspects of the competition
- 10.10. Host Club Competition Organiser (as required) shall be a representative of the club delegated to ensure that all the requirements considered being the host responsibilities by the Competition Committee are carried out.
- 10.11. Publicity Officer shall be responsible for:
  - (i) in conjunction with any consultant hired for this work, all Association publicity relating to the Championships, including the publishing of the results
  - (ii) for advancing the interests and activities of the Association
- 10.12. Liaison Officer shall be the first person who is contacted to deal with all enquiries, requests, challenges and disputes.

## **11. PROTESTS**

- 11.1. A protest relating to the eligibility of a swimmer must be made in writing and be lodged with the Secretary who will consult the available records and confer with the Carnival Director/Referee.
- 11.2. A protest against eligibility will be heard by the Disputes Committee, which will comprise the Carnival Director/Referee, the Secretary and two members of the WSAA Management Committee. If a decision cannot be reached expeditiously charged swimmer may be allowed to compete subject to the matter in dispute referred to the WSAA Management Committee for investigation.
- 11.3. A protest regarding the ineligibility of a swimmer or club to complete in an event has been swum must be lodged in writing and tabled at the first meeting following the Championships. The protest must be detailed and specific in relation to the alleged offence.
- 11.4. In considering the charge of ineligibility, the WSAA Inc. Management Committee require an individual swimmer and/or club to provide such supporting evidence deemed appropriate.
- 11.5. A protest against a decision relating to an individual or team placing, breaking start or relay change is to be made in writing to the Carnival Director/Referee within thirty (30) minutes of the occurrence. Note that ASI Rules of Swimming state that "no protests shall be allowed against decisions of fact" and when the Starter and Deputy Referee agree on a fair start, this would normally be considered a decision of fact.
- 11.6. The Carnival Director/Referee will adjudicate on all protests relating to the competition in progress.

## **12. PENALTIES**

Where a charge laid under Rule 11.3 is deemed by the WSAA to be proven that the offending club was aware of the ineligibility of the competitor/s from their club the following will take place:

- (i) all placings and points gained by the club at the Championships forfeited
- (ii) the club will be required to show cause why it should not be suspended from the WSAA for a period of time determined by the Association
- (iii) the Championship point score will be adjusted and all trophies awarded to the club, including any pennant, will be returned to the WSAA



**13. APPEALS AGAINST DISQUALIFICATION**

The WSAA Inc. Management Committee will hear appeals against disqualifications relating to ineligibility. Appeals against the Management Committee's decision are subject to the provisions of Section 19 of the Constitution of WSAA.

**14. ROTATION OF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The National Championships will be rotated each year to the following venues or determined otherwise at the Annual General Meeting:

2024	ORANGE ACQUATIC CENTRE
2025	TBA
2026	TBA
2027	TBA

**15. MEDALS, SHIELDS AND TROPHIES**

15.1. Medals shall be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in all Championship events and the Nominated Time Relays A & B Relay. In the event of Dead Heats, the corresponding medals shall also be awarded. Medals for relay events (including the Handicap Relays), plus Championship Pennant, shall be presented at the dinner following the Championships.

15.2. All perpetual shields will be retained in a central repository and will be updated each year by the WSAA. The custodian of these shields is currently the Maroubra Seals Sports & Community Club Ltd.

**16. SWIMMER OF THE MEET**

This award, known as the John Stacpoole Memorial Trophy, shall be presented annually to the outstanding swimmer of the Championships. The selection panel for this award shall consist of the President, the Carnival Director/Referee, the Carnival Secretary and any two members of the Competition Committee deemed necessary.