

From: Daniel McAllen <d.mcalleniii@sbcglobal.net>
To: Michael Downs <mhd@cox.net>
Sent: Wed, September 28, 2011 9:42:45 AM
Subject: Re: Rule Clarification

Michael,

You have summarized accurately our telephone discussion of last evening. I would expect that the point of discussion where there may be some disagreement is the young butterfly swimmer who submerges after each stroke. In almost every case these young swimmers will be in violation of the recovery rule (some portion of the entire arm not recovering over the water) when they take their stroke upon getting back to the surface. It is a more easily understood violation, and less likely to be a controversial call.
Dan

From: Michael Downs <mhd@cox.net>
To: "d.mcalleniii@sbcglobal.net" <d.mcalleniii@sbcglobal.net>
Cc: pat@wurkconcepts.com
Sent: Wed, September 28, 2011 8:57:48 AM
Subject: Re: Rule Clarification

Dan,

Thanks for taking the time to discuss this with me last evening. I believe we are interpreting the rules correctly and applying the interpretation appropriately.
Your re-affirmation that we are doing the right thing will help our officials, coaches, and athletes do a better job.

For the record, I want to summarize the points of our discussion and my understanding of what you said.

Backstroke, butterfly, and freestyle have the same 15M rule and it is interpreted and applied the same way for all 3 strokes:

- At the start and after each turn, the swimmer must surface at or before the 15M mark.
- Once a swimmer surfaces, he/she must remain on the surface throughout the remainder of the race except after the turn for 15M and at the finish.
- On the surface means that some part of the swimmer's body must break the normal calm surface of the water.
- The finish is the touch at the end of the prescribed distance.
- Swimmers who completely submerge after initially surfacing should be disqualified - they cannot resubmerge.
- In butterfly, swimmers who cannot hold the proper body position on the surface and resubmerge should be disqualified. Examples of this violation are young swimmers who do the dolphin style butterfly that recover the arms, dive under the water, and kick back up; or older, less experienced swimmers who get tired and can't stay on the surface and do a similar dolphin-type stroke; or swimmers not strong enough to keep the body moving forward and sink below the surface while attempting to stroke and kick.
- In butterfly, swimmers who momentarily resubmerge as part of the normal stroke should not be disqualified. Example of this is good butterflyers who might, for just a moment, dip below the surface (be covered with a thin layer of water) because of body undulation.
- Swimmers who swim a stroke other than freestyle during a freestyle event must adhere to the rules of freestyle. If the swimmer resubmerges after surfacing, he/she should be disqualified. Examples of this violation would be a swimmer doing breaststroke during a freestyle event and completely submerging during each stroke; or a swimmer doing a dolphin-type butterfly stroke during a freestyle event who completely resubmerges. Swimmers doing freestyle who, for some reason, completely submerges after surfacing is also in violation of the rule and should be disqualified.

- At the wall, a swimmer who completely submerges prior to the turn or finish is in violation of the rule and should be disqualified. We should observe and make this call in accordance with the procedure specified on the USA Swimming Officials Training video - observe the whole body as it approaches the wall, shift focus to observe the orientation of the shoulders/touch - if the swimmer is observed completely submerged prior to shifting focus, the Turn Judge should make the call. Stroke Judges can also make this call provided they can clearly see the hand reaching for and touching the wall.

To make any of these calls, the official should observe his/her area of jurisdiction and report violations as they see them - the violation should be obvious, it should jump out at them, and they should react instinctively to it. If they are not absolutely sure of what they observed the swimmer do, the swimmer gets the benefit of the doubt, and they have no call. Like any other call, these violations are reported and the swimmer is disqualified to protect the field - preventing swimmers from achieving a competitive advantage and times from being entered into the national database that were not achieved in legal swims.

Again, I appreciate your time and guidance.
See you on deck soon,
Michael

On Tue, Sep 27, 2011 at 5:52 PM, Daniel McAllen wrote:

Call my cell 214-316-9215. I usually have it with me. Early evening my time will probably be the best.

From: Michael Downs <mhd@cox.net>
To: Dan McAllen <d.mcalleniii@sbcglobal.net>
Cc: Pat Lunsford <pat@wurkconcepts.com>
Sent: Tue, September 27, 2011 1:09:45 PM
Subject: Rule Clarification

Dan,
I've been meeting with my coaches recently, as we discussed at Juniors. We've been having a lot of discussion about the strokes with the 15M rule and the application of the rule. One of my coaches, Lisa Liston, said she talked to you at Juniors about submerged during the swim in butterfly. Lisa said that you told her that we should not be disqualifying a swimmer who completely submerges during the swim (i.e., no part of the body breaking the surface; e.g., a dolphin type swim where the swimmer recovers legally (or not) and dives under the water and kicks to the surface and repeats the cycle (or not)). I believe she also mentioned we were disqualifying swimmers who momentarily submerge (older / faster kids) - I've not seen a call of that type, but can't say it hasn't happened. We teach them that it needs to be like any other call - obvious, jumps out at them, clearly illegal. Can I call you to discuss this so I have a ruling before my Swimposium on Saturday? What would be a good time?
Pat Lunsford is coming and talking with the officials and coaches as an outside the LSC voice.
Thanks,
Michael
Virginia Swimming