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FINA - FACILITY RULE #2

Swimming Pools

New rules 2002-2005

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FR 2 SWIMMING POOLS

FR 2.1 Length

FR 2.1.1 50.0 metres. When touch panels of Automatic Officiating Equipment are used on the starting end, or additionally on the turning end, the pool must be of such length that ensures the required distance of 50.0 metres between the two panels.

FR 2.1.2 25.0 metres. When touch panels of Automatic Officiating Equipment are used on the starting end, or additionally on the turning end, the pool must be of such length that ensures the required distance of 25.0 metres between the two panels.

FR 2.2 Dimensional Tolerances

FR 2.2.1 Against the nominal length of 50.0 metres, a tolerance of plus 0.03 metre in each lane minus 0.00 metre on both end walls at all points from 0.3 metre above to 0.8 metre below the surface of the water is allowed. These measurements should be certified by a surveyor or other qualified official, appointed or approved by the Member in the country in which the pool is situated. Tolerances cannot be exceeded when touch panels are installed.

FR 2.2.2 Against the nominal length of 25.0 metres, a tolerance of plus 0.03 metre in each lane minus 0.00 metre on both end walls at all points from 0.3 metre above to 0.8 metre below the surface of the water is allowed. These measurements should be certified by a surveyor or other qualified official, appointed or approved by the Member in the country, in which the pool is situated. Tolerances cannot be exceeded when touch panels are installed.

FR 2.3 Depth -A minimum depth of 1.35 metres, extending from 1.0 metre to at least 6.0 metres from the end wall is required for pools with starting blocks. A minimum depth of 1.0 metre is required elsewhere.

FR 2.4 Walls

FR 2.4.1 End walls shall be parallel and form right angles to the swimming course and to the surface of the water, and shall be constructed of solid material, with a non slip surface extending 0.8 metre below the water surface, so as to enable the competitor to touch and push off in turning without hazard.

FR 2.4.2 Rest ledges along the pool walls are permitted; they must be not less than 1.2 metres below the water surface, and may be 0.1 metre to 0.15 metre wide.

FR 2.4.3 Gutters may be placed on all four walls of the pool. If end wall gutters are installed, they must allow for attachment of touch panels to the required 0.3 metre above the water surface. They must be covered with a suitable grill or screen.

FR 2.5 Lanes shall be at least 2.5 metres wide, with two spaces of at least 0.2 metre outside of the first and last lanes.

FR 2.6 Lane Ropes

FR 2.6.1 Lane ropes shall extend the full length of the course, secured at each end wall to anchor brackets recessed into the end walls. Each lane rope will consist of floats joined end-to-end having a minimum diameter of 0.05 metre to a maximum of 0.15 metre. The colour of the floats extending for a distance of 5.0 metres from each end of the pool shall be distinct from the rest of the floats. There shall not be more than one lane rope between each lane. The lane ropes shall be firmly stretched.

FR 2.6.2 At the 15-metre mark from each end wall of the pool the floats shall be distinct in colour from the surrounding floats.

FR 2.6.3 In 50 metre pools the floats shall be distinct to mark 25 metres.

FR 2.6.4 Lane numbers of soft material may be placed on the lane ropes at the start and turning end of the pool.

FR 2.7 Starting Platforms shall be firm and have no spring effect. The height of the platform above the water surface shall be from 0.5 metre to 0.75 metre. The surface area shall be at least 0.5 metre x 0.5 metre and covered with non-slip material. Maximum slope shall not be more than 10°. The platform shall be constructed so as to permit the gripping of the platform by the swimmer in the forward start at the front and the sides; it is recommended that, if the thickness of the starting platform exceeds 0.04 metre, grips of at least 0.1 metre width on each side and 0.4 metre width in the front be cut out to 0.03 metre from the surface of the platform. Handgrips for the forward start may be installed on the sides of the starting platforms. Handgrips for backstroke starts shall be placed within 0.3 metre to 0.6 metre above the water surface both horizontally and vertically. They shall be parallel to the surface of the end wall, and must not protrude beyond the end wall. The width depth from a distance of 1.0 metre to 6.0 metres from the end wall must be at least 1.35 metres where starting platforms are installed. Electronic read-out boards may be installed under the blocks. Flashing is not allowed. Figures must not move during a Backstroke start.

FR 2.8 Numbering - Each starting block must be distinctly numbered on all four sides, clearly visible. Lane number 1 shall be on the right-hand side when facing the course from the starting end with exception of 50m events, which may start from the opposite end. Touch panels may be numbered on the top part.

FR 2.9 Backstroke Turn Indicators - Flagged ropes suspended across the pool, minimum 1.8 metres and maximum 2.5 metres above the water surface, from fixed standards placed 5.0 metres from each end wall. Distinctive marks must be placed on both sides of the pool, and where possible on each lane rope, 15.0 metres from each end wall.

FR 2.10 False Start Rope shall be suspended across the pool not less than 1.2 metres above the water level from fixed standards placed 15.0 metres in front of the starting end. It shall be attached to the standards by a quick release mechanism. The rope must effectively cover all lanes when activated.

FR 2.11 Water Temperature shall be 25° - 28°. During competition the water in the pool must be kept at a constant level, with no appreciable movement. In order to observe health regulations in force in most countries, inflow and outflow is permissible as long as no appreciable current or turbulence is created.

FR 2.12 Lighting - Light intensity over starting platforms and turning ends shall not be less than 600 lux.

FR 2.13 Lane Markings - shall be of a dark contrasting colour, placed on the floor of the pool in the centre of each lane.

Width: minimum 0.2 metre, maximum 0.3 metre.
Length: 46.0 metres for 50 metre long pools;
21.0 metres for 25 metre long pools.

Each lane line shall end 2.0 metres from the end wall of the pool with a distinctive cross line 1.0 metre long and of the same width as the lane line. Target lines shall be placed on the end walls or on the touch panels, in the centre of each lane, of the same width as the lane lines. They shall extend without interruption from the deck edge (curb), to the floor of the pool. A cross line 0.5 metre long shall be placed 0.3 metre below the water surface, measured to the centre point of the cross line.

FR 2.14 Bulkheads – when a bulkhead serves as an end wall, it must extend the full width of the course and present a solid smooth, non-slippery stable vertical surface on which touch pads may be mounted extending not less than 0.8m below and 0.3m above the surface of the water, and must be free of hazardous openings above or below the waterline which may be penetrated by a swimmer's hands, feet, toes or fingers. A bulkhead must be of a design that provides for the free movement of officials along its length without such movement creating any appreciable current or water turbulence.

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