

FALL CLASSIC – AQUATICS RULES

SPECIAL OLYMPICS INDIANA – 40 YEARS YOUNG



MODIFIED EVENTS

25 m Assisted Swim

25m Flotation Race

25 m Kickboard Race

25 m Unassisted Swim

4 X 25 m Freestyle Relay

* Denotes only events that may include athletes requiring flotation devices.

All aquatics events at the Fall Classic will be competed in a 25 meter pool.

The Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Aquatics shall govern all Special Olympics competitions. Special Olympics has created these rules based upon Federation International de Natation Amateur (FINA) rules, which shall be employed except when they are in conflict with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Aquatics or Article I. In such cases, the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Aquatics shall apply.

RULES OF COMPETITION

UNIFORM SPECIFICATIONS

1. All participants must wear swimsuits that are non-transparent and conform to the current concept of an appropriate swimsuit.
2. The Aquatics Sport Management Team or sport official shall have the authority to bar offenders from competition, until they comply with this rule.

GENERAL RULES

1. The Meet Referee, in cooperation with the Games Director, shall have the authority to adjust these rules on a case-by-case basis for the safety and well-being of an athlete. The Meet Referee may intervene in the competition at any stage to ensure that the appropriate regulations are observed, and shall adjudicate all protests related to the competition in progress.
2. The Meet Referee shall have the discretion to allow for certain modifications/interpretations of the current technical rules based upon a physical disability characteristic. Such interpretation shall be requested and ruled on prior to the athlete's participation in a final and shall not give advantage over another swimmer. Stroke interpretations will be concerned with the action a limb(s) is performing. The Stroke Judge shall be concerned with what action the arm or leg action constitutes.
3. The Meet Referee shall have full control and authority over all officials, approve their assignments and instruct them regarding all Special Olympics features or regulations related to the competitions. He/she shall enforce all rules and decisions of the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules and FINA rules and shall decide all questions relating to the actual conduct of the meet, the final settlement of which is not otherwise covered by these rules.
4. Rules require a water depth of four feet or more for a deck entry. All events beginning in water less than four deep require all swimmers for that event to begin in the water with one hand on the wall.
5. The starting signals shall be "Take your mark", followed by an electronic tone. There will be no recall of swimmers when a false start occurs, so long as the remaining swimmers have not been affected by the false start.
6. Participants shall start, finish and compete on their own, without assistance.
7. Standing on the bottom during freestyle events or during the freestyle portion of the medley events shall not disqualify a competitor, but he/she shall not walk.
8. Standing upon the bottom in the racing course is allowed only for the purpose of resting. Walking on or jumping from the bottom must disqualify the offender.
9. Assistant starters may be used to assist athletes in maintaining their positions at the starting line.
10. No competitor shall be permitted to use or wear any device that may aid his/her speed, buoyancy or endurance during a competition (except flotation races) such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, etc. Goggles may be worn.
11. Swimmers may be assisted from the water upon request.

EQUIPMENT

1. Starting devices may include the following: whistle, horn, or gun. Athletes with hearing impairments may receive hand signal starts from the starter or a designated official.
2. Watches (timing system); at least one watch per lane is required.



FALL CLASSIC - AQUATICS RULES

SPECIAL OLYMPICS INDIANA - 40 YEARS YOUNG



STROKE STANDARDS

1. Stroke judges will adhere to the stroke standards outlined below.
2. Disqualification of a swimmer who does not conform to Special Olympics and FINA standards is required. If these standards are not upheld, it is unfair to the swimmer who has been properly trained and entered into an appropriate event. The referee has the discretionary power to allow for certain modifications and interpretations of rules based upon the physical or sensory disability of the individual swimmer. It is the coach's responsibility to inform the referee about an athlete who has a physical problem that could cause a DQ. The referee may allow a deviation if notified before a race.
4. Freestyle Standards
 - a. Freestyle means that, in an event so designated, the competitor may swim any style. In freestyle turning and finishing, the swimmer can touch the wall with any part of his body. A hand touch is not required.
 - b. Standing on the bottom during the freestyle events or during the freestyle portion of the medley events shall not disqualify a competitor, but he/she shall not walk.



GENERAL RULES FOR LOWER ABILITY EVENTS

1. Flotation Race
 - a. Assistance may only be verbal (physical assistance results in disqualification).
 - b. The device must be of the wrap around type such that if the athlete were to not be able to hold on to the device, the device would still support the athlete with the face out of the water.
 - c. Each athlete is responsible for his/her own flotation device.
 - d. Flotation devices such as kickboards, inner tubes, or floats that wrap around the arms are NOT acceptable for use at ANY time.
2. Assisted Swim
 - a. Each athlete is responsible to have his/her own assistant. The assistant may touch, guide, or direct the athlete, but may not support or assist with the athlete's forward movement. The swimmer is allowed to use a flotation device.
3. Unassisted Swim
 - a. Athletes must swim the full distance with no physical assistance or flotation device. A coach / assistant is allowed to provide encouragement and direction from in the pool.
4. Relay
 - a. Teams will be composed of swimmers from various County Programs.
 - b. Teams are determined by times in the 25m events to create competitive teams and divisions.
 - c. The Aquatics Sport Management Team will determine teams with input from coaches.
5. Kickboard Race
 - a. This event is for training purposes only and is non-competitive.
 - b. Entry in this event does not count against the 3-event limit.
6. Swimmers who compete in lower ability events will not be able to compete in any other Aquatics events.

