

Competition Statements of Application

The following document has been developed for referees to provide a consistent application of rules at competitions sanctioned by Swim Alberta. It is understood that while there may be differences between provinces or at the National and International levels, the following are to be applied by all Alberta referees at competitions at the provincial level and below.

The Statements of Application have been developed by the Alberta Officials Committee following the Officials Round Table Discussion at the 2022 Swim Alberta Conference. The Alberta Officials Committee carefully considered all feedback received before publishing this document. Thank you to all officials who participated and contributed.

Misconduct

Based on the new misconduct definitions added as per rule C.2.3.2.1, and [Swimming Canada's guidance](#) provided, Swim Alberta recommends an 'education first' approach. When a swimmer breaches the misconduct rule, the following steps should occur.

1. A 'Yellow Card' warning to be provided to the coach to inform both the coach and the swimmer that their action(s) breached the misconduct definition.
 - a. The time of the warning should be recorded.
 - b. The Meet Manager, Meet Referee and/or other Referees will be advised to ensure the warning applies to all days of multi-day competitions.
 - c. A swimmer may receive different warnings for spitting, kicking the blocks and/or cannonballs.
2. The swimmer may be disqualified should they breach the same misconduct rule after receiving a warning.

Toes on the Wall

New rule C6.1.1 outlines that the toes (not feet) may be bent over the gutter or end wall when the gutter (or wall) is at water level and where ledges are not available.

This rule does not change the application of how 'toes' should be officiated, nor does this change the focus of briefings. At facilities where this rule may apply, Swim Alberta recommends that the turn official provide a single reminder, similar to the use of ledges, but applied for feet & toes. For example, in a pool as outlined in C6.1.1, if a swimmer has more than their toes curled over the lip, the official can remind the swimmers that only toes can be curled over the lip.

Jury of Appeal

Swim Alberta recommends that the Meet Manager, in consultation with the advisory referee (or session referee, if no advisory referee) ask the disputing coach if they would like an impartial coach to sit on the jury of appeal. If yes, Meet Manager, in consultation with the Advisory Referee (or session referee, if no advisory referee) will seek out and select an impartial coach. This is recommended for all competitions.

Taping

Taping and splinting will be allowed at all Swim Alberta sanctioned competitions.

Swimming Canada has determined that taping provides little, if any, performance enhancement for age-group swimmers but it does support the safety and well-being of athletes.

Wearable Technology

If the referee is aware of a device that transmits data, sounds, or signals, either turned on or off, the referee shall ask the swimmer to remove it. Failure to comply will result in disqualification.

Swimwear at Competitions

All swimmers are permitted to race with the swimwear of their choosing at all competitions sanctioned by Swim Alberta. It is not required to declare the choice of swimwear to the Referee if the fabric of the swimwear is a permeable open mesh textile and would not reasonably be seen to create a technical advantage in terms of speed, buoyancy, or endurance. See the briefing notes for briefing all officials.

Year round and Summer Swimming Competitions

All referees are to apply the rules and processes consistently in both streams.