

meets involving All-Star teams. Individual times including lead-off splits should be recognized by the LSC with the swimmer's LSC club of record (or unattached if appropriate) for any LSC records, National records or NAG Recognition Times.

- B **Reporting** — The LSC shall determine the method of reporting LSC records.
- C **Recognition** — The LSC shall determine appropriate recognition for LSC records.

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ARTICLE 105

GUIDELINES FOR OFFICIATING SWIMMERS WITH A DISABILITY IN USA SWIMMING MEETS

105.1 General

.1 **Authority** — The USA Swimming Rules & Regulations grant the Referee the authority to modify the rules for the swimmer with a disability. Disability is defined as a permanent physical or cognitive disability that substantially limits one or more major life activities. This section contains guidelines and suggestions for making such modifications.

.2 Responsibilities

A **Swimmer** — The swimmer (or the swimmer's coach) is responsible for notifying the Referee, prior to the competition, of any disability of the swimmer and of the requested modification. The swimmer/coach shall provide any assistant(s) or equipment (tappers, deck mats, etc.) if required.

B **Referee** — The Referee's responsibilities include:

- (1) Determining if the requested modifications are appropriate and can be met.
- (2) Instructing the Starter and Stroke & Turn officials as to the accommodations to be made for that swimmer.

.3 **Modifications** — Aids to buoyancy or speed are not allowed (See 102.8.1E). Some of the modifications which the Referee may make to accommodate the swimmer with a disability are:

- A A change in starting position.
- B Reassignment of lanes within a heat, e.g., exchanging Lanes 2 and 7.
- C Allowing the swimmer to have a personal assistant(s). A personal assistant is not required to be a member of USA Swimming unless acting in a coaching capacity.

Other allowable modifications are further described in this section under the type of disability.

105.2 BLIND AND VISION LOSS

.1 **Start** — With an audible starting system, no modification is usually required for a swimmer who is blind or has vision loss. A swimmer may, however, require assistance getting to and on the block. Should the swimmer feel insecure starting from the block or deck, an in-the-water start is allowed.

.2 **Turns and Finishes** — A swimmer who is blind or has vision loss is permitted to have personal assistants ("tappers" who use poles with soft-tipped ends to tap the swimmer as notification of turns and the finish). Sound devices shall not be used. It is the swimmer's responsibility to provide the taper(s), who shall be positioned within the confines of the swimmer's lane at the ends of the pool.

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- .3 **Relay Take-Offs** — A physical touch may be required to signal the relay swimmer when his/her teammate has touched the wall. The specific method may be tailored to the swimmer's preference so long as it does not aid the swimmer's take-off or interfere with the timing.

105.3 DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

- .1 Deaf and hard of hearing swimmers require a visual starting signal, i.e., a strobe light and/or Starter's arm signals. The Referee may reassign lanes within the swimmer's heat, i.e., exchanging one lane for another, so that the strobe light or Starter's arm signal can more readily be seen by the deaf or hard of hearing swimmer. Standard Starter's arm signals are shown in Figures 1 and 2. A false start rope is required in the event of a recall, provided the meet host is notified by the entry deadline that a deaf or hard of hearing swimmer will be participating.
- .2 Strobe light location — The Starter shall advise the swimmers about the location of the strobe light and the light shall be located where the swimmers can clearly see it for the start. For backstroke starts, the light should be positioned so that the swimmers don't have to turn their heads to look backwards.

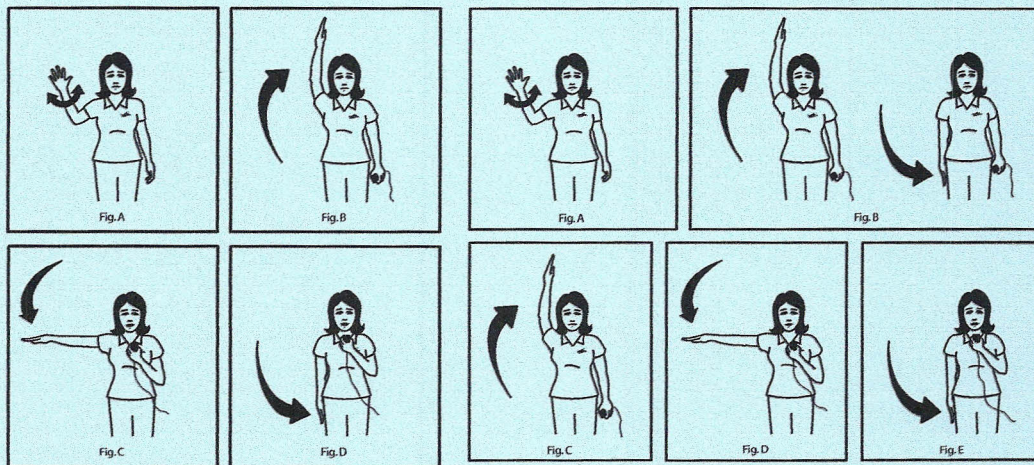


FIGURE 1: FORWARD START

- A. Twist hand at chin level — short whistles
B. Arm overhead — swimmer steps onto starting block
C. Arm moves to shoulder level — signal to "take your mark"
D. Arm moves to side of body — starting signal

FIGURE 2: BACKSTROKE START

- A. Twist hand at chin level — short whistles
B. Arm overhead — swimmer enters water; drop arm to side while swimmer enters water
C. Arm overhead — swimmer returns to backstroke start position
D. Arm moves to shoulder level — signal to "take your mark"
E. Arm moves to side of body — starting signal

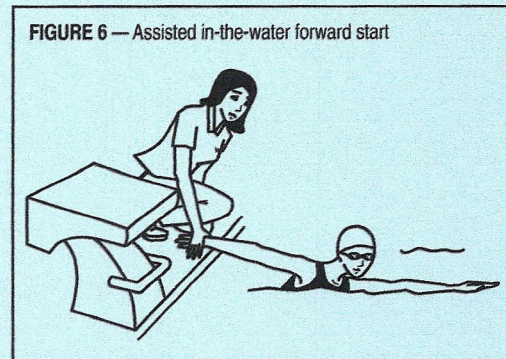
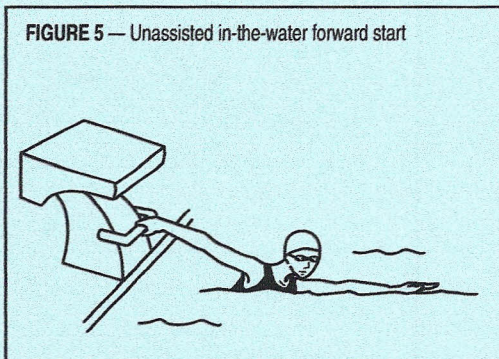
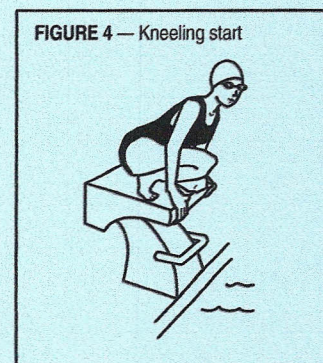
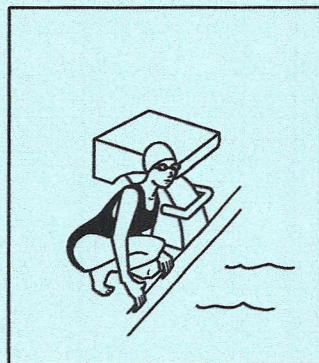
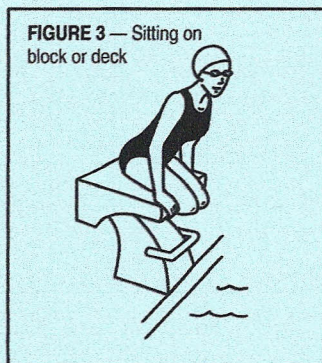
105.4 COGNITIVELY DISABLED — A swimmer may be permitted to have an assistant on the deck when necessary. No other specific rule modifications are required other than patience and clarity in communicating instructions.

105.5 PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

- .1 **Start** — Swimmers with physical disabilities:
- A May take longer to assume their starting position;
 - B May have difficulty holding the starting platform or pool end for a start;
 - C May need assistance from someone on the deck to maintain a starting position;
 - D May use a modified starting position on the blocks, deck or in the water.

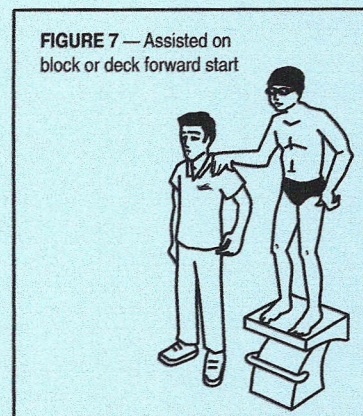
- E Shall use a forward start for freestyle, breaststroke and butterfly. The Referee, however, may allow modifications such as the following:
- (1) The swimmer may start from a sitting position on the block or on the deck;
 - (2) The swimmer may assume a starting position in the water, with or without assistance;
 - (3) If the swimmer cannot use a hand and/or foot to maintain contact with the wall, some other part of the body may be used.
 - (4) For breaststroke and butterfly, after the start and after each turn, a swimmer who is unable to push off with the leg(s) may perform one arm stroke that need not be simultaneous or on the horizontal plane to attain the breast position.

Examples of modified starting positions are shown in Figures 3 through 7.



- .2 **Stroke/Kick** — In judging the stroke or kick of a swimmer with a physical disability, the Referee and Stroke & Turn Judge should follow the general rule that: if a part of the body is absent or cannot be used, it is not judged; if it is used during the stroke or kick, it should be judged in accordance with the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations.

Judgments should be made based on the actual rule — not on the swimmer's technique. For example, the breaststroke swimmer with one arm or leg shorter than the other, may have a non-symmetrical stroke or kick, but as long as the arm or leg action is simultaneous, it



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would meet that portion of the rule. No flotation devices should be permitted.

- .3 **Turn/Finishes** — Touches shall be judged in the same manner as strokes and kicks, i.e., on the basis of the arm(s) and/or hand(s) that the swimmer can use. In breaststroke and butterfly events, the competitor must reach forward as if attempting a simultaneous two-hand touch. When a swimmer has a different arm length, only the longer arm must touch the wall, but both arms must be stretched forward simultaneously. Swimmers with no arms or with upper limbs too short to stretch above the head may touch the wall with any part of the upper body.
- .4 **Relays** — Relay swimmers who cannot exit the water immediately may be allowed to remain in the lane until all relays have finished so long as they do not interfere with the other swimmers or the timing equipment.