



OPEN WATER SWIMMING RULES

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Open Water Swimming Rules

All Swimming Australia Open Water Swimming Championships and Open Water Swimming competitions shall be governed by the Swimming Australia Open Water Swimming Rules and Swimming Australia Open Water Competition Rules.

NOTE: (Swimming Australia has cross referenced World Aquatics (WA) rules by sub-text where its rule and that of WA are identical. Where the rule is prefaced by "A" it is a Swimming Australia rule or does not follow WA Rule sequence). World Aquatics Open Water Swimming Rules can be found in Section 3 of their [Competition Regulations](#).

AOWS 1 DEFINITIONS

AOWS 1.1 OPEN WATER SWIMMING shall be defined as any competition that takes place in rivers, lakes, oceans or water channels, or any other body of open water.

AOWS 1.1.1 MARATHON SWIMMING shall be defined as any 10km event in open water competitions.

AOWS 1.2 All age swimmers for Australian Open Water Championships shall have their age determined as at 31 December of the year of the competition.

AOWS 1.2.1 All open swimmers for Australian Open Water Championships shall have their age determined as at the first day of competition.

AOWS 2 THE VENUE

AOWS 2.1 Swimming Australia Open Water Swimming Championships shall be conducted over distances and at a venue and course approved by Swimming Australia.

AOWS 2.2 The course shall be in water that is subject to only minor currents or tide and may be salt or fresh water.

AOWS 2.3 All available precautions will be implemented to ensure the suitability and safety of swimmers at the chosen venue. A certificate of suitability for use of the venue shall be issued by the appropriate local health and safety authorities. In general terms the certification must relate to water purity and to physical safety from other considerations.

AOWS 2.4 The minimum depth of water at any point on the course shall be 1.40 metres. (WA3 8.1.6.2)

AOWS 2.5 The water temperature should be a minimum of 16°C and a maximum of 31°C. It should be checked the day of the race, two hours before the start, at three points around the course at a depth of 40cm. The agreed temperature will be the average of the three taken. This control should be done in the presence of a commission made up of the following persons present: a Referee, a Member of the Organising Committee and one Coach from the teams present designated during the technical meeting. (WA3 8.1.6.3)

AOWS 2.6 All turns/alterations of course shall be clearly indicated. Turn Buoys which are alterations of the course shall be of a different colour to guidance buoys. Whenever possible there shall be a long distance (to be approved by Swimming Australia) from the start to the first turning buoy to ease congestion at the turn. (WA3 8.1.3.1)

AOWS 2.7 A clearly marked craft or platform, containing a Turn Judge, shall be positioned at all alterations of course in such a manner as not to obstruct a swimmer's visibility of the turn. (WA3 8.1.3.2)

AOWS 2.8 All starting platforms, feeding platforms, relay platforms, turning apparatus and Turn Judges craft/platforms shall be securely fixed in a position and not be subject to tidal, wind or other movements. (WA3 8.1.5)

AOWS 2.9 The final approach to the finish shall be clearly defined with markers of a distinctive colour and shall comprise the boundary of the course. (WA3 8.1.2.1)

AOWS 2.10 The finish shall be clearly defined and marked by a vertical face. (WA3 8.1.2.3)

AOWS 3 OFFICIALS (WA3 2)

AOWS 3.1 The following officials shall be appointed at open water swimming competitions:

- A Chief Referee (one per race)
- Referees (two minimum, additional Referees proportional to race entries)
- Chief Timekeeper plus two Timekeepers
- Chief Finish Judge plus two Finish Judges
- Safety Officer
- Medical Officer
- Course Officer
- Clerk of the Course
- Recorder
- Race Judges (one per swimmer) except for the events with a course of 10km or less
- Turn Judges (one per alteration of course)
- Feeding Platform Judge (when feeding platforms are used)
- Relay Judge
- Starter
- Announcer

NOTE: No official can act in more than one role simultaneously. They may only undertake a new role after all of the obligations of their previous role have been fulfilled.

AOWS 3.2 For events of 10km or less the Safety Officer and Course Officers positions and duties may be combined.

AOWS 4 DUTIES OF OFFICIALS (WA3 3)

AOWS 4.1 CHIEF REFEREE (WA3 3.1)

The Chief Referee shall:

AOWS 4.1.1 Have full control and authority over all officials and shall approve their assignments and instruct them regarding all special features or regulations related to the competition. The Chief Referee shall enforce all the rules and decisions of Swimming Australia and shall decide all questions relating to the actual conduct of the competition, the final settlement of which is not otherwise covered by these rules. (WA3 3.1.1)

AOWS 4.1.2 Have authority to intervene in the competition at any stage to ensure that the rules are observed. (WA3 3.2.1.2)

AOWS 4.1.2.1 In case of hazardous conditions that jeopardise the safety of the swimmers and the officials, in conjunction with the Safety Officer, the Chief Referee can stop the race. (WA3 3.1.2.1)

AOWS 4.1.3 Adjudicate on all protests related to the competition in progress. (WA3 3.1.3)

- AOWS 4.1.4** Give a decision in cases where the Finish Judges' decisions and times recorded do not agree. (WA3 3.1.4)
- AOWS 4.1.5** Signal to swimmers, by raised flag and short blasts on a whistle, that the start is imminent and when satisfied indicate by pointing the flag at the Starter that the competition may commence. (WA3 3.1.5)
- AOWS 4.1.6** Disqualify any swimmer for any violation of the rules that the Chief Referee personally observes or which is reported to the Chief Referee by other authorised officials. Notwithstanding the provisions of AOWS 6.3 hereof the Chief Referee may decide to enforce the disqualification at the end of the race. (WA3 3.1.6)
- AOWS 4.1.7** Ensure that the necessary officials for the conduct of the competition are at their respective posts. The Chief Referee may appoint substitutes for any who are absent, incapable of acting or found to be inefficient. The Chief Referee may appoint additional officials if considered necessary; (WA3 3.1.7)
- AOWS 4.1.8** Receive all reports prior to the start of the race and at the conclusion of the race from the Clerk of the Course, Recorder, Course Officer and Safety Officer; to ensure all swimmers are accounted for. (WA3 3.1.8)
- AOWS 4.2** **REFEREES** (WA3 3.2)
- The Referees shall:**
- AOWS 4.2.1** Have authority to intervene in competition at any stage to ensure that Swimming Australia rules are observed. (WA3 3.2.1)
- AOWS 4.2.2** Disqualify any swimmer for any violation of the rules that the Referee personally observes. (WA3 3.2.2)
- AOWS 4.3** **STARTER** (WA3 3.3)
- The Starter shall:**
- AOWS 4.3.1** Start the race in accordance with AOWS 5 following the signal by the Chief Referee. (WA3 3.3.1)
- AOWS 4.4** **CHIEF TIMEKEEPER** (WA3 3.4)
- The Chief Timekeeper shall:**
- AOWS 4.4.1** Assign at least two Timekeepers to their positions for the start and finish. (WA3 3.4.1)
- AOWS 4.4.2** Ensure that a time check is made to allow all persons to synchronise their watches with the official running clocks 15 minutes before the start time. (WA3 3.4.2)
- AOWS 4.4.3** Collect from each Timekeeper the time recorded for each swimmer, and, if necessary, inspect their watches. (WA3 3.4.3)
- AOWS 4.4.4** Record or examine the official time for each swimmer. (WA3 3.4.4)
- AOWS 4.5** **TIMEKEEPERS** (WA3 3.5)
- Timekeepers shall:**
- AOWS 4.5.1** Take the time of each swimmer/s assigned. The watches must have memory and print out capability and shall be certified correct to the satisfaction of the Management Committee. (WA3 3.5.1)

- AOWS 4.5.2** Start their watches at the starting signal, and only stop their watches when instructed by the Chief Timekeeper. (WA3 3.5.2)
- AOWS 4.5.3** Promptly after each finish record the time of each swimmer and turn it over to the Chief Timekeeper. (WA3 3.5.3)
- NOTE: When Automatic Officiating Equipment is used, the same complement of hand timers is to be used.
- AOWS 4.6** **CHIEF FINISH JUDGE** (WA3 3.6)
- THE CHIEF FINISH JUDGE shall:**
- AOWS 4.6.1** Assign each Judge to a position. (WA3 3.6.1)
- AOWS 4.6.2** Record and communicate any decision received from the Referees during the competition. (WA3 3.6.2)
- AOWS 4.6.3** Collect after the race, signed results sheets from each Finish Judge and establish the result and placing which shall be sent directly to the Chief Referee. (WA3 3.6.3)
- AOWS 4.6.4** Confirm to each Race Judge their escort boat and instruct them in their duties. (WA3 3.6.4)
- AOWS 4.6.5** Collect after the race, signed sheets from each Race Judge of their observations during the race which shall be sent directly to the Chief Referee. (WA3 3.6.5)
- AOWS 4.7** **FINISH JUDGES** (WA3 3.7)
- Finish Judges (two) shall:**
- AOWS 4.7.1** Be positioned in line with the finish where they shall have at all times a clear view of the finish. (WA3 3.7.1)
- AOWS 4.7.2** Record after each finish the placing of the swimmers according to the assignment given. (WA3 3.7.2)
- NOTE: Finish Judges shall not act as Timekeepers in the same event.
- AOWS 4.8** **RACE JUDGE** (WA3 3.8)
- Each Race Judge Shall:**
- AOWS 4.8.1** Be positioned in an escort safety craft (where applicable), assigned by random draw prior to the start, so as to be able to observe, at all times, his/her appointed swimmer. (WA3 3.8.1)
- AOWS 4.8.2** Ensure at all times that the rules of competition are complied with, violations being recorded in writing and reported to a Referee at the earliest opportunity. (WA3 3.8.2)
- AOWS 4.8.3** Have the power to order a swimmer from the water upon expiry of any time limit so ordered by the Chief Referee. (WA3 3.8.3)
- AOWS 4.8.4** Ensure that his/her appointed swimmer does not take unfair advantage or commit unsporting impediment on another swimmer and if the situation requires instruct a swimmer to maintain clearance from any other swimmer. (WA3 3.8.4)

AOWS 4.9 TURN JUDGES (WA3 3.9)

Turn Judges shall:

AOWS 4.9.1 Be positioned so as to ensure all swimmers execute the alterations in course as indicated in the competition information documents and as given at the pre-race briefing. (WA3 3.9.1)

AOWS 4.9.2 Record any infringement of the turn procedures on the record sheets provided, then immediately communicate the infringement to the Chief Referee. (WA3 3.9.2)

AOWS 4.9.3 Promptly upon completion of the event deliver the signed record sheet to the Chief Referee. (WA3 3.9.3)

AOWS 4.10 SAFETY OFFICER (WA3 3.12)

The Safety Officer shall:

AOWS 4.10.1 Be responsible to the Chief Referee for all aspects of safety related to the conduct of the competition. (WA3 3.12.1)

AOWS 4.10.2 Check that the entire course, with special regard to the start and finish areas, is safe, suitable, and free of any obstruction. (WA3 3.12.2)

AOWS 4.10.3 Be responsible for ensuring that sufficient powered safety craft are available during the competition so as to provide full safety backup to the escort safety craft. (WA3 3.12.3)

AOWS 4.10.4 Provide prior to the competitions to all swimmers a tide/current chart clearly indicating the time of tide changes on the course and showing the effect of tides or current on a swimmer's progress along the course. (WA3 3.12.4)

AOWS 4.10.5 In conjunction with the Medical Officer advise the Chief Referee if, in their opinion, conditions are unsuitable for staging the competition and make recommendations for the modification of the course or the manner in which the competition is conducted. (WA3 3.12.5)

AOWS 4.10.6 Monitor temperature conditions periodically during the race. (WA3 3.12.6)

AOWS 4.11 MEDICAL OFFICER (WA3 3.13)

The Medical Officer shall:

AOWS 4.11.1 Be responsible to the Chief Referee for all medical aspects related to the competition and swimmers. (WA3 3.13.1)

AOWS 4.11.2 Inform the local medical facilities of the nature of the competition and ensure that any casualties can be evacuated to medical facilities at the earliest opportunity. (WA3 3.13.2)

AOWS 4.11.3 In conjunction with the Safety Officer, advise the Chief Referee if, in their opinion, conditions are unsuitable for staging the competition and make recommendations for the modification of the course or the manner in which the competition is conducted. (WA3 3.13.3)

AOWS 4.12 COURSE OFFICER (WA3 3.14)

The Course Officer shall:

AOWS 4.12.1 Be responsible to the Management Committee for the correct survey of the course. (WA3 3.14.1)

- AOWS 4.12.2** Ensure the start and finish areas are correctly marked and all equipment has been correctly installed and, where applicable, is in working order. (WA3 3.14.2)
- AOWS 4.12.3** Ensure all course alteration points are correctly marked and manned prior to the commencement of the competition. (WA3 3.13.3)
- AOWS 4.12.4** With the Referee and Safety Officer inspect the course and markings prior to the commencement of competition. (WA3 3.14.4)
- AOWS 4.12.5** Ensure that the Turn Judges are in position prior to the start of the competition and report this to the Chief Referee. (WA3 3.14.5)

AOWS 4.13 CLERK OF THE COURSE (WA3 3.15)

The Clerk of The Course shall:

- AOWS 4.13.1** Assemble and prepare swimmers prior to each event and ensure proper reception facilities at the finish are available for all swimmers. (WA3 3.15.1)
- AOWS 4.13.2** Ensure each swimmer is identified correctly with their race number and that all swimmers have trimmed fingernails and toenails and are not wearing any jewellery, including watches. (WA3 3.15.2)
- AOWS 4.13.3** Be certain all swimmers are present, in the assembly area, at the required time prior to the start. (WA3 3.15.3)
- AOWS 4.13.4** Keep swimmers and officials informed of the time remaining before the start at suitable intervals until the last five minutes, during which one-minute warnings shall be given. (WA3 3.15.4)
- AOWS 4.13.5** Be responsible for ensuring that all clothing and equipment left in the start area is transported to the finish area and kept in safekeeping. (WA3 3.15.5)
- AOWS 4.13.6** Ensure that all swimmers leaving the water at the finish have basic equipment required for their well-being should their own attendants not be present at that time. (WA3 3.15.6)
- AOWS 4.13.7** The Clerk of the Course shall notify the Chief Referee and Recorder of any withdrawals and DNFs (Did-Not-Finish). (WA3 3.15.7)

AOWS 4.14 RECORDER (WA3 3.16)

The Recorder shall:

- AOWS 4.14.1** Record withdrawals from the competition, enter results on official forms, and maintain records for team awards as appropriate. (WA3 3.16.1)

AOWS 4.15 FEEDING PLATFORM JUDGE (WA3 3.10)

Each Feeding Platform Judge shall:

- AOWS 4.15.1** Be responsible for the management of the activity and the swimmers authorised representative present on the platform, in accordance with Swimming Australia rules. (WA3 3.10)

AOWS 4.16 RELAY JUDGE (WA3 3.11)

Relay Judge shall:

- AOWS 4.16.1** Manage the activity on the relay platform and change-over zone to ensure all changeovers occur in accordance with the rules whereby the arriving swimmer completes their lap before the departure of the next swimmer.
- AOWS 5 THE START** (WA3 4)
- AOWS 5.1** All open water competitions shall start with all swimmers wearing an approved swim cap and standing on a fixed platform or in water depth sufficient for them to commence swimming on the start signal. (WA3 4.1)
- AOWS 5.1.1** When starting from a fixed platform swimmers shall be assigned a position on the platform, as determined by random draw. (WA3 4.1.1)
- AOWS 5.2** The Clerk of the Course shall keep swimmers and officials informed of the time before start at suitable intervals and at one-minute intervals for the last five minutes. (WA3 4.2)
- AOWS 5.3** When the number of entries dictate, the start shall be segregated into men's and women's competitions. It will be at the discretion of the Organising Committee to determine which gender shall start first. (WA3 4.3)
- AOWS 5.4** The start line shall be clearly defined by either overhead apparatus or by removable equipment at water level. (WA3 4.4)
- AOWS 5.5** The Chief Referee shall indicate by a flag held upright and short blasts on a whistle when the start is imminent and indicate that the competition is under Starter's order by pointing the flag at the Starter. (WA3 4.5)
- AOWS 5.6** The Starter shall be positioned so as to be clearly visible to all swimmers. (WA3 4.6)
- AOWS 5.6.1** On the Starter's command "take your marks" they shall take up a starting position immediately in line with the start line where a platform is not used, or with at least one foot at the front of the platform. (WA3 4.6.1)
- AOWS 5.6.2** The Starter will give the starting signal when he/she considers all swimmers are ready. (WA3 4.6.2)
- AOWS 5.7** The start signal shall be both audible and visual. (WA3 4.7)
- AOWS 5.8** If in the opinion of the Chief Referee an unfair advantage has been gained at the start the offending swimmer will be given a yellow or red flag in accordance with AOWS 6.3. (WA3 4.8)
- AOWS 5.9** All escort safety craft shall be stationed prior to the start so as not to interfere with any swimmer, and if picking up their swimmer from behind shall navigate in such a way as not to manoeuvre through the field of swimmers. (WA3 4.9)
- AOWS 5.10** Although they may start together, in all other respects the men's and women's competitions shall be treated as separate events. (WA3 4.10)
- AOWS 6 THE RACE** (WA3 5)
- AOWS 6.1** All open water competitions shall be freestyle events and swimmers are required to complete the whole course, respecting all designated turning buoys and course boundaries. (WA3 5.1)
- AOWS 6.1.1** Race Judges shall instruct any swimmer who is, in their opinion, taking unfair advantage by pacing or slip streaming with the escort craft to move clear. (WA3 5.2)
- AOWS 6.1.2** Swimmers shall be allowed to use grease or other such substances providing these are not, in the opinion of the Chief Referee, excessive. (WA3 5.11)

- AOWS 6.1.3** In all events, time limits shall apply as follows from the finish time of the first swimmers: 15 minutes per 5km (or part therefore) up to a maximum time limit of 120 minutes. (WA3 5.17)
- AOWS 6.1.3.1** Swimmers who do not finish the course within the time limit shall be removed from the water except that the Chief Referee may allow a swimmer outside the time limit to complete the course but not be eligible for any points or prizes. (WA3 5.17.1)
- AOWS 6.2 DISQUALIFICATION PROCEDURE** (WA3 5.3)
- AOWS 6.2.1** If in the opinion of the Chief Referee or Referees, any swimmer, or swimmers approved representative, or escort safety craft, takes advantage by committing any violation of the rules by making intentional contact with any swimmer, the following procedure shall apply (WA3 5.3.1):
- **1st Infringement:**
A yellow flag and a card bearing the swimmer number shall be raised to indicate and to inform the swimmer that he/she is in violation of the rules. (WA3 5.3.1.1)
 - **2nd Infringement:**
A red flag and a card bearing the swimmer number shall be raised by the Referee (AOWS 4.6, AOWS 4.10) to indicate and to inform the swimmer that they are for the second time in violation of the rules. The swimmer shall be disqualified. (WA3 5.3.1.2)
- AOWS 6.2.2** If in the opinion of the Referee, an action of a swimmer or an escort safety craft, or a swimmer's approved representative is deemed to be "unsporting" the Referee shall disqualify the swimmer concerned immediately. He/she must leave the water immediately and be placed in an escort craft and take no further part in the race. (WA3 5.3.2)
- AOWS 6.2.3** Escort safety craft shall manoeuvre so as not to obstruct or place themselves directly ahead of any swimmer and not take unfair advantage by pacing or slip streaming. (WA3 5.4)
- AOWS 6.2.4** Escort safety craft shall attempt to maintain a constant position so as to station the swimmer at, or forward of, the mid-point of the escort safety craft. (WA3 5.5)
- AOWS 6.2.5** Standing on the bottom during a race shall not disqualify a swimmer, but they may not walk or jump. (WA3 5.6)
- AOWS 6.2.6** With the exception of Rule AOWS 6.6 above, swimmers shall not receive support from any fixed or floating object and shall not intentionally touch or be touched by their escort safety craft or crew therein. (WA3 5.7)
- AOWS 6.2.7** Rendering assistance by an official Medical Officer to a swimmer in apparent distress should always supersede official rules of disqualification through "intentional contact" with a swimmer (Rule AOWS 6.7). (WA3 5.7.1)
- AOWS 6.2.8** No swimmer shall be permitted to use or wear any device which may be an aid to their speed, endurance, or buoyancy. An approved swimsuit, goggles, a maximum of two caps, nose clip and earplugs may be used. (WA3 5.10)
- AOWS 6.2.9** The pacing of a swimmer by another person entering the water is not permitted. (WA3 5.12)
- AOWS 6.2.10** Coaching and the giving of instructions by the approved swimmer's representative on the feeding platform or in the escort safety craft is permitted. No whistle shall be allowed. (WA3 5.13)
- AOWS 6.2.11** When taking sustenance, swimmers may use Rule AOWS 6.6 provided Rule AOWS 6.7 is not infringed. (WA3 5.14)

- AOWS 6.2.12** No objects can be thrown from the feeding platform to the swimmers, including sustenance. The swimmers shall receive their feeding directly from their representative by a feeding pole or by hand. (WA3 5.15)
- AOWS 6.2.13** Feeding poles are not to exceed 5m in length when extended. No objects, rope or wire may hang off the end of feeding poles, except for the swimmer's identification, which is allowed to be attached to the feeding pole but may not exceed the size of 30m x 20cm. (WA3 5.16)
- AOWS 6.3 ESCORT SAFETY CRAFT**
- AOWS 6.3.1** For races where escort boats are used, each escort safety craft shall contain: A Race Judge, a person of the swimmer's choice, and the minimum crew required to operate the escort safety craft. (WA3 5.8)
- AOWS 6.3.2** Each escort safety craft shall display the swimmer's competition number so as to be easily seen from either side of the escort safety craft. (WA3 5.8.1)
- AOWS 6.3.3** Each safety craft shall contain appropriately qualified safety personnel and the minimum crew required to operate the safety craft. (WA3 5.9)
- AOWS 6.4 EMERGENCY ABANDONMENT** (WA3 5.18)
- AOWS 6.4.1** In cases of emergency abandonment of races of 10km or less, the race will be restarted from the beginning at the earliest possible moment. (WA3 5.18.1)
- AOWS 6.4.2** In cases of emergency abandonment for any race longer than 10km, the final ranking will be as reported by the Chief Referee. If two hours of the race have not been completed, it will be restarted from the beginning at the earliest moment possible. (WA3 5.18.2)
- AOWS 6.4.3** Where circumstances do not permit the provisions of AOWS 6.18.2 to apply, the Chief Referee may declare a result of a race if the lead swimmer has completed at least three quarters of the race, the final ranking will be as reported by the Chief Referee.
- AOWS 7 THE FINISH OF THE RACE** (WA3 6)
- AOWS 7.1** The area leading to the finish apparatus should be clearly marked by rows of buoys which narrow as they get closer to the finish wall. (WA3 8.1.2.2) Escort safety craft should be stationed at the approach to and entrance of the finish funnel to ensure that only the escort safety craft authorised to do so enter or cross this entrance. (WA3 6.1)
- AOWS 7.2** The finish apparatus should, where possible, be a finish plate at least 5m wide fixed if necessary to floatation devices, securely fastened in place so as not to be moved by wind, tide or force of a swimmer striking the wall. The finish should be filmed and recorded from each side and above by video system with slow motion and recall facilities including timing equipment. (WA3 8.1.2.4)
- AOWS 7.2.1** When Automatic Officiating Equipment is used for timing of competitions in accordance with Rule SW11, microchip transponder technology capable of providing split times is mandatory and should be added to the equipment. Microchip transponder timing technology will be recorded officially in tenths of seconds. (WA3 8.2.1)
- AOWS 7.2.1.1** Where AOE and finish video recording is available - the final placings will be determined by the Chief Referee using AOE and finish video recording. If AOE and finish video recording is not available, then the final places will be determined by the Chief Referee based upon the official recordings of the Judges and Timekeepers. (WA3 6.2)

- AOWS 7.2.2** All swimmers must start the race with a microchip transponder on each wrist. If a swimmer loses a transponder the Race Judge or other authorised official, will immediately inform the Chief Referee who will instruct the responsible official on the water to issue a replacement transponder. All swimmers need to finish with at least one transponder on their wrist. Any swimmer who finishes the race without at least one transponder will be disqualified. (WA3 6.3)
- AOWS 7.2.3** When, at the finish of an open water swimming competition, a finish plate is available, swimmers must touch the finish plate to finish the race. Any swimmer who does not touch the finish plate will be disqualified. (WA3 6.4)
- AOWS 7.3** The Finish Judges and Timekeepers shall be placed so as to be able to observe the finish at all times. The area in which they are stationed should be for their exclusive use. (WA3 6.5)
- AOWS 7.4** Every effort should be made to ensure that the swimmers' representative can get from the escort safety craft to meet the swimmer as they leave the water. (WA3 6.6)
- AOWS 7.5** Upon leaving the water some swimmers may require assistance. Swimmers should only be touched or handled if they clearly display a need or ask for assistance. (WA3 6.7)
- AOWS 7.6** A member of the medical team should inspect the swimmers as they leave the water. A chair, in which the swimmer can sit while an assessment is made, should be provided. (WA3 6.8)
- AOWS 7.7** Once cleared by the medical member, swimmers should be given access to refreshment. (WA3 6.9)
- AOWS 8** **SWIMWEAR AND TECHNOLOGY** (WA3 7)
- AOWS 8.1** For open water swimming competitions with water temperature from 18°C and above, swimsuits (men and women) shall not cover the neck, nor extend past the shoulder, nor extend below the ankle. Subject to these specific shape specifications, swimsuits for open water swimming competitions shall further comply with all other requirements applicable to swimsuits for swimming-pool competition as noted in Swimming Australia Competition Rule CR23. (WA3 7.1)
- AOWS 8.2** For open water swimming competitions in water with temperature below 18°C, the use of wetsuits is compulsory. Wetsuits are not permitted in open water swimming competitions in water with temperature 18°C and above. (WA3 7.2)
- AOWS 8.3** **WETSUITS:** Wetsuits (for both men and women) shall completely cover torso, back, shoulders and knees. They shall not extend beyond the neck, wrists, and ankles. (WA3 7.3)
- AOWS 8.4** **TEAM EVENT:** All swimmers from the same team must wear the same colour caps which shall also comply with the Swimming Australia Commercial Guidelines 1.3. (WA3 7.4)
- AOWS 8.5** **TECHNOLOGY:** Technology such as GPS tracking, bio-medical sensors or devices that record blood pressure, body temperature, stroke rate, breathing rate etc. via the transponder are permitted if approved by Swimming Australia as listed in World Aquatics approved wearables and technology list. The technology may transmit such information but not act as a receiver giving information and advantage to the swimmer such as "smart goggles", hearing devices and the like. Drones may not be used unless approved by Swimming Australia. Competitors must declare all wearables when reporting to registration. (WA3 7.5)

AOWS 9 OPEN WATER SWIMMING FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT (WA3 8)

Open Water Swimming Facilities (WA3 8.1)

OWS 9.1 START PLATFORMS:

Start Platforms shall be of sufficient size to allow 60cm space per swimmer plus an additional 5m. Each swimmer space should be identified and numbered with number one furthest from the entry to the platform. They shall be of sufficient width to allow for the necessary activities prior to the start and to support the weight of the swimmers and officials at the start. (WA3 8.1.1)

AOWS 9.2 FEEDING PLATFORMS:

Feeding Platforms shall be of sufficient size and buoyancy for the safe operation of the platform and the feeders and officials. There needs to be sufficient space on one or more platforms to accommodate all feeders and sufficient width to allow storage and preparation for swimmer feeding. Access to the platform shall be outside of the race course wherever possible. (WA3 8.1.4)

AOWS 9.3 Automatic Officiating Equipment for Open Water Swimming

The operation of Automatic Officiating Equipment shall be under the supervision of appointed officials. Results recorded by Automatic Equipment shall be used to determine the winner, all placing and the time applicable to each swimmer. The placing and times so determined shall have precedence over the decisions of Judges and Timekeepers. In the event that a break-down of the Automatic Equipment occurs or that it is clearly indicated that there has been a failure of the equipment, or that a swimmer has failed to activate the equipment, the recordings of the Judges and Timekeepers shall be official. (WA3 8.2)

AOWS 9.4 Intermediate Timing Gate

Where an intermediate timing gate is used it shall be placed such that it becomes part of the overall course within the swimming line of the course without deviation for the swimmers. It shall be a minimum width of 6m wide at the swimming waterline. (WA3 8.2.2)

AOWS 9.5 Automatic Officiating Procedure for Open Water Swimming

Any timing device that is terminated by an official shall be considered a watch. Such manual times must be taken by three Timekeepers appointed or approved by the Member in the country concerned. All watches shall be certified as accurate to the satisfaction of the governing body concerned. Manual timing shall be registered to 1/10 of a second. Where no Automatic Equipment is used, official manual times shall be determined as follows: (WA3 8.3.1)

AOWS 9.6 If two of the three watches record the same time and the third disagrees, the two identical times shall be the official time. (WA3 8.3.1.1)

AOWS 9.7 If all three watches disagree, the watch recording the intermediate time shall be the official time. (WA3 8.3.1.2)

AOWS 9.8 With only two out of the three watches working the average time shall be the official time. When this calculation results in a value that is expressed in hundredths of a second, the final digit shall be dropped without rounding. (WA3 8.3.1.3)

AOWS 9.9 When the Automatic Officiating Equipment fails to record the place and/or time of one or more swimmers in a given race: (WA3 8.3.2)

AOWS 9.10 Record all available Automatic Officiating Equipment times and places, (WA3 8.3.2.1)

AOWS 9.11 Record all human times and places. (WA3 8.3.2.2)

AOWS 9.12 The official place will be determined as follows:

- A swimmer with an Automatic Officiating Equipment time and/or place must retain his/her relative order when compared with the other swimmers having an Automatic Officiating Equipment time and/or place within that race.
- A swimmer not having an Automatic Officiating Equipment place shall have their place established by the Chief Referee from the video recording of the finish of the race.
- A swimmer having neither an Automatic Officiating Equipment place nor an Automatic Officiating Equipment time shall establish their relative order by the place recorded by the judges. (WA3 8.3.2.3)

AOWS 10 IDENTIFICATION OF SWIMMERS DURING THE RACE (WA3 9)

AOWS 10.1 Numbering of Swimmers

The swimmer's number is to be displayed on the arms, upper backs and hands of the swimmer. On the arms, the numbers shall be arranged vertically. On the upper backs and hands, the number shall be displayed horizontally. Where the number on the arms and backs is made with an ink template: 100mm high x 60mm wide, the number on the hands may be made using marking pens. For swimmers with darker skin and full body wetsuits a white marker pen will be required. (WA3 9.1)