



FÉDÉRATION  
INTERNATIONALE  
DE NATATION

# FINA GENERAL RULES

*Approved by the FINA Congress on 22 July 2017*

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These General Rules are basic regulations for FINA competitions in all kinds of Swimming, Open Water Swimming, Diving, High Diving, Water Polo, Synchronised Swimming, and Masters Competitions as well as for uniform regulations for the development of competition facilities.

In these Rules, competitors shall include swimmers, open water swimmers, divers, water polo players, synchronized swimmers, or masters swimmers, either male or female.

FINA recognizes that these Rules may be adjusted for competitions within a given Federation but recommends that all Members adhere to these Rules as closely as possible.

## **GR 1 ELIGIBILITY**

**GR 1.1** All competitors shall be registered with their National Federation to be eligible to compete.

## **GR 2 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**GR 2.1** A competition organised by a National Federation, Regional Body or Club in which other FINA recognised Federations, Clubs or Individuals participate, shall be regarded as an International Competition.

**GR 2.2** A Member shall not admit to its membership any club affiliated to another Member.

**GR 2.3** Any competitor who temporarily or permanently changes his residence to another country may join a club affiliated to the Member in the new country and shall be regarded as coming within the jurisdiction of the latter.

**GR 2.4** No team shall be designated by the title of a country or Sport Country unless the competitors have been selected by the Member of the country or Sport Country.

**GR 2.5** When a competitor or competition official represents his/her country in a competition, he/she shall be a citizen, whether by birth or naturalisation, of the nation he/she represents, provided that a naturalised citizen shall have lived in that country for at least one year prior to that competition. Competitors, who have more than one nationality according to the laws of the respective nations must choose one "Sport Nationality". This choice shall be exercised by the first representation of the competitor for one (1) of the countries.

As an additional requirement for the Sport Countries, when a competitor or competition official is eligible to represent a Sport Country (within the meaning of FINA rule C 3.16), the Competitor or competition official shall establish the specific link with the Sport Country by one (1) of the following documents: (i) Birth certificate of the Competitor or competition official in the Sport Country; or (ii) Proof of current residency for at least twelve (12) months in the Sport Country (as provided in FINA Rule GR 2.6.1); or (iii) Birth certificate of the mother, father, grandmother or grandfather of the Competitor or competition official in the Sport Country.

**GR 2.6** Any competitor or competition official changing his sport nationality from one national governing body to another must have resided in the territory of and been under the jurisdiction of the latter for at least twelve months prior to his first representation for the country.

**GR 2.6.1** Proof of Residence

- 1) Residence means the place/country where the competitor or competition official “lives and sleeps” and where he/she can be found in the majority of days of the year.
- 2) The proof of residence must include documentation establishing the applicant resides in the country. In this regard the official school or university confirmation or employment contract or any other relevant documentation may constitute evidence.
- 3) Certified registration of an address in the «new» country for at least twelve (12) months prior to first representation of the competitor or competition official for the «new» country must be sent to FINA.

**GR 2.6.2** Proof of Jurisdiction

- 1) Certified membership in a club of the new country
- 2) Confirmation from the FINA Member of that country
- 3) Official result lists from national championships, national, regional or international club competitions in which the applicant has participated for his/her “new” club during the GR 2.6 requested time
- 4) Applicants cannot represent any of the countries during the “transfer period”

**GR 2.7** Any application for change of affiliation must be approved by FINA.

**GR 2.8** Competition Officials must be on current FINA Lists approved by the respective Technical Committee for the aquatics discipline in order to officiate at the Olympic Games and World Championships. Nominated officials must be members of the nominating Federation and certified by the Member Federation on the nomination form.

### **GR 3 TOURS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES**

**GR 3.1** A competitor competing at a competition in a foreign country shall be a member of an affiliated Member or of a club affiliated thereto. This section shall apply equally to judges, officials, trainers, and coaches.

**GR 3.2** All competitions must have received sanction by the Member where the competition takes place, and all competitors or clubs must have permission from their respective Member.

**GR 3.3** In every case of a dispute, the rules of the Member or recognised Continental Body under whose jurisdiction the competition is held shall be enforced. During the

Olympic Games, World Championships, and other FINA competitions, FINA Rules are applicable.

#### **GR 4 UNAUTHORISED RELATIONS**

**GR 4.1** No affiliated Member shall have any kind of relationship with a non-affiliated or suspended body.

**GR 4.2** The exchange of competitors, administrators, directors, judges, officials, trainers, coaches, etc., with non-affiliated or suspended bodies is not permissible.

**GR 4.3** The holding of demonstrations and/or exhibitions, clinics, training, competitions, etc., with non-affiliated or suspended bodies is not permissible.

**GR 4.4** The Bureau may authorise relations with non-affiliated or suspended bodies as in Rules GR 4.1 through GR 4.3 above.

**GR 4.5** Any individual or group violating this Rule shall be suspended by the affiliated Member for a minimum period of one year, up to a maximum period of two years. FINA retains the right to review the suspension made by the affiliated Member and to increase it up to the maximum of two years in accordance with the circumstances involved. The affiliated Member shall abide by any such increase made on review. In the event that such individual or group has resigned its membership with the affiliated Member or is not a Member, it shall not be allowed to affiliate with that Member for a minimum period of three months up to a maximum period of two years. FINA retains the right to review any such sanction imposed by the affiliated Member and to increase it up to the maximum of two years in accordance with the circumstances involved. The affiliated Member shall abide by any such increase made on review.

**GR 4.6** Each Member that conducts a competition shall strictly enforce the FINA Rules governing eligibility.

#### **GR 5 SWIMWEAR**

**GR 5.1** The swimwear (swimsuit, cap and goggles) of all competitors shall be in good moral taste and suitable for the individual sports disciplines and not to carry any symbol which may be considered offensive.

**GR 5.2** All swimsuits shall be non-transparent. It is permissible to wear two (2) caps.

**GR 5.3** The referee of a competition has the authority to exclude any competitor whose swimsuit or body symbols do not comply with this Rule.

**GR 5.4** Before any swimwear of new design, construction or material is used in competition, the manufacturer of such swimwear must submit the swimwear to FINA and obtain approval of FINA.

## **GR 6 ADVERTISING**

**GR 6.1** Identification in the form of logos on swimwear, i.e. swimsuit, cap and goggles, and pool deck equipment, i.e. track suits, official's uniforms, footwear, towels and bags, is permitted in accordance with regulations established in the By-Laws (BL 7). A two-piece swimsuit shall, in relation to advertising, be regarded as one. The name and the flag of the country of the competitor or the country code shall not be regarded as advertisements.

**GR 6.2** Body advertisement is not allowed in any way whatsoever.

**GR 6.3** Advertising for tobacco, alcohol or sports-related betting is not allowed.

## **GR 7 SUBSTITUTION, DISQUALIFICATION AND WITHDRAWAL**

**GR 7.1** Any entered competitor may be substituted by another entered competitor at the Team Leaders Meeting. It is mandatory for one representative of each Federation to take part in the Team Leaders Meeting. Failing to do so will result in a fine of one-hundred (100) Swiss Francs.

**GR 7.2** In all competitions except water polo, a competitor or team not wishing to take part in a semi-final or final in which qualification was earned shall withdraw within thirty (30) minutes following the preliminaries or the semi-finals of the event in which the qualification took place. The member federation of any competitor who withdraws from the heats/preliminary rounds after the Team Leaders Meeting or from a semi-final or final more than thirty (30) minutes after the preliminaries or semi-finals of the event in which qualification was earned, shall pay without excuse to the Honorary Treasurer the sum of one-hundred (100) Swiss francs; in case of a relay, duet, team or combination, the sum shall be two-hundred (200) Swiss francs.

**GR 7.3** If a team withdraws from a FINA Water Polo event any time after the draw has been concluded, and without the approval of the Management Committee, then that team will be sanctioned by the Bureau with an economic sanction of eight thousand (8,000) Swiss Francs, from which six thousand (6,000) Swiss Francs goes to the Organiser, and suspension from all competitions for a minimum period of three months up to a maximum period of two years.

**GR 7.4** In Swimming, Diving, and Synchronised Swimming, where a competitor who competed in the semi-finals or final is disqualified for any reason, including medical control, the position he would have held shall be awarded to the competitor who finished next and all the lower placing competitors in the semi-finals or final shall be advanced one place. If the disqualification occurs after the presentation of awards, the awards shall be returned and given to the appropriate competitors applying the foregoing provisions.

**GR 7.5** If an error by an official follows a fault by a competitor, the fault by the competitor may be expunged.

## **GR 8 SMOKING BAN**

At all international competitions, no smoking shall be permitted in any area designated for competitors, either prior to or during competitions.

## **GR 9 OLYMPIC GAMES, WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, WORLD SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS (25m) AND GENERAL RULES FOR FINA COMPETITIONS**

### **GR 9.1 Organisation**

**GR 9.1.1** FINA alone shall have the right to organise World Championships and other FINA competitions for Swimming, Diving, High Diving, Water Polo, Synchronised Swimming, and Open Water Swimming. The words World and FINA may not be used in connection with any Swimming, Diving, High Diving, Water Polo, Synchronised Swimming, or Open Water Swimming event without the consent of FINA.

**GR 9.1.2** The national flags of the countries of the competitors placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd shall be raised and the national anthem (abbreviated, as stated in the Olympic Charter) of the country of the champion in the individual and team competitions shall be played. This Rule does not apply to Masters Championships.

**GR 9.1.3** The Bureau is empowered to formulate all rules and regulations for the conduct of such competitions. All regulations set by the Bureau must be announced and published one year prior to the opening day of the competition.

### **GR 9.2 Protests**

**GR 9.2.1** Protests are possible:

- (a) if the rules and regulations for the conduct of the competition are not observed,
- (b) if other conditions endanger the competitions and/or competitors, or
- (c) against decisions of the referee; however, no protest shall be allowed against decisions of fact.

**GR 9.2.2** Protest must be submitted:

- (a) to the referee,
- (b) in writing on FINA Forms,
- (c) by the responsible team leader,
- (d) together with a deposit of five-hundred (500) Swiss Francs or its equivalent, and

(e) within thirty (30) minutes following the conclusion of the respective event or match.

If conditions causing a potential protest are noted prior to the event a protest must be lodged before the signal to start is given.

**GR 9.2.3** All protests shall be considered by the referee. If he rejects the protest, he must state the reasons for his decision. The team leader may appeal the rejection to the Jury of Appeal whose decision shall be final. In Olympic Games and World Championships the Commission in each discipline shall consider the protest and give recommendations to the Jury of Appeal.

**GR 9.2.4** If the protest is rejected, the deposit will be forfeited to the management body of the competition. If the protest is upheld, the deposit will be returned.

**GR 9.2.5** In Diving, an oral complaint may be made by the competitor or a responsible team official immediately after the execution of a dive, a round of dives, or a section of the contest. If the complaint is not accepted, a formal protest may be made as in GR 9.2.2.

### **GR 9.3 Jury of Appeal**

**GR 9.3.1** For Olympic Games and World Championships, the Jury of Appeal shall be composed of the Bureau Members and Honorary Members present with the President or in his absence a Vice President, as Chairman. For all other FINA competitions, the Jury of Appeal shall be the FINA delegate together with any Bureau Members or members of the appropriate Technical Committee present, with the delegate as chairman. Each member shall have one vote, except as provided hereunder, and in case of equality of voting, the Chairman has a casting vote.

**GR 9.3.2** A jury member is allowed to speak, but not to vote, on a case in which the interest of his own Federation is involved. A jury member having acted as an official is not allowed to vote on a case if there is a protest against his decision or on his interpretation of a Rule. In case of urgency, the jury may vote on a matter even if it has not been possible to call all the members. The decision of the jury is final.

### **GR 9.4 Management Committee**

**GR 9.4.1** The actual management of all Olympic Games and World Championship contests shall be under the control of FINA.

**GR 9.4.2** For the Olympic Games and the World Championships the FINA Bureau shall be the Management Committee. Management Committees for FINA World Swimming Championships (25m), FINA World Open Water Swimming Championships, FINA World Masters Championships, FINA World Junior Championships in Swimming, Diving, Water Polo and Synchronised Swimming and any other FINA Championship or competition shall be appointed by the FINA Executive.

**GR 9.4.3** The Management Committee shall have the power, if they think it advisable, to add one representative of the country holding the Olympic Games or World Championships.

**GR 9.4.4** The Management Committee shall be responsible for the entire management of the competition, including the arrangement of the programme of events and the appointment of officials.

**GR 9.4.5** Should any member of the Management Committee be absent from the Olympic Games or World Championships, the remaining members shall have the power to appoint substitutes, if necessary. Twelve members shall constitute a quorum.

**GR 9.4.6** When the Management Committee is acting as Jury of Appeal, Rule GR 9.3 shall apply.

### **GR 9.5 Commissions**

**GR 9.5.1** For each discipline in the Olympic Games and World Championships a Commission shall be appointed consisting of the respective Technical Delegate (Bureau Liaison) and Chairman, Vice Chairman and Honorary Secretary of each respective Technical Committee.

**GR 9.5.2** Subject to the supervision of the FINA Bureau, the Commissions shall be responsible for:

- (a) the conduct of the competition in the respective discipline.
- (b) the control of all technical equipment and installations prior to and during the event
- (c) making rosters for officials
- (d) investigating cases of protest as preparation for the Jury of Appeal.

### **GR 9.6 Programming**

#### **GR 9.6.1 Programme of Events**

##### **GR 9.6.1.1 Swimming - World Championships (25m)**

	Men	Women
Freestyle	50m, 100m, 200m 400m, 1500m	50m, 100m, 200m 400m, 800m
Backstroke	50m, 100m, 200m	50m, 100m, 200m
Breaststroke	50m, 100m, 200m	50m, 100m, 200m
Butterfly	50m, 100m, 200m	50m, 100m, 200m
Ind. Medley	100m, 200m, 400m	100m, 200m, 400m



Relays	Freestyle	4x50m, 4x100m	4x50m, 4x100m
		4x200m	4x200m
	Medley	4x50m, 4x100m	4x50m, 4x100m
	Mixed Relays	4x50m Freestyle and 4x50m Medley	

Entry times achieved in 25m and 50m pools will be accepted. Heats and semi-finals may be swum using 10 lanes. Finals can be only swum using 8 lanes.

### GR 9.6.1.2 Swimming - World Championships (50m)

	Men	Women
Freestyle	50m, 100m, 200m	50m, 100m, 200m
	400m, 800m,	400m, 800m,
	1500m	1500m
Backstroke	50m, 100m, 200m	50m, 100m, 200m
Breaststroke	50m, 100m, 200m	50m, 100m, 200m
Butterfly	50m, 100m, 200m	50m, 100m, 200m
Ind. Medley	200m, 400m	200m, 400m
Relays	Freestyle	4x100m, 4x200m
	Medley	4x100m,
	Mixed Relays	4x100m Freestyle and 4x100m Medley

Only entry times achieved in 50m pools will be accepted. Heats and semi-finals may be swum using 10 lanes. Finals can be only swum using 8 lanes.

### GR 9.6.1.3 Swimming – Olympic Games

	Men	Women
Freestyle	50m, 100m, 200m	50m, 100m, 200m
	400m, 800m,	400m, 800m,
	1500m	1500m
Backstroke	100m, 200m	100m, 200m
Breaststroke	100m, 200m	100m, 200m
Butterfly	100m, 200m	100m, 200m
Ind. Medley	200m, 400m	200m, 400m

Relays	Freestyle	4x100m, 4x200m	4x100m, 4x200m
	Medley	4x100m,	4x100m
	Mixed Relays	4x100m Medley	

Only entry times achieved in 50m pools will be accepted. Heats and semi-finals may be swum using 10 lanes. Finals can be only swum using 8 lanes.

#### **GR 9.6.1.4 Diving - World Championships**

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Mixed Team Event</u>
Springboard	1m, 3m	1m, 3m	3m
Platform	10m	10m	10m
Synchronised	3m, 10m	3m, 10m	3m, 10m

#### **GR 9.6.1.5 Diving – Olympic Games**

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Springboard	3m	3m
Platform	10m	10m
Synchronised	3m, 10m	3m, 10m

#### **GR 9.6.1.6 High Diving - World Championships**

<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
27m	20m

#### **GR 9.6.1.7 Water Polo - World Championships & Olympic Games**

Men	Women
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#### **GR 9.6.1.8 Synchronised Swimming - World Championships**

##### Women

Solo Technical Routine

Solo Free Routine

Duet Technical Routine

Duet Free Routine

Team Technical Routine

Team Free Routine

Free Combination

Highlight Routine

Woman and man

Mixed Duet Technical Routine

Mixed Duet Free Routine

### **GR 9.6.1.9 Synchronised Swimming – Olympic Games**

Women

Duet Technical Routine

Duet Free Routine

Team Technical Routine

Team Free Routine

### **GR 9.6.1.10 Open Water Swimming - World Championships**

<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Mixed Team Event</u>
25 kilometres	25 kilometres	--
10 kilometres	10 kilometres	--
5 kilometres	5 kilometres	5 kilometres

### **GR 9.6.1.11 Marathon Swimming – Olympic Games**

<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
10 kilometres	10 kilometres

**GR 9.6.1.12** The qualifying period and system will be decided by the FINA Bureau.

**GR 9.6.2** Once fixed, the standard daily programme of events may be altered only by FINA Management Committee, and then under exceptional circumstances. Notice of any alteration must be posted on the Official Bulletin Board, at least twenty four hours before the alteration is to come into operation.

**GR 9.6.3** The competitions at the Olympic Games shall take place during the dates to be fixed by the International Olympic Committee and FINA jointly. There shall be morning, afternoon, and evening sessions.

**GR 9.6.4** The competitions at the World Championships shall take place during the dates to be fixed by the FINA Bureau. There shall be morning, afternoon, and evening sessions.

**GR 9.6.5** Exhibitions or displays outside the usual Olympic Games or World Championships programmes are not desirable and may not be held during these contests, unless authorised by FINA.

## **GR 10 JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**GR 10.1** FINA may conduct Junior World Championships in each discipline in accordance with FINA Rules and in particular the Rules set forth in this Rule GR 10.

**GR 10.2** The Junior World Championships shall be conducted in accordance with a calendar schedule approved by the FINA Bureau.

**GR 10.3** Junior World Championships shall be conducted with doping control in accordance with FINA Doping Control rules.

**GR 10.4** At all Junior World Championships, the Management Committee shall be the members of the appropriate Technical Committee present at the Event, with the Bureau Liaison as Chairman who shall have a casting vote, if necessary.

**GR 10.5** Judging selections shall be determined by the appropriate Technical Committee, subject to approval by the Bureau or the Executive.

**GR 10.6** The ages for juniors shall be as set forth in the Rules of each discipline (DAG 2, DAG 3 and DAG 4; WPAG 1 and WPAG 2; SSAG 2; and OWS in BL 9).