

## **Referees**

### Inclusion of Swimmers with a Disability

**REFEREE** Article 102.11.9 May modify any rule for a competitive swimmer who has a disability. Any such modification shall be in accordance with Article 105 of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations, shall affect only the current meet, and shall not set a precedent.

**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. Reference 701.24 for Open Water competitions.

**105.2A Swimmer/Coach – The Swimmer’s/Coach’s Responsibilities include** — The swimmer (or the swimmer's coach) is responsible for notifying the Referee, prior to the competition, of any swimmer with a disability and of the requested accommodations and/or modifications. The swimmer/coach shall provide a Personal Assistant(s) or any equipment (tappers, deck mats, etc.) if required.

**105.2B Meet Referee — The Meet Referee’s responsibilities include:**

- (1) Determining if the requested accommodations/modifications are appropriate and can be met.
- (2) Instructing the Deck Referee and Starter as to how the accommodations and/or modifications will be made for the swimmer with a disability.
- (3) In communication with the remaining officiating crew, a Meet Referee may:
  - a.** Instruct them to observe and report ANY violation of the rules and vet the call against the approved modification(s) and apply Article 105 to overturn the call
  - b.** Or, share the specific modification(s) and instruct them to observe and report any violation except the approved modification(s).

**The following information is to help facilitate the conversation between coaches and referees to provide an inclusive parallel performance**

**Accommodations** - Necessary for a swimmer with a disability to access the facility and maneuver to the block

**Examples of Meet Accommodations per Article 105**

- Towel on the block to start
- Assistance at the block before the start
- Extra time to get to the block or exit the pool
- Lane preference, the outside lane closest to the starter
- Personal Assistant
- Strobe placed at the block

**Modifications** - Any exceptions to the technical rules approved by the Meet Referee allowing a parallel performance for a swimmer with a disability

**Examples of Rule Modifications per Article 105**

- Sitting position on block 105.5.1.E(1)
- Starter's arm signals 105.3
- Personal Assistant for mobility, tapper (B/VI) or communication, etc. 105.1.3B(1) and elsewhere
- Inability of the swimmer to turn a foot out in breaststroke during the propulsive
- part of the kick.105.1.3(B)(3)
- Arms, due to immobility, are unable to perform Breaststroke Touch 101.2.4 and/or Butterfly Touch 101.3.4
- Backstroke starts 101.4.1

Questions, contact: Your Zone Disability Coordinators:

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