



Central Gauteng Aquatics Swimming Disqualification (DQ) Policy

Background

It would appear that in recent years there have been various informal discussions regarding DQ Policies, especially in respect of Level 0 and Level 1 galas, without any formal outcomes being documented.

Both Swimming South Africa (SSA) and Central Gauteng Aquatics (CGA) have constitutions and rules governing competitive events which, it is believed, require all events to be run under FINA Rules, without exception.

Galas at Levels 1, 2 and 3 have been in place for a long time and represent competitive events with varying degrees of competence, determined by the achievement of qualifying times and these include events for para swimmers as well as able-bodied.

Level 0 galas are an 'introduction to competitive swimming', to cater for younger and less experienced swimmers such as those not attached to CGA-affiliated clubs.

In the absence of any bye-laws to constitutions, or documented policies, it appears that each gala is subject to the interpretation of the referee and officials. This has resulted in confusion regarding the requirements for DQs especially at Level 0 events and frequently at Level 1 events. This may also have resulted in concerns regarding swimmers being entered for events that they are not sufficiently prepared for, or are not fully competent to compete in – this is particularly evident when officials are asked to apply rules on an age basis.

Whilst it is important to encourage competitive swimmers, and to retain and develop them within a competitive environment, it is equally important to ensure that the rules of swimming are respected and applied consistently and that individual achievements are acknowledged and not potentially outperformed by those contravening the rules.

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to initiate the development of a CGA Disqualification Policy ("The Policy") which is clear and consistent and can be considered for adoption into CGA bye-laws and thereby circulated to all gala participants, parents, clubs, coaches and officials.

Scope

The Policy shall apply to all Swimming Galas organised and conducted on a provincial basis by CGA and categorised, in accordance with other CGA policies and procedures as:

- Level 3
- Level 2
- Level 1
- Level 0

CENTRAL GAUTENG AQUATICS

(AFFILIATED TO SWIMMING SOUTH AFRICA)



The policy shall NOT apply to any other swimming galas, organised by any affiliated club, or to which CGA affiliated clubs and swimmers are invited.

Policy Statement

The CGA Swimming Gala Disqualification Policy is that:

- The disqualification criteria at events categorised as Level 1, 2 or 3 shall be those directed by FINA, with specific reference to paragraphs SW1 to SW13 and SWAG 1, and
- The disqualification criteria at events categorised as Level 0 shall be those directed by FINA, subject to the provision that minor infringements, to be determined by the Swimming Technical Committee, shall be dealt with by a verbal warning from the referee.

Policy Application

The Policy Statement shall be fully applied in accordance with FINA interpretation at all events categorised as Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3. This includes the IPC requirements for para swimmers.

The application shall however be relaxed at Level 0 galas which are intended as an introduction to competitive swimming for younger and less experienced participants. This will result in advice to the referee to consider not disqualifying swimmers for violations of a more 'technical' nature where the essential components of the swim were satisfactorily completed.

The following table indicates these principles for application of the Policy:

CGA Event	Disqualification Criteria	Non-disqualification Criteria (Warning)
Level 3	Any violation of FINA Technical Rules	None
Level 2	Any violation of FINA Technical Rules	None
Level 1	Any violation of FINA Technical Rules	None
Level 0	Violations of fundamental start, stroke, touch and turn rules, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Starting before starting signal given (a 'flyer')• Swimming the wrong stroke (arms or legs or both)• Not touching at turn• Incorrect touch at turn or finish (no attempt to make correct touch)• Fully on breast at finish (backstroke)	Less fundamental violations when the majority of the event was completed correctly, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One start rule (not being a 'flyer')• Incorrect touch at turn or finish (did attempt to make correct touch)• Non-simultaneous touch• Adjusting goggles• Under-water recovery at end of butterfly• Off back (over 90⁰) at finish (backstroke)
Club Leagues	Policy not applicable – events subject to organising club's regulations	
Club 'Fun' Galas	Policy not applicable – events subject to organising club's regulations	