EUROPEAN AQUATICS®

Open Water Swimming

OWS Officials Clinic Level 2

Andrea Prayer – Chairman EA TOWSC

Prof. Dr. Bastian Esefeld – Member EA TOWSC / Academy Officials Sub-Commission

Welcome

26th October 2025

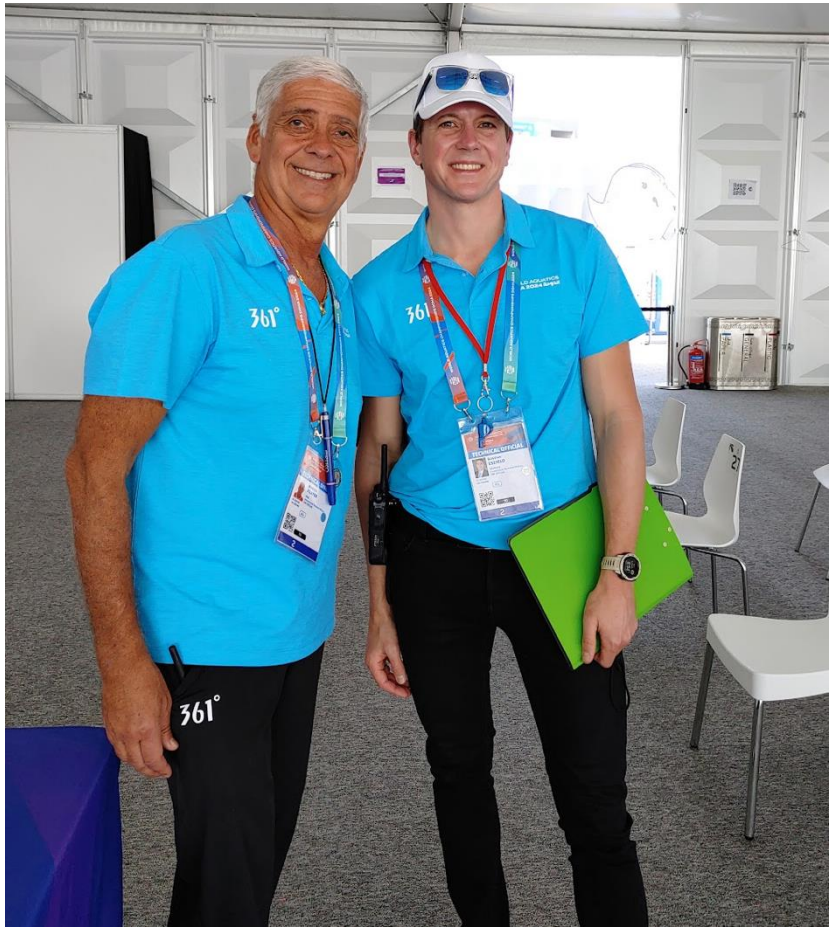
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Schedule School

Time	Topics
09:00 – 09:15	Welcome and Role Call
09:15 – 11:00	Rule Changes (World Aquatics, European Aquatics)
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 12:00	Safety Aspects
12:00 – 12:30	Feedback, Lessons learned OWS Season 2025
12:30 – 12:45	EA OWS Competitions and EA Education System 2026
12:45 – 13:00	Feedback of Participants

Lecturers

Andrea Prayer
TOWSC Chairman



Bastian Esefeld
TOWSC Member,
Academy Officials Sub-Commission

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Role Call



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No	Surname	First Name	Attendance
1	Alves	Alexandre	
2	Anemone	Alphonse	
3	Antier/Le Rolland	Anne	
4	Aufinger	Simone	
5	Baglio	Antonio Emanuele	
6	Beauvois	Anthony	
7	Begue	Clémence	
8	Bianchi	Cristina	
9	Bobanović	Ivica	
10	Bogomilova	Tanya	
11	Boldišová	Zuzana	
12	Bolković	Karin	
13	Bolteri	Annalisa	
14	Brandao	Jose Pedro	
15	Buirette	Corinne	
16	Bukal	Petr	
17	Carmona Marques	Maria Alexandra	
18	Castro Casal	Manuel	
19	Coda	Renata	
20	Coda	Claudia	

No	Surname	First Name	Attendance
21	Conti	Marco	
22	Davies	Mark	
23	De Caso Martin	Jose Elias	
24	De Meyere	Kathy	
25	De Saedeleer	Joke	
26	Delalleau	Corinne	
27	Dias	Bárbara	
28	Dieguez	Oscar	
29	Domingues	Ana	
30	Eckle	Tina	
31	Esnault	Frédéric	
32	Fantinato	Filippo	
33	Fouchard	Aurélien	
34	Garcia Ribas	Anna	
35	Gianniotis	Spyridon	
36	Gómez Pérez	Israel	
37	Gonçalves	Filipa	
38	Guegan	Rozenn	
39	Hagymasi	Gyula	
40	Heller	Sharon	

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No	Surname	First Name	Attendance
41	Henriot-Wagner	Cendrine	
42	Hubal	Petr	
43	Hudetz	Andras	
44	Jean	Karine	
45	Jelmoni	Kim	
46	Joos	Franky	
47	Joye	Isabelle	
48	Kalaba	Ostoja	
49	Keetlaer-Kaas	Esther	
50	Kim	Hee Jin	
51	Kosiedowski	Wojciech	
52	Kujat	Szymon	
53	Labordus	Hendrik	
54	Lázár	Rita	
55	Levačić	Dina	
56	Longfellow	Janel	
57	Lopes Da Silva	Vasco	
58	Ludivine	Crubellier	
59	Maddaloni	Daniela	
60	Malatesta	Veronica	

No	Surname	First Name	Attendance
61	Manojlovic	Biljana	
62	Marianne	Brou	
63	Marques	Carlos	
64	Matzinger	Alexandre	
65	Michalski	Lukasz	
66	Mitache	Gabriel	
67	Morisot	David	
68	Moustakis	Emmanouil	
69	Nilsson	Hasse	
70	Nir	Zeev	
71	Osete Garcia	Elena	
72	Paavo	Sander	
73	Padilla Vargas	Rayco	
74	Papadakis	Ioannis	
75	Pereira	Virginia	
76	Pereira	Nuno	
77	Pinchas	Uri	
78	Plana Farnós	Sergi	
79	Pous Cid	Gemma	
80	Prokopieva	Adriana	

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No	Surname	First Name	Attendance
81	Rajić	Marijana	
82	Rebora	Marco	
83	Rep Strafella	Maja	
84	Richter	Dominik	
85	Riehl	Jean-Michel	
86	Rifa	Oriol	
87	Roberts	Richard	
88	Ruiz Galán	Jordi	
89	Sanchez	Patricio	
90	Sorrentino	Rita Maria Lucia	
91	Sousa	David	
92	Šprláková-Zmorová	Katarína	
93	Stefanik	Peter	
94	Stojanowski	Dawid	
95	Szabóová	Zuzana	
96	Tangolo	Alessandro	
97	Tavares Martins	Tomás	
98	Toth	Alexandra	
99	Van Malderen	Kim	
100	Varga	Emese	

No	Surname	First Name	Attendance
101	Vecseri	Eszter	
102	Weertman	Ferry	
103	Weisskopf	Patrick	
104	Woldtmann	Bernd	
105	Yesipenko	Oleksiy	
106	Zdrilić	Ivica	
107	Zecevic Bratulic	Vesna	
108	Zurita Lozano	Maria Del Valle	
109	Zwi	Itamar	

Additional TOWSC Members

No	Surname	First Name	Attendance
1	Unutmaz	Volkan	
2	Compois	Bénédicte	
3	Keller	Danielle	
4	Razvan	Florea	
5	Arestis	Petros	
6	Velkov	Vasil	
7	Stefanik	Veronika	
8	Malul	Yizhaq	

Rule Changes

OWS Officials Clinic – 26.10.2025

Rule Changes

World Aquatics

- Water temperature and Wetsuits
- Knockout Sprint
- Decision Review System and Video Review Judge
- Wearables
- Protest and Appeal

European Aquatics

- Water temperature
- Programme European Junior
- Requirements for Officiating (Education System)

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Rule Changes – Water Temperature

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 18.0°C and above, except when conditions are hazardous for the competitors, the Chief Referee may, upon recommendation from the Safety Officer & Medical Officer declare wetsuits as mandatory in temperatures up to 20.0°C.

AQUA – Part Three – 7.2

- NEW: Temperature Range: 18.0°C – 20.0°C
- Hazardous Conditions for competitors:
  - Bad Weather: windy, no sunshine, rain, very low air temperature
- Recommendation by Safety Officer and Medical Officer
- Final decision made by Chief Referee
- Same conditions for all athletes (mandatory to use wetsuit or use swimsuit)

Swimsuits and Wetsuits in OWS Competitions

Swimsuits

No competitor shall be permitted to use or wear any device which may be an aid to their speed, endurance, or buoyancy.



Water temperature ≥ 18.0°C

Wetsuits

… to effectively protect the swimmers from low temperature.



Water temperature < 18.0°C

Or hazardous conditions and water temperature ≤ 20.0°C decided by Chief Referee

Swimsuits – Shape Requirements

… 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.*



AQUA – Part Three – 7.1

Swimsuits – further requirements

- ***Structure / Composition / Other items***
  - *Men's swimsuits are in one (1) piece.*
  - *[…] women's swimsuits may be in one (1) or two (2) pieces.*
  - *Other items covering the body that are not part of the swimsuit are prohibited.*
- ***Material**: The Material used for swimsuits can be only "textile Fabric(s)".*
- ***Thickness:** The total thickness of Material(s) used shall have a maximum value of 0.2 mm.*
- ***Permeability**: Material(s) used must have at any point (except on seams, logos or labels) a permeability value of more than 20 liters/m^2/second.*
- ***Construction**: No zippers or other fastening system is allowed.*

AQUA – Part One – 7.5.1

Further requirements and approval process: refer to Part One – 7.5.1

Wetsuits – Shape Requirements

Wetsuits (for both men and women) shall completely cover

- *torso,*
- *back and*
- *thighs*

They shall not extend beyond

- *the neck,*
- *wrists and*
- *ankles.*

The body parts after the shoulder and / or below the thigh do ***not necessarily need to be covered****.*



AQUA – Part Three – 7.3
Part One – 7.5.2

Wetsuits – further requirements

- ***Composition:*** *Wetsuits for both men and women shall be in one (1) piece.*
- ***Material****:*
  - *Material used for wetsuits must have* ***thermal insulation properties*** *(for example foam of polychloroprene (Neoprene) or of polyurethane or other Material with similar insulating properties).*
  - *The Material can be multilayered, with* ***non-water permeable layers****.*
  - *The Material cannot contain injected gas.*
  - *Material* ***without insulating*** *properties cannot be used.*
- ***Thickness:*** *The thickness of Materials used shall be minimum 3 mm and maximum 5 mm.*
- ***Permeability****: Permeability is not measured.*
- ***Construction****: Zippers or other fastening systems are allowed without specific limitations. Zippers and fastening systems must be functional.*

AQUA – Part One – 7.5.2

Further requirements and approval process: refer to Part One – 7.5.2

Notes on Swimwear (Comparison)

Swimsuits

- Swimsuits of men and women have the same shape requirements (in contrast to pool swimming)
- Covered areas are limited
- Covered areas are bigger compared to pool swimming
- Zippers are not allowed (Triathlon suits)
- Only one suit is allowed (one piece for men, one or two pieces for women)
- Water permeability is compulsory



Wetsuits

- Wetsuits of men and women have the same shape requirements
- Minimum of covered areas is defined
- *Shorties* are allowed
- Zippers are necessary (functional allowed)
- Regular swimsuit below wetsuit is accepted
- Tapes to cover scrubbing areas are accepted
- Wetsuits must protect swimmers from hypothermia (no permeability)



WORLD AQUATICS APPROVED

Rule Changes – Knockout Sprint



Description of the 3km Knockout Sprint Race (1)

AQUA – Part Three – 1.3.2

1. *Male and Female races will be swum separately.*
2. *Each Federation may enter a maximum of two (2) Male, and two (2) female competitors.*
3. *For Round one (1) the entry list will be published in advance of the Team Leaders Meeting.*
   - *The **number of heats** to be swum in Rounds one (1) and two (2) will be determined after all the entries have been received and processed and will be announced at the Team Leaders Meeting. For Round two (2) the maximum number of heats would be two (2).*
   - ***Random draw for heats** will be published in advance of Registrations opening.*
4. *In Round One (1) each competitor will swim 1500m, competitors advancing to Round two (2) will swim 1000m, and competitors advancing to Round three (3) will swim 500m.*
5. *The top ten (10) finishes from each heat in Round one (1) will advance to Round two (2) or two (2) heats with the allocation process announced at the Team Leaders Meeting.*

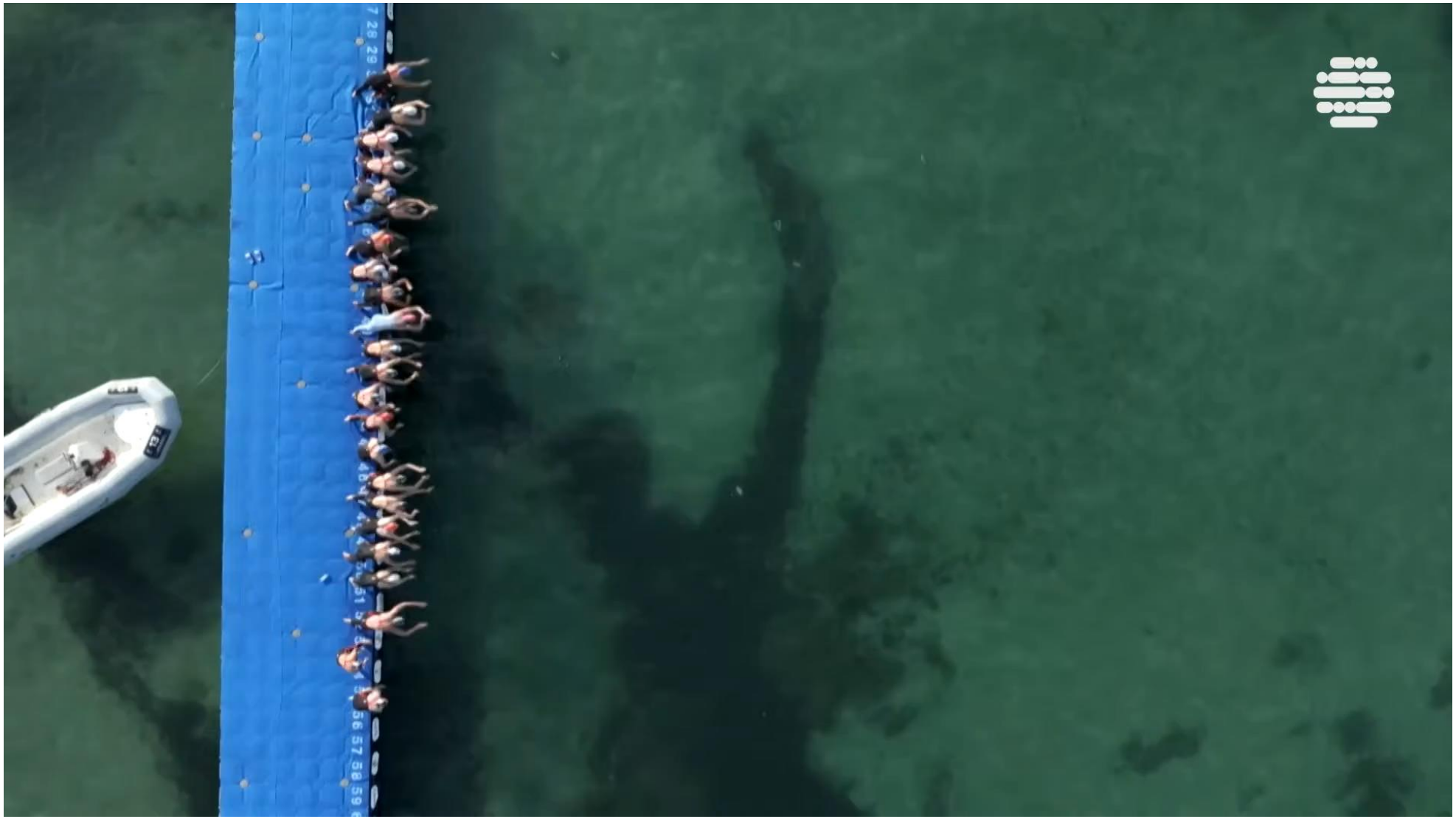
Description of the 3km Knockout Sprint Race (2)

6. *If there is one (1) heat in Round two (2) the top 10 from Round two (2) will advance to the Round three (3) final. If there are two (2) heats in Round two (2) the top 10 finishes from each heat will advance to the Round three (3) final.*

AQUA – Part Three – 1.3.2

7. *If any competitor receives a **1st infringement** during Rounds one (1) or two (2) then this **penalty would remain** in place if the competitor advances forward in any Rounds of the event.*
8. *In the event of disqualification or withdrawal from Rounds two (2) or three (3) the position competitor would have had shall be awarded to the competitor who finished next, and all the lower placing competitors shall be advanced one place in the semi-final (s) or final.*
9. *Medals will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places for each gender Male (M) and Female (F) as per Part One, Article.12.1.2.1.*

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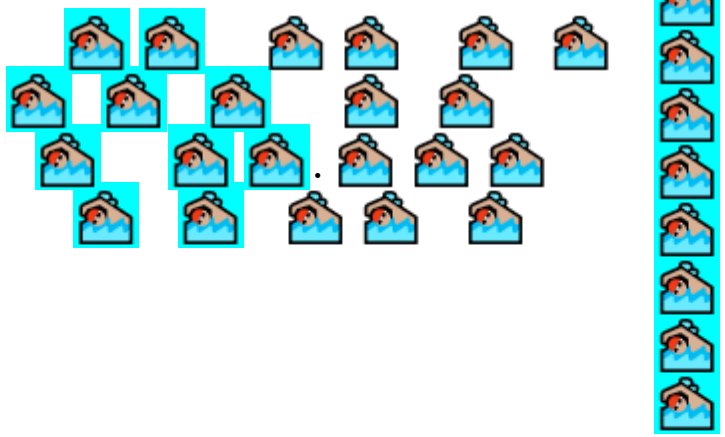
Howto: 3 km Knockout Sprint © World Aquatics

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eDKtaMhtQmc

Knockout Sprint 3k

1st Round 1500 m	10 min Break	2nd Round 1000 m	10 min Break	3rd Round 500 m
Number of heats based on number of entries	10 qualifiers per heat	One or two semifinals	10 qualifiers per semifinal	One final







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Knockout Sprint – Planning / Organisation of the race

 Course layouts	different buoy colours for the different heats maximize distance until first turn Recommendation: One lap per round
 Number of heats for 1st and 2nd round → depending on number of entries	Similar conditions with low number of heats Risk of infractions with low number of heats Modification of qualifiers after first round might be necessary if number of entries is low
 Start order on Platform	1st round: random draw 2nd / 3rd round: finishing time of previous round → Best position (nearest to turn buoy) for fastest swimmer

Course Layout – European Championships 2025 in Stari Grad



1st Round: 1500 m:
yellow turn buoys



2nd Round: 1000 m:
red turn buoys



3rd Round: 500 m:
white turn buoys

- Only two turn judges necessary
- Change position after each round (course officer!)

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Knockout Sprint – Planning / Organisation of the race



Choose of Time delay between multiple heats

fair and equal conditions

presentation of athletes before the start



Break between the rounds

When does the time stop → finish of 10th swimmer in last heat

Inform all swimmers and coaches → Video wall

Where do athletes stay → chairs (Sun, rain, space)

Who can attend the athletes → one coach / physio per athlete

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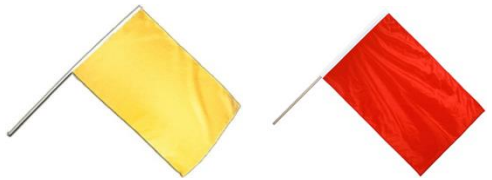
Knockout Sprint – Planning / Organisation of the race

Roster: at least two persons for video check	Last Funnel Touch of Finish (Placing)
Reduced protest time	only until start of next round
Information within Team Leaders Meeting and Last Briefing	Number of Heats Random draw of 1st round (heat and starting position) Course information (layout and buoy colours) Information on break Information on protests Yellow flags are transferred into next rounds

Infractions during Knockout Sprint

Challenges

- Low distance per heat → high performance density
- Low distance to first turn buoy → high risk of infractions
- Intense fight not only for places 1-3 but for top 10
- Difficult to observe all infractions (many swimmers are side by side)



Measures

- Small number of starters (multiple heats if necessary)
- Intelligent course layout (longest distance to first turn buoy)
- High number of referee boats with low distance and good coordination / communication
- At least two Officials in timing room to observe
  - **finish funnel** (Video Review Judge), and
  - **placing** to support Chief Referee
- Strict measures in case of infractions (yellow / red flags)

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Rule Changes – Decision Review System and Video Review Judge





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Decision Review System (DRS)

- *Decision Review System (DRS) is a system for **collecting and reviewing images** to be analysed at the **end of the race by the Chief Referee** as a means of **decision support for an infraction** that has been reported to the Chief Referee **by any authorised Official**.*
- *At World Aquatics competitions where there is a Decision Review System (DRS) in use there will be a **Video Review Judge (VRJ)** appointed **to review available images**.*

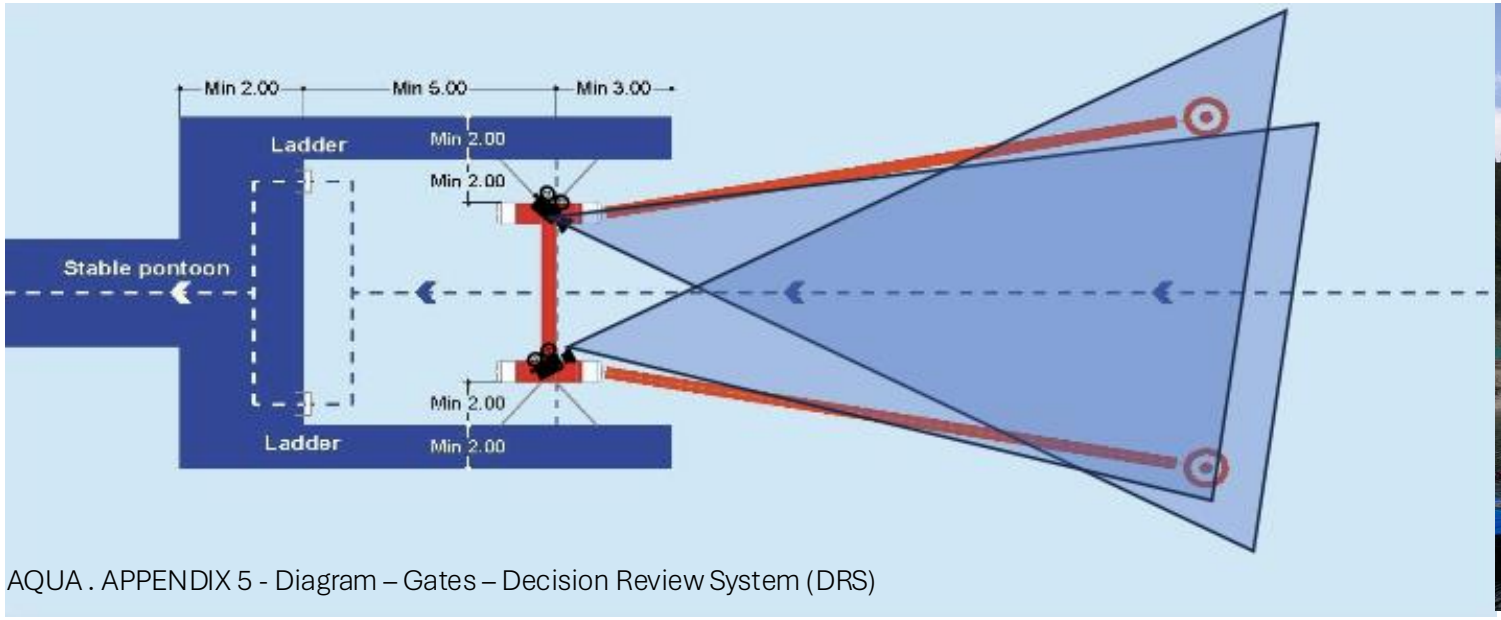
AQUA – Part Three – 9.4

- System to observe the finish funnel
- Additional Official to review the images
- Decision remains for Chief Referee

DRS Video Camera coverage

Additional cameras on each side of the finish plate are required for the Decision Review System (DRS) described in Part 3, 9.4. these cameras shall cover the breadth of the finish funnel continuously from the entrance until overlapping the coverage provided by the finish cameras described in 9.1.2.4

AQUA – Part Three – 9.1.2.5



AQUA . APPENDIX 5 - Diagram – Gates – Decision Review System (DRS)



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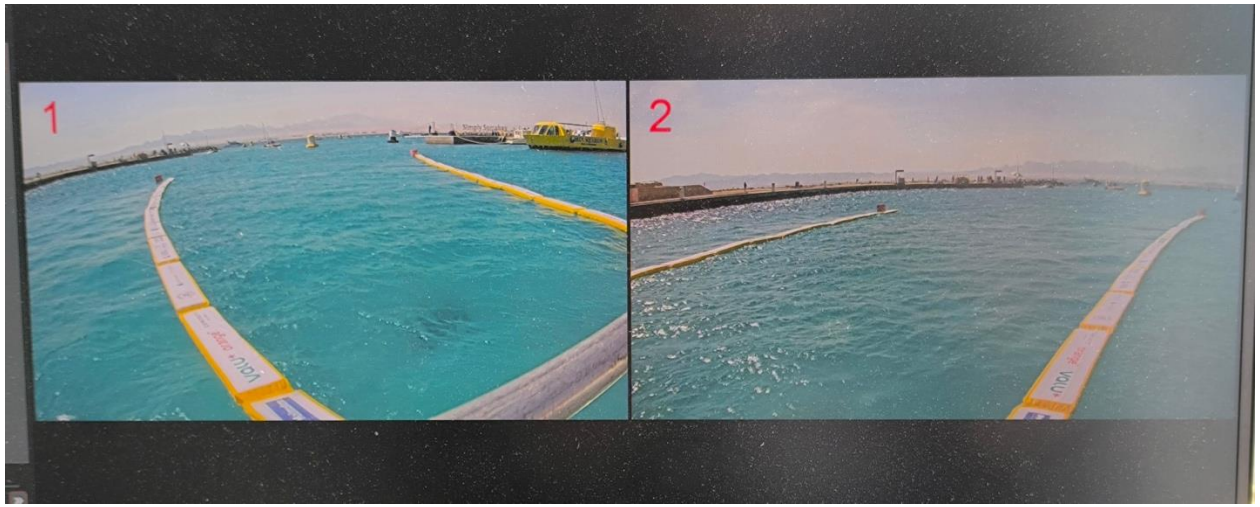
Video Review Judge (VRJ)

- *At World Aquatics events where there is a Decision Review System (DRS) in use a Video Review Judge (VRJ) is to be appointed.*
- *The DRS system will be used* ***to assist the Chief Referee*** *to make any decisions to enforce any violation of the Competition Regulations.*
- *The Video Review Judge (VRJ) shall review all finishes of the Race* ***from the entry of the Finish Funnel to the Finish Plate,*** *and record and report any violation of the Rules to the Chief Referee.*
- *For the 3km Knockout Sprint races the Video Review Judge (VRJ)* ***shall enforce any violations of the Rules that they personally observe using the Decision Review System (DRS) if in use, and report these to the Chief Referee.***
- *The Chief Referee will review and consider any violations reported by the Video Review Judge (VRJ)* ***after the competition has finished.***

AQUA – Part Three – 3.17

Rule Changes – Video Review Judge





- Video Review Judge (VRJ) to search for possible infractions / critical situations within finish funnel
- Prepare video material and present it to Chief Referee
- VRJ does not decide on disqualifications but supports decision making process of Chief Referee
- Getting familiar with system is necessary to be able to operate

Clerk of Course – Swimwear and Wearables

The Clerk of Course shall:

- *record all approved wearables declared in the First Call room.*

AQUA – Part Three – 3.15.3 5.10 + 4.1 + 7.5

*No competitor shall be permitted to **use or wear any device** which may be an **aid to their speed, endurance, or buoyancy**. Approved **swimsuit, goggles**, a maximum of two (2) **caps**, nose clip and earplugs may be used.*

*All Open Water competitions shall start with all competitors **wearing an approved swim cap** …*

***Technology** such as drones, **GPS** tracking, **bio-medical sensors** or devices that record **blood pressure, body temperature, stroke rate, breathing rate** etc. via the transponder are permitted when **approved** by World Aquatics.*

***The technology** may **transmit** such information **but not act as a receiver** giving information and advantage to the competitor such as "smart goggles", hearing devices, and the like.*

***Competitors must declare** all Wearables when reporting to the First Call Room. Failure to declare may result in disqualification from the event.*

Check of swimsuits









https://approved.swimwear.fina.org



Check of Wearables

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OPEN WATER SWIMMING

CURRENT LIST OF APPROVED WEARABLES

February 19, 2024

Manufacturer	Product Name	Product Type
Abbott	Freestyle Libre 2	Glucose Sensor
Exelio	GPS EXE Pro 2	GPS Tracking Device
FES Institut	FES SwimSensor	GPS Tracking Device & Sensor
Garmin	HRM-SWIM	Heart Rate
Garmin	HRM-TRI	Heart Rate
Movella	DOT (Xsens)	Sensor
Polar	OH1	Heart Rate
Polar	Verity Sense	Heart Rate
Polar	H10	Heart Rate
Swimtraxx	Swimtraxx One	Heart rate + strokes monitor + accelerometer
Tritonwear	Triton 2	Transponder

https://resources.fina.org/fina/document/2024/02/19/97dfa697-a27d-4427-b67d-14f88d92bbc6/2024.02.19-List-of-Approved-Wearables-OPEN-WATER-SWIMMING.pdf

Protest – Obsolete Version of AQUA

The Chief Referee shall:

adjudicate on all protests related to the competition in progress.

Subject to the supervision of the World Aquatics Bureau, the Commissions shall be responsible for:

[…] investigating cases of protest as preparation for the Jury of Appeal.

however, no protest(s) shall be allowed against decisions of fact.

AQUA – Part Three – 3.1.4 Part One - 1.6

INVALID in AQUA Competitions

Appeal (World Aquatics)

An appeal must be submitted on the official World Aquatics appeal form ("Appeal Form"), which can be found on the World Aquatics website and in venue.

AQUA – Part One – 13.2

The Appeal Form must be submitted in accordance with the following timelines: […]

***Open Water Swimming**: within thirty (30) minutes of the respective race's completion.*

The appeal must be submitted to the designated World Aquatics representative ("World Aquatics Representative"), who shall be identified at the beginning of the applicable competition. The appeal shall only be considered complete if it is accompanied by a deposit of five hundred (500) United States dollars (or an equivalent amount in the applicable local currency).

The World Aquatics Representative will present the appeal to the Chair of the Jury of Appeal, who will review the appeal and determine its validity. The Chair shall determine the validity as soon as reasonably possible following the appeal's submission.

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APPEAL FORM

Please complete the following form, to be submitted in accordance with the World Aquatics Competitions Regulations.

Title of the competition: _____

EVENT:		GENDER:	
PHASE			

DECISION BEING APPEALED:
RATIONALE FOR APPEAL:

MEMBER FEDERATION:	

NAME OF ATHLETE OR TEAM LEADER:	SIGNATURE OF ATHLETE OR TEAM LEADER:
DATE:	**TIME OF DELIVERY:**

WORLD AQUATICS USE ONLY

WORLD AQUATICS SIGNATURE CONFIRMING RECEIPT OF APPEAL:	WORLD AQUATICS SIGNATURE CONFIRMING CORRECT DEPOSIT AMOUNT RECEIVED:

WORLD AQUATICS

APPEAL FORM

Title of the competition: _____

JURY OF APPEAL'S DECISION:	☐ APPEAL GRANTED ☐ APPEAL REJECTED
REASON(S):	

CHAIR OF JURY OF APPEAL NAME:	CHAIR OF JURY OF APPEAL SIGNATURE:
DATE:	**TIME:**

Jury of Appeal

The Jury of Appeal shall be comprised of ***three members****. One of the three members shall be the designated Chair. The three members shall be* ***assigned by the World Aquatics President or Executive Director****.*

AQUA – Part One – 13.2

The Jury of Appeal may consult ***video footage, documents*** *and* ***witnesses*** *when making its decision, and may additionally choose to consult any* ***other potentially impacted party****, in person or in writing.*

Decisions of referees shall be afforded a significant degree of deference*. The Jury of Appeal shall not substitute its view of the appealed matter for that of the referee unless the appellant presents* ***clear evidence*** *that the referee's decision was made* ***arbitrarily, irrationally, or in abuse of the discretion*** *afforded to the referee.*

The decision of the Jury is final.

- Referee's decision should be respected
- Unclear: Which video footage is allowed?

Matters that can be appealed

The following can be appealed in Open Water Swimming:

Any decision, or lack thereof, of a referee ***that affects the outcome of the results*** *(including, but not limited to, an Athlete's receipt of a yellow card or a disqualification).*

AQUA – Part One – 14.2

- Decision of fact is no more excluded
- Taking out of water a disqualified swimmer will take away the chance to appeal

Disqualification Procedure

If in the opinion of the Chief Referee or Referees, any competitor, or competitor's approved representative, or escort safety craft, takes advantage by committing any violation of the rules or by making intentional contact with any competitor, the following procedure shall apply:

AQUA – Part Three – 5.3

1st Infringement:

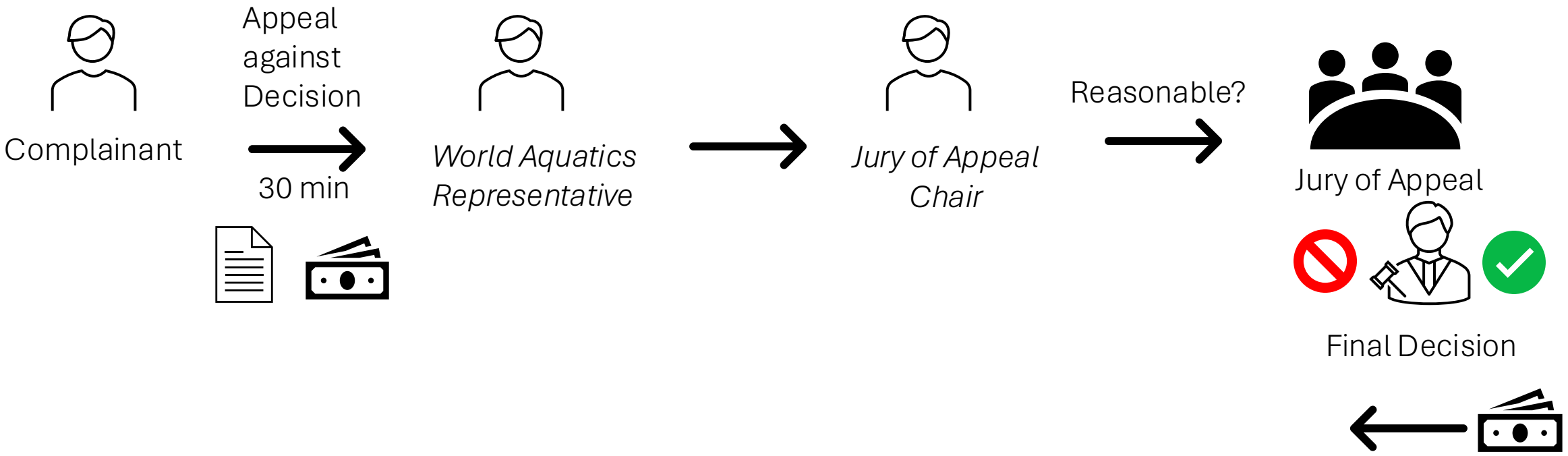
A yellow flag and a card bearing the competitor's number shall be raised to indicate and to inform the competitor that they are in violation of the Rules.

2nd Infringement:

A red flag and a card bearing the competitor's number shall be raised by the Referee (Part Three, Article 3.1.6) to indicate and to inform the competitor that they are for the second time in violation of the Rules. The competitor shall be disqualified.

If in the opinion of a Referee, an action of a competitor or an escort safety craft, or a competitor's approved representative is deemed to be ***'unsporting'*** *the Referee shall disqualify the competitor concerned immediately.* ***The competitor must leave the water immediately and be placed in an escort craft and take no further part in the race.***

Protest and Appeal (World Aquatics)



No more possibility to protest (Chief Referee)

Complaints and Protests in European Aquatics

Complaints

a) *may be **submitted verbally** to the Referee immediately following the occurrence of the reason for it;*

b) *shall be **considered by the Referee; no deposit** is necessary. If a complaint is not accepted, a formal protest may be made.*

Protests are possible

a) *if the Rules and/or the Regulations for the conduct of the competition are not observed;*

b) *if other conditions endanger the competition and/or the competitor, or*

c) *against a decision of the Referee; however, **no protest shall be allowed against decisions of facts**.*

EA – General Event Rules – E22

Protests shall be

a) *submitted in writing together with a deposit of **five hundred (500) EURO;***

b) *dealt with **in accordance with World Aquatics Rules.***

Protests

Protests must be submitted:

- *To the Referee*
- *In writing on World Aquatics Form;*
- *By the responsible **Team Leader**;*
- *Together with a deposit of five-hundred (500) Swiss Francs or its equivalent; and*
- *Within **30 minutes** following the conclusion of the respective […] Open Water Swimming event […] from which the protest is being lodged*
- *If conditions causing a potential protest are noted prior to the event, **a protest must be lodged before** the respective match or session begins*

AQUA – Part One – 13.1.2

INVALID in AQUA Competitions

- Chief Referee for OWS Competitions
- Limitation of Protest to 30 min after the race
- Situations accepted before the start cannot be the objective of the protest

Protests

*All protests shall be considered by the Referee. If the Referee **rejects** the protest, the Referee must state the **reason** for her/his decision.*
*The Team Leader may **appeal the rejection** to the Jury of Appeal within **one (1) hour** from the moment when the decision has been communicated. The decision taken by the Jury of Appeal **shall be final**.*

AQUA – Part One – 13.1.3

INVALID in AQUA Competitions

- Reason for Rejection must be stated
- Time limit also for Jury of Appeal: 1 hour
- No further protest possible

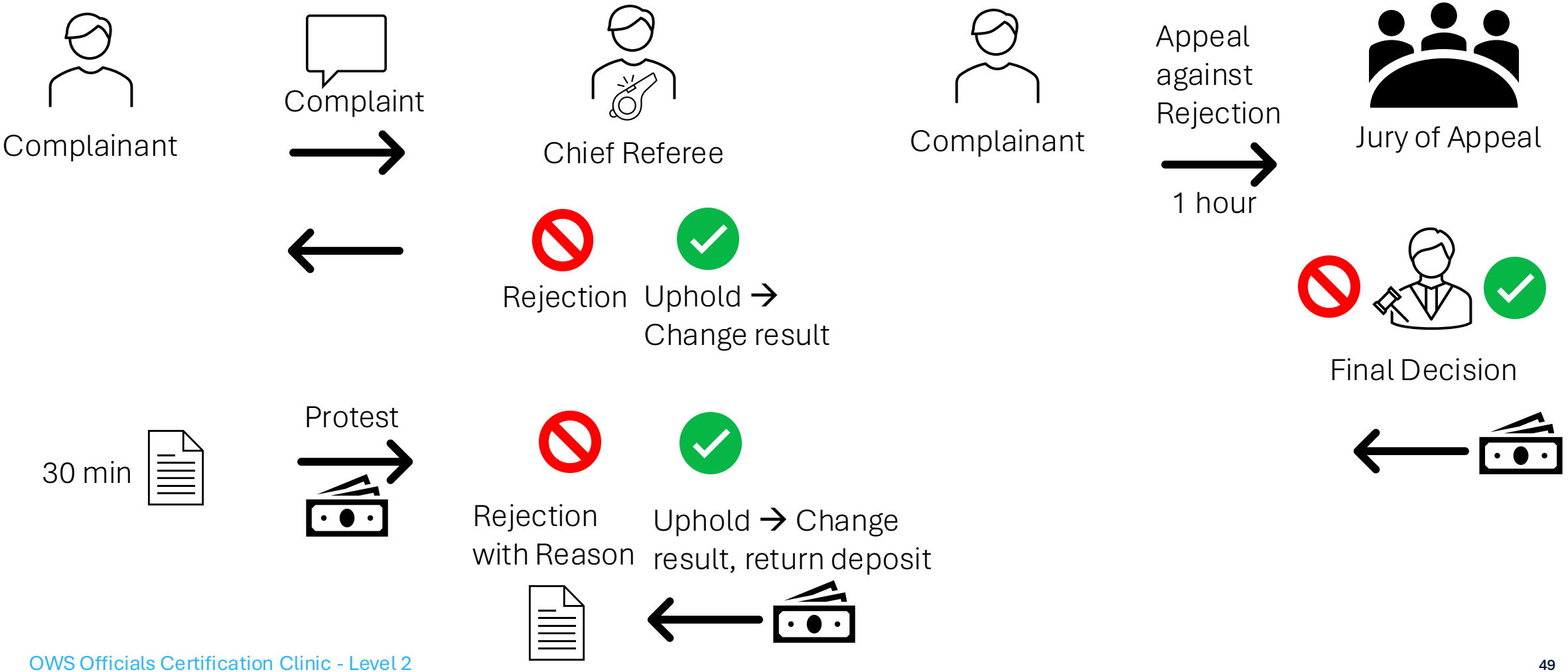
Jury of Appeal

- The Jury of Appeal for an Event or part of an Event shall be comprised by the **Bureau Delegate** in the **chair** and **two more Bureau members** appointed by the Bureau.
- *If less than three (3) Bureau Members, appointed by the Bureau, are present, the European Aquatics Bureau Delegate shall appoint the remaining jury member(s), **preferably members of the Bureau**, the **respective Technical Committee** or the **organising Federation**.*
- *If no European Aquatics Bureau Delegate is present, the **European Aquatics Technical Delegate** shall appoint **three jury members eligible to vote** as jury member.*
- *A jury member is allowed to speak, but **not to vote**, on a case in which:*
  - *the **interest of his own Federation** is involved, or*
  - *the protest has been submitted **against his decision**. In case of equal votes **the Chairman shall have a casting vote**.*

EA – General Event Rules – E23

Jury of Appeal presented within Team Leaders Meeting

Way of the protest – European Aquatics



Protest Form European Aquatics – 1st Page

Relevant for Person stating the protest

- State the reason of the protest
- Competitor incl. Number (Bib)
- Hand it over to Chief Referee / Secretary of TOWSC



EUROPEAN AQUATICS

PROTEST FORM

Please complete using BLOCK LETTERS

Event Name | Event Date | Gender: Male / Female

Reason(s)

Athlete / Team Official Name | Athlete Name

Athlete / Team Official Signature | National Federation

Date | Time of Delivery

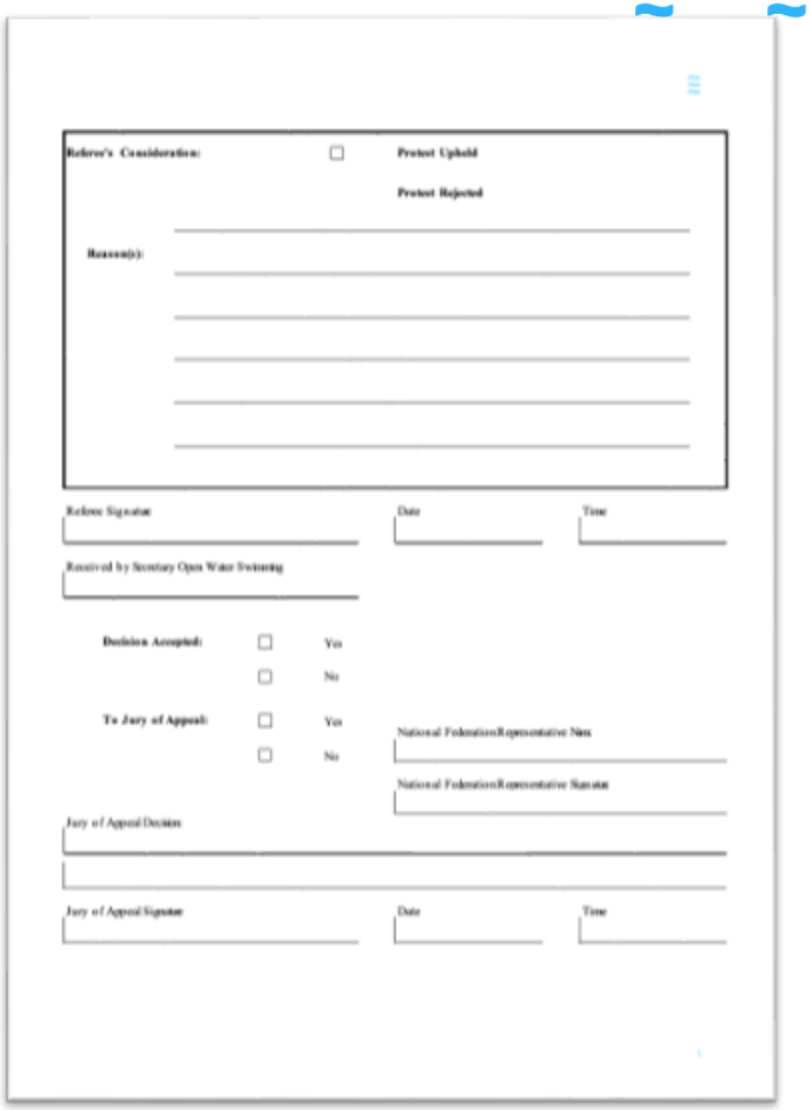
European Aquatics Use Only

Received by Secretary Open Water Swimming

Signature | Protest Deposit Amount Received

Decision Recorded Over Page

Protest Form European Aquatics – 2nd Page



Relevant for Person handling the protest

1. Chief Referee
   - Decision: Uphold or Reject the Protest
   - State the reason for the Decision (in case of rejection)
2. Jury of Appeal (in case of Rejection of Protest and maintained)
   - Final Decision of Jury
   - State the reason of Final Decision

EUROPEAN AQUATICS

Rule Changes European Aquatics

Programme JOWSC

Two instead of one knockout sprint races (14 – 16 years + 17 – 19 years)

4 instead of 3 days

No extra Rule for water temperature in OWS-Cup

DRS and VRJ for Elite and Junior Championships

Updated Certification requirements for officials

Coffee Break



Safety Aspects

OWS Officials Clinic – 26.10.2025

EUROPEAN AQUATICS

Safety Aspects

Boats / Crafts

Safety Concept for Kayaks

Accounting for the swimmers

- Clerk of Course
- Communication via Radio
- Active Role of Recorder

Buoys

- Types
- Fixing
- Turn Judge Communication

Safety Officer – Crafts

The Safety Officer shall 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****.*

AQUA – Part Three – 3.12.3 + 11.4.2

There must ***be sufficient safety craft*** *or escort craft located on the course to immediately recognize when a* ***competitor is in distress*** *and to initiate an immediate rescue response after observation or notification that a competitor's rescue is required.*
In most course configurations, there should also be ***stationary safety craft located every 400 meters*** *along the course, with a CPR- and life support- trained responder on board. To accomplish this, there must be sufficient designated rescue landing points along the course and sufficient CPR- and life support-trained personnel in proximity to each competitor or group of competitors.*

Safety Officer – Crafts

Type of boat	Assignment	Total Number of boats
Fast Boat	Safety Officer	1
Fast Boat	Chief Referee	1
Fast Boat	Referees	Minimum 2
Slow Boat / Stationary	Turn Judges	1 per turn buoy
Fast Boat	Course Officer	1
Fast Boat	Medical, Water Safety	Minimum 2
Fast Boat	TV / Media / Photo	Maximum 3
Kayaks	Rescue fast response	Depending on no. of swimmers
Kayak (Different)	Last swimmer	1 per race
Fast / Slow Boat	Spare boat	Minimum 1

EA Safety Concept

EUROPEAN AQUATICS

Concepts for Kayaks.

Accompanying Athletes

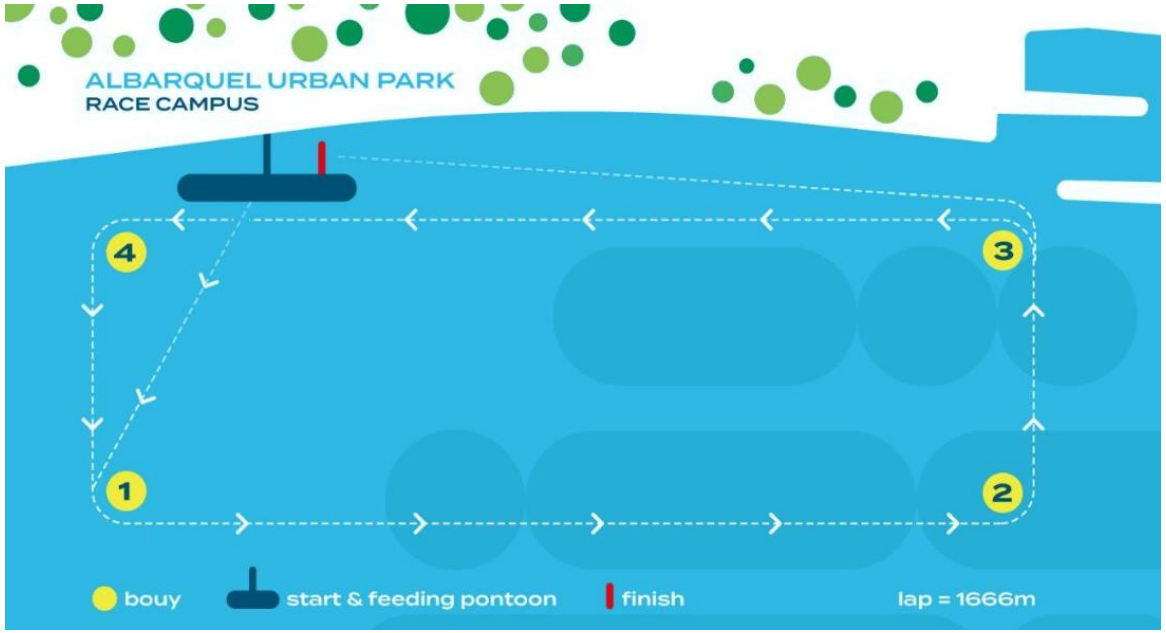
- Especially for
  - high performance density / low number of athletes
  - Wide course / open sea
  - Challenging conditions
- Important: Kayak catch individuals who split from group (groups to be observed by referees)
- Kayaks on both sides of the group
- Head of Kayaks / Safety Officer for re-organisation is necessary (small group splits apart)
- Close to swimmers, fast response

Review of Sectors

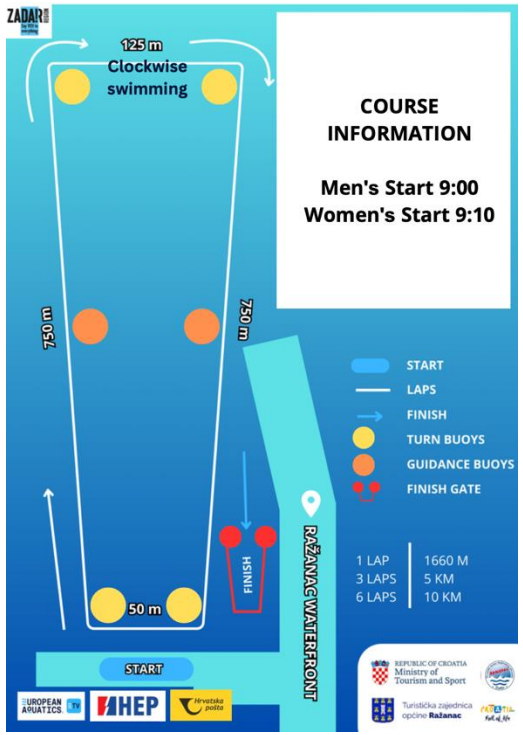
- Especially for
  - High number of athletes with different speed
  - Narrow course (rowing tank)
- Important: Kayak keep position within their sector and take over from last sector
- Kayaks inside the course
- Kayaks can be organised more independently
- Less communication necessary
- bigger distance to the swimmers

Concepts for Kayaks.

Wide Course



Narrow Course



General Remarks on Kayaks

Positioning of Kayaks can be inside or outside the course.

No Support for swimmers (giving direction, talk to swimmers), only if they need assistance or in case of an emergency

Last swimmer should be accompanied by a kayak (highly visible)

Indication for Turn judges and referees concerning overtaking

Clear mark the end of the race

Kayak as first responders

No interference, Easy to go near swimmers

Swimmer can rest in case of distress

Transport to the shore to be organised with powered craft (safety officer, communication of kayaks via radio is recommendable)

Referee Boat should only interfere in case of an emergency

avoid disorder

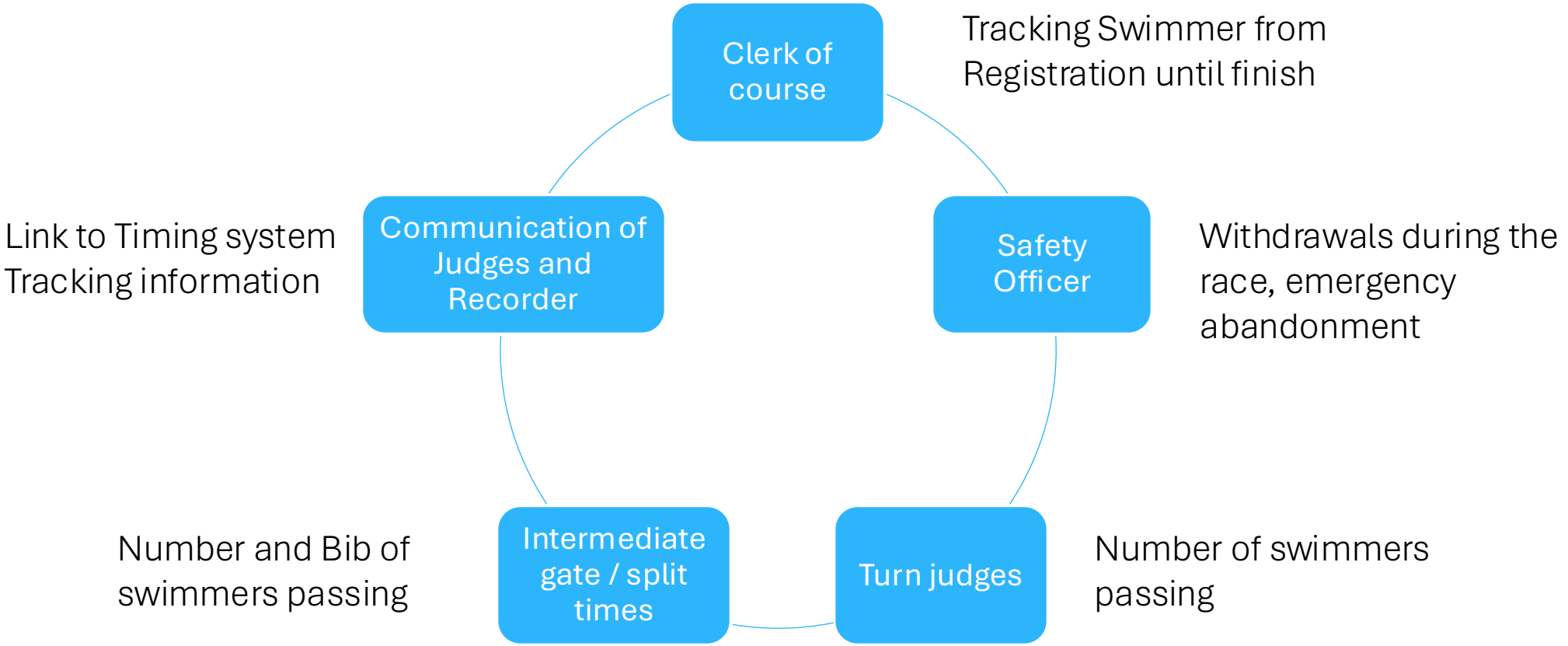
keep tracking of groups

EUROPEAN AQUATICS

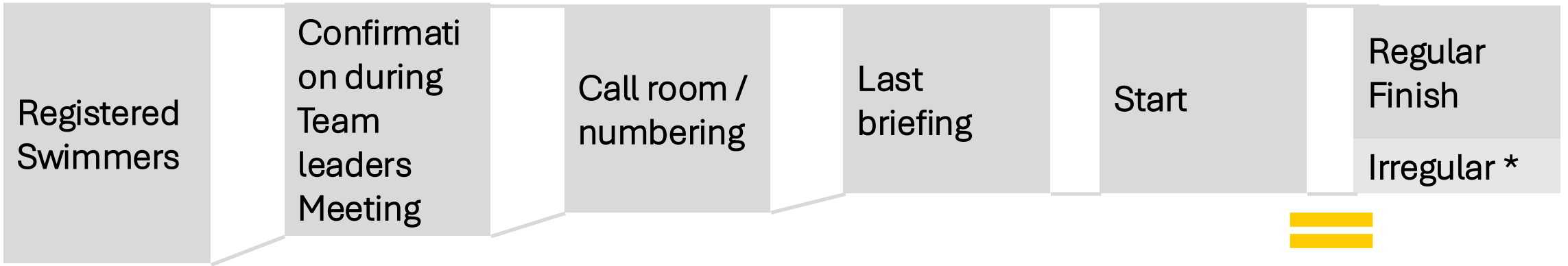
Summary on Boats

- Referee and Safety Boats:
  - Should have **enough power** for their duties
  - Keep in mind **wave and fume** (interference of swimmers)
  - Sufficient **number of boats** is immanent for competition
  - **Spare boat** in case of any defect
  - Only in case of specific course layouts number of boats must be limited
  - Referee is responsible for **positioning**
  - Not all drivers are professionals
- Kayaks / SUPs / Canoes
  - Number depends **on safety concept**, number of athletes and performance density
  - Correction of positions done by **supervisor / Safety Officer**
  - Highly visible kayak for **last swimmer**
- Good communication

Accounting for the swimmers



Tracking of Swimmers



* **Possibilities**

- Withdrawal (on the course – rescue boat / on the shore)
- Disqualification
- Exceeding the time limit (OTL)
- Removal by a judge in case of obvious exhaustion **(authorisation by each judge)**

Tracking Competitors by Clerk of Course



Registration

Continuous Update Start list





Receive Transponder,
Issue Accreditation



Last Call Room



Before the start



Race

Tips for working with the radio

- **Test** reception after receiving the device (Radio Check) and after assuming the position (i.e. Turn Judge)
- Place the device close to your mouth, avoid **wind** interference
- Only speak when the channel is clear (and wait 1-2 seconds after pressing button)
- Use **short messages in English**
- Only send relevant messages (blocking the channel!)
- Press and hold the button while speaking
- **Split numbers** when referring to swimmer's bib
- Structure of the message
    1. Own position
    2. Recipient position
    3. Message
    4. Wait for confirmation (release channel)

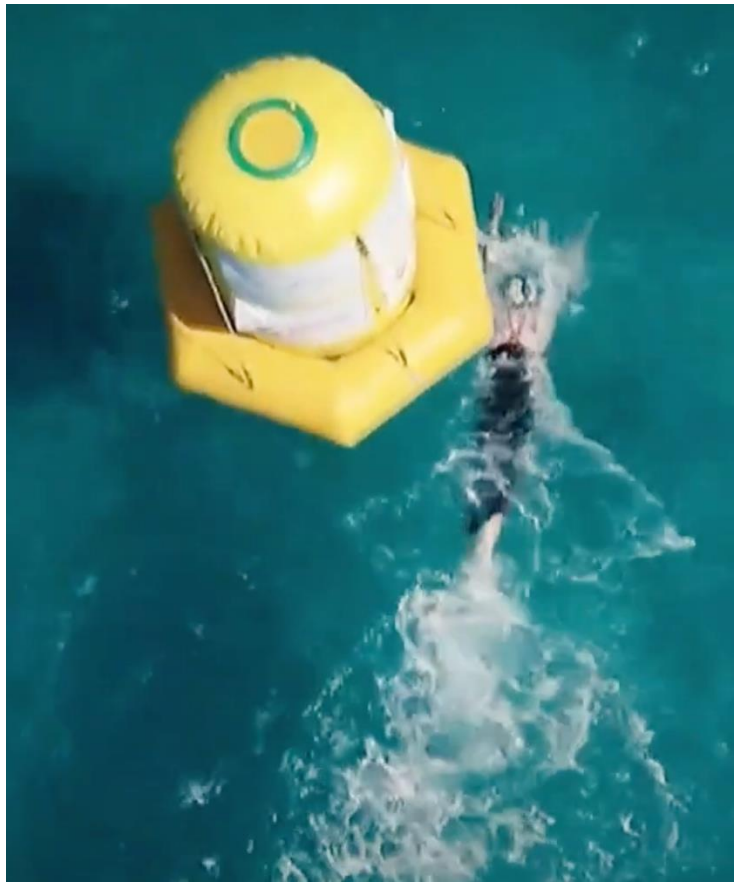
radio discipline necessary and crucial for event

Feedback & Lessons Learned Season 2025

OWS Officials Clinic – 26.10.2025

EUROPEAN AQUATICS

Diving under the Buoy



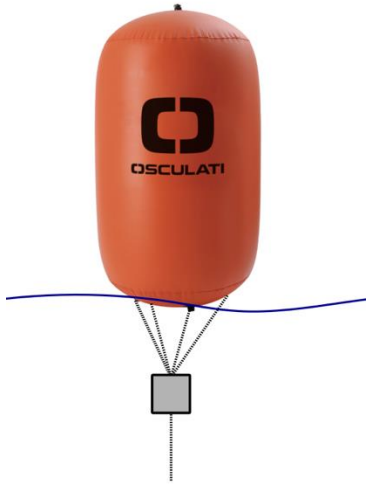
115	ITA	Pasquale **GIORDANO**	20	DSQ
124	ITA	Marcello **GUIDI**	27	DSQ
129	ITA	Giuseppe **ILARIO**	21	DSQ
127	ITA	Gregorio **PALTRINIERI**	30	DSQ
149	ITA	Pasquale **SANZULLO**	26	DSQ

Diving under the Buoy – Infringement?

All Open Water Swimming competitions shall be Freestyle events and competitors are required to ***complete the whole course, respecting all designated turn buoys*** *and course boundaries.*

If in the opinion of the Chief Referee or Referees, any competitor, […], ***takes advantage by committing any violation of the rules*** *or by making intentional contact with any competitor, the following procedure shall apply*

AQUA – Part Three – 5.3 + 4.8





Interpretation:

Buoys are not only defined by a singular point

Last Briefing

Go around the buoy on the surface of the water (no diving) as only accepted course alteration

EUROPEAN AQUATICS



EUROPEAN AQUATICS

What is an infringement?

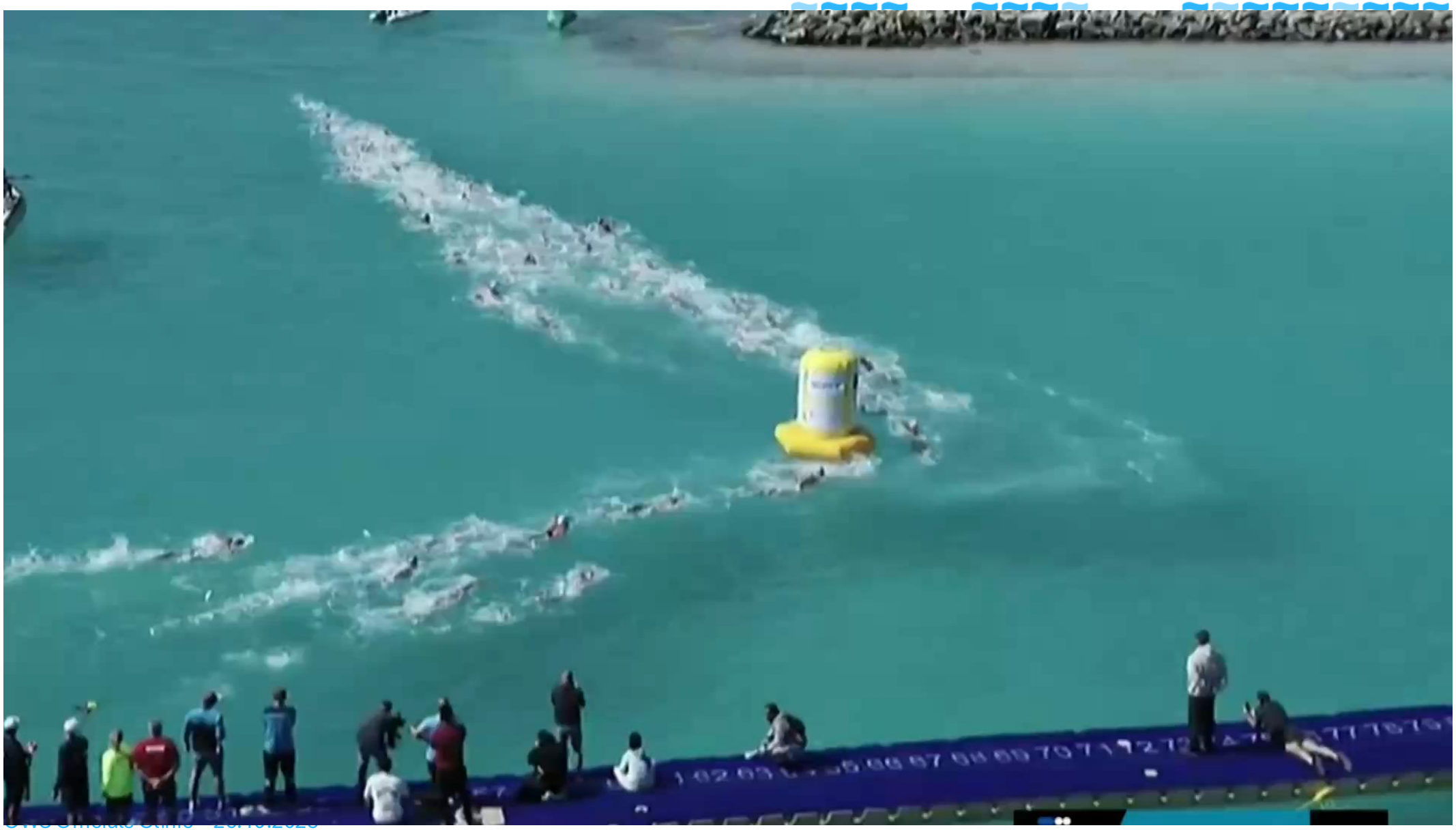
“Active” Diving → Infringement

- Swimmer was actively diving under the water (Butterfly wave)
- Swimmer tried to shortcut (inside the buoy)
- Swimmer tried to overtake other competitors with this shortcut

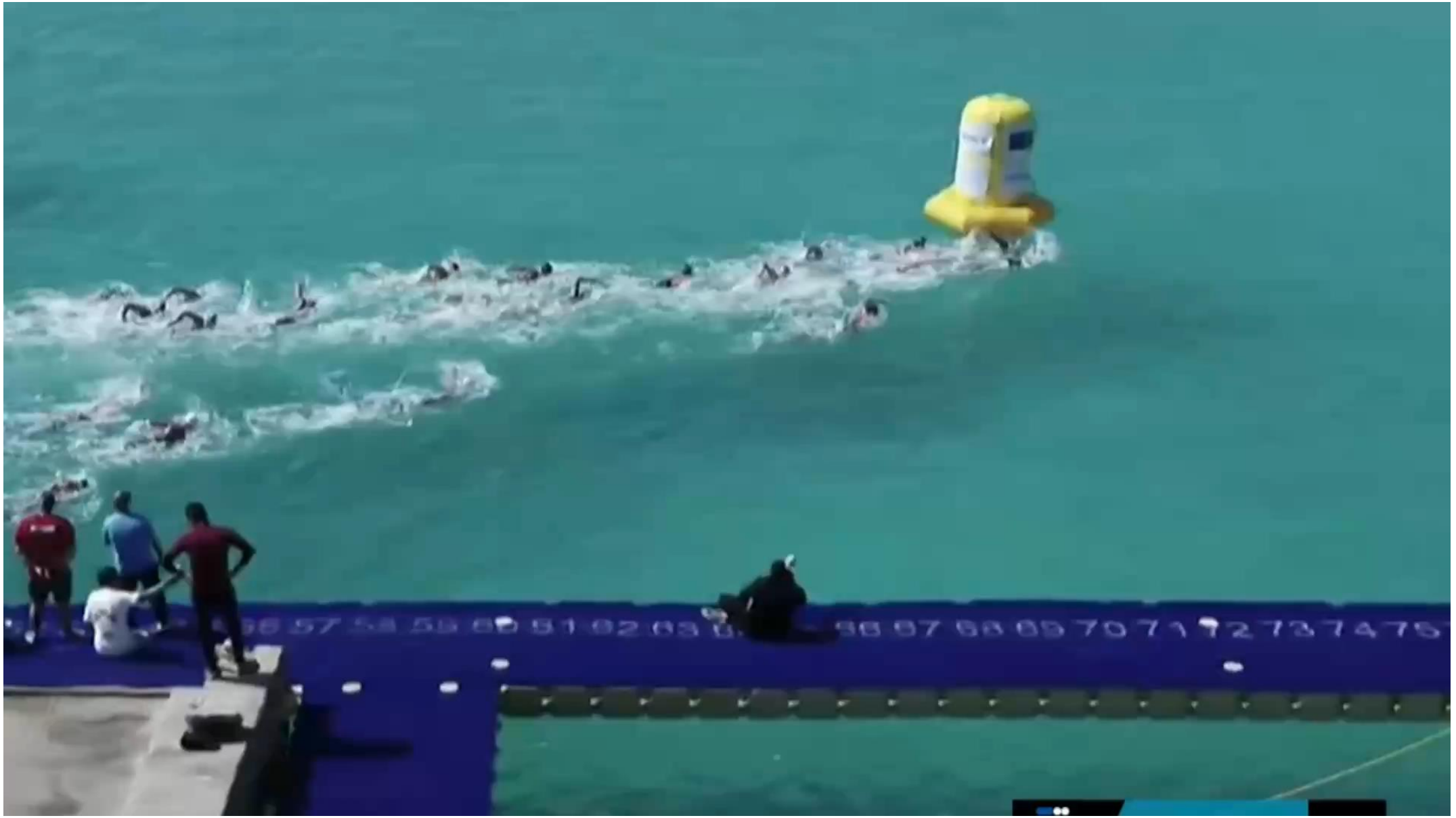
“Passive” Diving → no infringement

- Swimmer was pushed by other swimmer(s)
- Swimmer was pushed against the buoy by current or wave
- Buoy was pushed against the swimmer
- Buoy was lifted up

EUROPEAN AQUATICS



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Decision on Infringements

If action of swimmer is interpreted (by Referee / Chief Referee) as the attempt to gain unfair advantage, this must be sanctioned:

- Fairness in sport / no unfair advantage for one swimmer
- Safety reasons
  - Turn judges can’t count the swimmers
  - Risk of getting tangled up in the cables of the buoy

When in doubt, favour the athlete

Start position

On the Starter's command "take your marks" all competitors ***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****.*

If in the opinion of the Chief Referee ***an unfair advantage has been gained*** *at the start the offending competitor will be given a yellow or red flag in accordance with Part Three, Article 5.3.*

AQUA – Part Three – 4.6.1 + 4.8



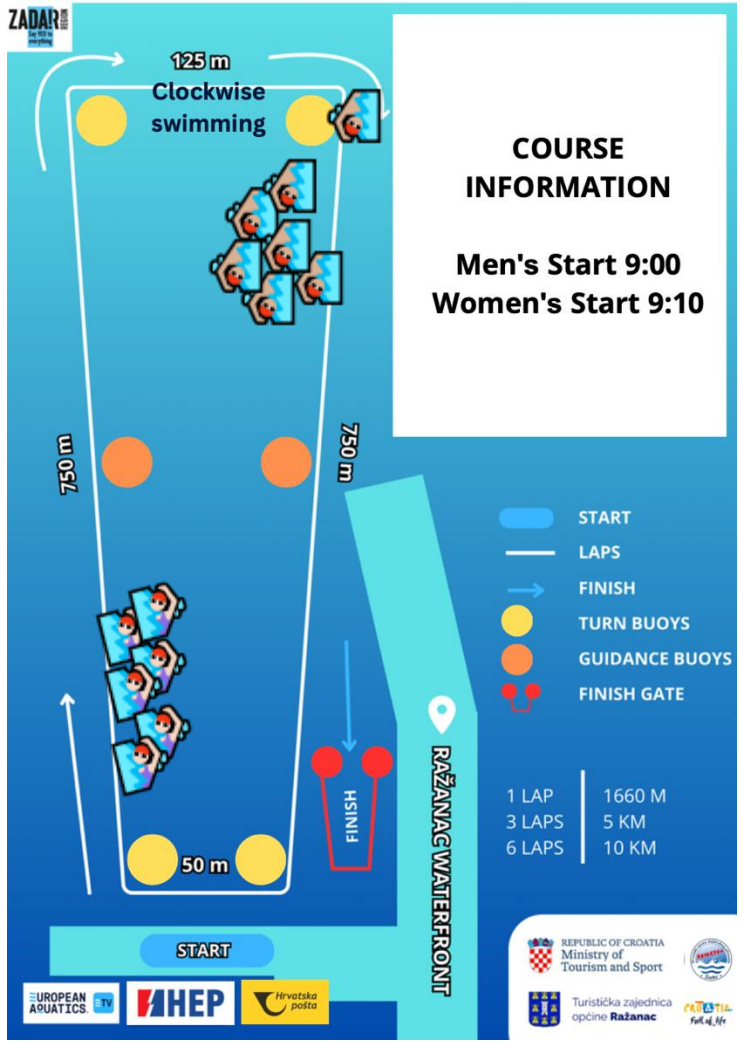
Collision of Athletes during the Race

EA Cup Leg 5, Razanac 2025

- Two Races: Men’s Start 9:00, Women’s start 9:05
- Male group crashes into female group
- Men didn’t use the shortest way but were out of track

What to Do?

- Referee Men
- Referee Women



EA Competitions 2026

OWS Officials Clinic – 26.10.2025

European Aquatics OWS Events 2026

- EA Championships in Paris / France
  - OWS Events: 04. – 08.08.2026
- EA OWS Junior Championships in Budapest / Hungary: 23.– 26.07.2026
- EA OWS Cup
  - Leg 1: Protaras (CYP): 18.04.2026
  - Leg 2: Munich (GER): 22.08.2026
  - Leg 3: Tenero (SUI): 05.09.2026
  - Leg 4: Razanac (CRO): 26.09.2026
  - Leg 5: tbd



Cup Leg 1

EA Education System

OWS Officials Clinic – 26.10.2025

EUROPEAN AQUATICS

EA Education System - Basics

All officials working at EA events (Championships, Junior Championships, Cup) need a valid EA-certificate

- Certificates are only valid for one year / season
- Yearly refreshment is necessary
- Certificates from World Aquatics are (currently) not sufficient

Three different levels:

- Level 1: Basic – only possible to work as NTO (limited positions within the roster)
- Level 2: Intermediate – necessary to work as ITO
- Level 3: Advanced – necessary to officiate as Chief Referee or Safety Officer

All courses cost a fee depending on duration of the course, defined by EA

Overview Updated Education System

Level 1 – Basic

No qualification to become ITO, **only NTO**

Development

Compact Course **(in person)** for Federations w/o OWS experience
Theory + national Event
Lecturer visits federation

Basics

Compact **online / recorded** Course for Officials of Cup-Host Federations
→ Limited positions as NTO

Level 2 – Intermediate

Qualification to become ITO w/o Chief Ref. / SO

Qualification

Online Course **2 days** with final exam (online)
→ Similar to 1st edition in Jan. 2025

Refreshment

Online Course **(1/2 – 4 hours)** with rule changes and discussion of relevant practical examples
No final exam

Level 3 – Advanced

Qualification for Chief Ref. / Safety Officer

Module 1

In-Person Course 2 half-days with final exam (written):

- Last briefing (hands on)
- Decision making
- Psychological aspects
- Safety plan
- Course layouts positioning
- preparation of event
- Rule updates

Module 2

Officiating during EA-OWS event under observation of TOWSC member / delegate
Assessment regarding

- rules,
- personal appearance,
- group dynamics
- leadership

EUROPEAN AQUATICS

Level 1 - Development

- **Goal**: Development of Discipline OWS for national federation without experience in OWS or no qualification system for officials
- **Format**: Compact course (1.5 days)
  - Half day: Theoretical part: rules and process of an OW event in person
  - One day: Practical part: officiating within a national championship or other local OWS event
- EA sends lecturer to national federation on demand
- Qualification only on national level, not sufficient to officiate within an EA event
- National federation to cover costs for lecturer and organisation of school

New Development program to enhance OWS Competitions for less experienced Federations

Level 1 – EA Host Program

- **Goal**: Qualify officials from Host federations of EA OWS Cup events (reduced effort and costs compared to level 2 clinic)
- **Format**: Compact course (0.5 days = 4 hours)
  - Theoretical part: rules and process of an OW event in person
  - Recorded online format to be streamed before the cup event
  - Final exam: online multiple-choice test
- **Validity:** Qualification only for EA cup-event of national federation with reduced posts (Timekeeper, Finish Judge, Turn Judge, Clerk of Course, Recorder)
- **Fee**: approx. 30 Euro per Participant

New compact Course for National Technical Officials

Level 2 - Qualification

- **Goal**: Certification of new officials not participating / not passing the course in January 2025
- **Format**: Extended course (2 days)
  - Online format / Recording like course in January 2025
  - World Aquatics Rules and Regulations
  - Specifics for European Aquatics
  - Practical examples + case studies
  - Final Test: Multiple Choice online test
- **Validity:** Qualification as ITO (not as Chief Referee or Safety Officer)
- **Date**: tbd., Alternative: recordings from January 2025
- **Fee:** approx. 145 Euro

New compact Course for National Technical Officials for Season 2027

Level 2 - Refreshment

- **Goal**: re-certification of officials passing the course in 2025 to extend the certificate until end of 2026
- **Format**: Compact online course (0.5 days = 4 hours)
  - Rule updates (temperature, wetsuits, video review judge, wearables, knockout sprint)
  - Lessons learned
  - Safety aspects in OWS
- Recording of online school to be watched by officials not available within the date
- Date: 26th October 2025
- **Fee**: approx. 30 Euro per Participant

Current course, yearly updated

Level 3 - Qualification

- **Goal**: Certification of Chief Referees and Safety Officers for EA Event
- **Pre-requirements**:
  - Holder of Level 2
  - Sufficient English skills (guaranteed by national federation)
  - Sufficient experience in OWS (application done by national federation together with statistics of officials)
- **Format**:
  - Module 1 – Theoretical Part: in-person course: 8 hours (Saturday afternoon, Sunday morning)
  - Module 2 – Practical Part: officiating within EA OWS event under observation (for those passing module 1)
- **Date Module 1**: 14./15. February 2026
- **Fee**: set by EA

New course for Chief Referee and Safety Officer

Level 3 - Qualification

Module 1 - Theoretical Part: Content

Chief Referee

- Last briefing (hands on)
- Decision making in case of possible infringements
- Psychological aspects of arguing and group dynamics
- Rule updates

Safety Officer

- Safety plan review and demands
- Course layouts and boat positioning
- preparation of event (officials meeting, venue check)

Exam:
written (just rules like online exam) + assessment during the course

Module 2 - Practical Part: Content and Procedure

- Officiating as Chief Referee and / or Safety Officer (Assistant with special tasks, i.e., last briefing together with Chief Referee)
- Assessment regarding rules, personal appearance, group dynamics

1. Notification of Availability for EA OWS Events in 2026 by Participants
2. Disposition by EA OWS Commission

Feedback



EUROPEAN AQUATICS

Backup

