



2025-26 and 2026-27 Swimming and Diving Rules Changes

The following rules changes were approved by the NCAA Swimming and Diving Rules Committee and the Playing Rules Oversight Panel. All rule changes are effective with the 2025-2026 season.

Rule	Rules Language and Rationale
2-2.9.b-c Violations	When underwater cameras are available, to allow officials to utilize the system to determine if violations have occurred. Rationale: This practice is standard for USA Swimming and World Aquatics Championships, and the rule change allows the same opportunity at NCAA and conference championships.
4-2 Meet Committee	To clarify that in the event of an appeal at NCAA and conference championship meets, the meet committee has the authority to act in cases of procedure but not overturn rules violations. Rationale: To allow procedural issues to be appealed and addressed by the meet committee, but not judgement calls for the application of the technical rules.
4-8 Starter	To allow video review to determine if a disqualification for a false start in an individual event is accurate. Rationale: To allow the use of approved technology to confirm a disqualification for a false start.
4-31 Diving Officials	To align diving referee duties and responsibilities with USA Diving and World Aquatics, including: • Detailed procedures for outdoor meets in situations with inclement weather. • Clarifications of the standards for diving judges to award points throughout the scoring range. • Details for allocation of points for dives completed in the wrong position. • Clarification of the instances when a dive should be declared a failed drive. Rationale: To update and revise the referees' duties to be consistent with standard practices, especially within USA Diving and World Aquatics.

6-4 Description of Diving	To align diving technical rules with USA Diving and World Aquatics, including: • Detailed definition for points allocation when a diver is too close or hits the board during the flight and entry. • Correct definition of dives using the tuck position to clarify that the knees and feet must be close together within the body line of the shoulders. • Consistent description of each element of the dives, including starting positions, approach, position of the dive, and entry. Rationale: To update and revise the technical rules of diving to be consistent with the standard practices, especially within USA Diving and World Aquatics.
8-4 Championship Meets	To clarify that 50-yard stroke events are allowed in all championship meets. Rationale: To reinforce that 50-yard stroke events may be included in championship meets, and to align this practice with USA Swimming and World Aquatics.