



## **PARA-SWIMMING OFFICIATING NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2018**

World Para Swimming (WPS) New Rule book – Effective January 1, 2018

The new WPS rule book dated January 1, 2018 has been issued by WPS. You will notice the re-numbering of the rules. Swimming Rules are now under Section 11 instead of Section 3. You can obtain a copy of the complete WPS Rule book at:

[https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/171220131721478\\_2017\\_12+World+Para+Swimming\\_Rules+and+Regulations\\_Final.pdf](https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/171220131721478_2017_12+World+Para+Swimming_Rules+and+Regulations_Final.pdf)

In addition, you will find the Para Swimming Rules in Appendix “C” of the 2018-2021 Swimming Canada Rule book, which reflects all these changes.

Listed below are the major changes within the Para Swimming Exception Rules that are effective as of January 1, 2018.

(Start) 11.1.2.3 An athlete with only one (1) fully functional leg does not need to have a foot at the front of the starting platform as long as he has one (1) hand or other part of the arm at the front of the starting platform.

(Breaststroke) 11.4.6.3 At each turn and the finish of the race, where an athlete can only use one (1) arm for the stroke cycle (as determined by the athlete's Codes of Exception) the athlete must touch with the one (1) hand/arm that is used for the stroke. Where an athlete's impairment results in only one (1) arm being used, the non-functioning arm shall be dragged or stretched forward.

(Butterfly) 11.5.2.4 Where an athlete can only use one (1) arm for the arm stroke (as determined by the athlete's Codes of Exception), the arm shall be brought forward over the water. The position of the body must remain in line with the normal water surface. Where an athlete's impairment results in only one (1) arm being used, the non-functioning arm shall be dragged or stretched forward.

*We need to ensure when athletes swim with one arm only (as per this rule), that they are not rolling from side to side when they are on the surface of the water.*

(Butterfly) 11.5.4.3 At each turn and the finish of the race, where an athlete can only use one (1) arm (as determined by the athlete's Codes of Exception) the athlete must touch with the one hand/arm that is used for the stroke.



In addition to the changes being made to the WPS Rule book, WPS also made changes to the Classification Rules. As a result, all athletes with a physical impairment with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) or Review with a Fixed Review date (RFD) of 2019 and later, will be put back under Review (R) as of January 1, 2018. All athletes with an intellectual impairment with Sport Class Status Confirmed "C" will also need to be classified.

Note 1: If athletes have old exception codes 2 or 3 (right or left hand touch), they should be able to swim with one arm (until they are reviewed).

Note 2: Athletes with old exception codes 4 and 5 (show intent to touch simultaneously), still need to swim with their 2 arms.

Note 3: Finally, if athletes don't have restriction to both arms, they shall use their 2 arms to swim butterfly and/or breaststroke.

Until all athletes have been reviewed/re-classified, we will need to use *common sense* when judging the one arm stroke. If in doubt (not being reviewed yet and no classifiers on site), the benefit of the doubt will go to the swimmer.

Any questions related to the capability of swimming with 2 arms or 1 arm shall be forwarded to Janet Dunn, [jdunn@swimming.ca](mailto:jdunn@swimming.ca), who is responsible for classification in Canada.

## Change to the WPS Codes of Exception

As of January 2018, there is also a new list of exception codes:

[https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/171220131544270\\_WPS%2BCodes%2Bof%2BException%2B2018.pdf](https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/171220131544270_WPS%2BCodes%2Bof%2BException%2B2018.pdf).

You will notice that code 6 no longer exists, while there is a change to codes 2, 3, 4 and 5. Until all the athletes are reviewed by WPS (i.e., all will need to go through classification), WPS adds an "\*" in front of exception codes on the WPS classification master list indicating that they are still old codes (meaning old exception codes). Janet Dunn confirms that Swimming Canada has completed the same process on the Swimming Canada website for the classification database.

Until the swimmer has been through re-classification/review process, we will work with the existing and new exception codes lists and to use our *common sense* for one arm stroke in butterfly and/or breaststroke as per the notes above.



## Para Swimming Training

As shared with officials through the October and December bulletin, more and more meets have para swimming integrated events and this includes our national meets. Swimming Canada will be organizing para swimming officials' clinic as part of the National meets through April and July 2018. The para swimming clinics will be offered on the day before the meet starts (same day as the technical meeting) in Montreal at the Canadian Swimming Championships, Victoria at the Western Canadian Championships and in Windsor at the Eastern Canadian Championships. More details will be provided soon.

We also encourage all officials (especially level 4 and 5) to take the IPC Introduction to Para Sport and the World Para Swimming Technical Officials on-line para swimming course. There is a cost of €53.50 for the WPS Technical Officials on-line course.

Note: After taking the WPS Technical Officials on-line clinic, please send a copy of the certificate issued by the system to [paraofficial@swimming.ca](mailto:paraofficial@swimming.ca), as this will enable us to keep track of who has taken the on-line course.

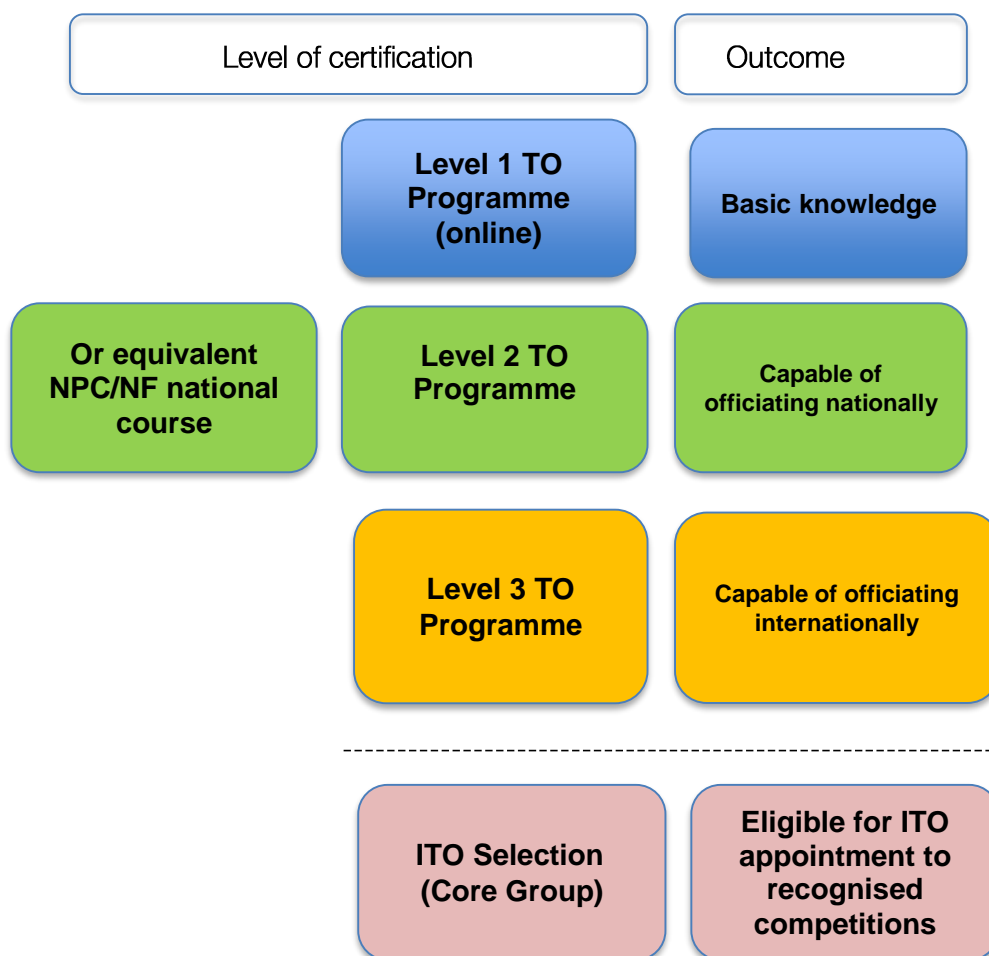
## UPCOMING PARA-SWIMMING MEETS – 2018

April 5 to 8, 2018	2018 Canadian Swimming Championships – Para Swimming Events integrated – in Montreal, Quebec
April 12 to 15, 2018	Eastern Championships – Para Swimming Events integrated – in Windsor, Ontario
April 12 to 15, 2018	Western Championships – Para Swimming Events integrated – in Victoria, British Columbia
April 19 - 21, 2018	World Para Swimming World Series in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA
April 28-29, 2018	Défi sportif in Montreal, Quebec
July/August 2018	MAN SASK, Ontario, Quebec, BC, Alberta and East Coast Provincial Championships
July 19 to 22, 2018	2018 Canadian Trials – Para Swimming Events integrated – in Edmonton, Alberta
December 2018	CAN-AM Para Swimming Meet - TBC



## CHANGE TO THE WORLD PARA SWIMMING (WPS) OFFICIALS PATHWAY

A change was made to the WPS Officials Pathway, which was explained in the Para Swimming Bulletin dated March 2017. Note that as of January 1, 2018 Level 4 TO no longer exists. In fact, Level 3, which was “Capable of officiating nationally with a higher level of knowledge, but not being proficient in English”, has been removed. By removing this explanation, level 3 now becomes “Capable of officiating internationally”.



You will find more information on the WPS Officials Pathway at:

[https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/171116113003863\\_2018\\_World+Para+Swimming+Technical+Officials+Pathway\\_FINAL\\_0.pdf](https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/171116113003863_2018_World+Para+Swimming+Technical+Officials+Pathway_FINAL_0.pdf)



## WORLD PARA SWIMMING (WPS) INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS IN 2017

Congratulations to the following individuals who were appointed by the World Para Swimming (WPS) to officiate at different events:

- Kim Grootveld from Toronto, ON, Chief classifier and Sheila Guenther from Estevan, SK, Technical Delegate at the São Paulo World Series event in April 2017.
- Jocelyne Mc Lean from Gatineau, QC, Charles Montpetit from Ottawa, ON and Glennis Mossey from Edmonton, AB – 2017 INAS Swimming Championships in Aguascalientes, Mexico in November 2017.
- Sheila Guenther from Estevan, SK, Technical Delegate for 2017 Mexico City Para Swimming World Championships in December 2017.

## WPS CORE GROUP OF INTERNATIONAL OFFICIALS

Within the new WPS Pathway implemented in December 2016, Officials being accredited as International Officials need to go through an extra step in order to be selected to officiate at meets such as Paralympics, WPS World Championships, etc. Every 4 years, further to specific training and tests, WPS will select among all accredited International Officials, 25 officials who will be part of the Core Group. The 1<sup>st</sup> selection for the Core Group (similar to the FINA Officials list) for 2018-2021 included four (4) WPS Certified Officials from Canada. Congratulations to Sheila Guenther (Saskatchewan), Sandra Rousseau (Ontario), Jeff Holmes (Ontario) and Jocelyne Mc Lean (Quebec).

Questions related to Para-swimming may be sent to:  
[paraofficial@swimming.ca](mailto:paraofficial@swimming.ca)