

Location: USA Swimming Rulebook Article 105
Proposed by: DEI Committee
Purpose: To emphasize the difference between accommodations (swimmer centered) and modifications (exceptions to technical rules) and to further define the Referee's authority to grant such accommodations along with suggestions as to how officials, under the Referee's instruction, will carry out their responsibilities.
Effective Date: Immediate.

ARTICLE 105
GUIDELINES FOR OFFICIATING SWIMMERS WITH A DISABILITY
IN USA SWIMMING MEETS

105.1 GENERAL

.1 Authority – (no changes to this section)

.2 Responsibilities

- A. Swimmer – The swimmer (or the swimmers coach) is responsible for notifying the Referee, prior to the competition, of any disability of the swimmer and of the requested accommodations and/or modifications. The swimmer/coach shall provide any assistant(s) or equipment (tappers, deck mats, etc.) if required.
- B. Referee – The Referee's responsibilities include:
 - (1) Determining if the accommodations are appropriate and can be met.
 - (2) Determining if the modifications are appropriate.
 - (3) Instruct Starter and Stroke & Turn officials as to how the modifications, and/or accommodations will be made for the swimmer with a disability.
 - (4) In communication with the officiating crew a referee may:
 - a. Instruct them to observe and report ANY violation of the rules and vet the call against the approved modification and apply Art. 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).

.3 Accommodations/Modifications

- A. Accommodations are considerations which allow a swimmer with a disability to access the facility, (locker rooms, restrooms, pool deck, warm-up/down pool) and space, time and assistance required to obtain a starting position for

each event. Some of the accommodations which the Referee may approve the swimmer with a disability are:

- (1) Reassignment of lanes within a heat, e.g. exchanging Lanes 2 and 7.
- (2) Allowing a swimmer to have a personal assistant(s) for any reason approved by the Referee.
- (3) Assuring proximity wheelchair access from deck to block.

B. Modifications are any exception to the technical rules approved by the Referee allowing a parallel performance for a swimmer with a disability.

Aids to buoyancy or speed are not allowed (See 102.8.1E).

Some of the modifications which the referee may allow the swimmer with a disability

- (1) Personal Assistant to act as a tapper at the turn and finish walls for a swimmer who is blind or has low vision.
- (2) Provide visual starting signal (strobe and hand signals) for a swimmer that is deaf or has a hearing loss.
- (3) Inability for the swimmer to turn a foot out in breaststroke during the propulsive part of the kick.

Other allowable modifications are further described in this section under the type of disability.