

## USA Swimming Situations – Disability Swimmers

The following situations have been reviewed by the USA Swimming Officials and Rules Committee

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1. There are no provisions in the USA Swimming rulebook for swimmers with a disability. True or False?
2. What are the major categories of disabilities as described in USA Swimming rules?
3. LSCs cannot make special rules for swimmers with a disability. True or False?
4. A swimmer with a disability wishes to swim in a USA Swimming meet but does not have the qualifying time for that meet. Is there anything that can be done to permit the athlete to participate?
5. The coach of a blind swimmer asks whether he can tap a blind swimmer on the heel of her foot to signal a relay exchange. Is this legal?
6. The coach of a swimmer with a hand amputation asks permission for the swimmer to use a hand paddle on the affected limb during races. Should this be allowed?
7. A dwarf swimmer, whose arms cannot reach above her head, finishes a breaststroke event with her head. Should she be disqualified for not making a simultaneous two-hand touch?
8. A swimmer who has autism competes in a breaststroke event. His feet do not "toe-out" during any part of the kick. Should he be disqualified?
9. The coach of a deaf swimmer requests that she be seeded in an outside lane near the starter's strobe light. Should this request be granted?
10. A coach asks permission to assist a swimmer with cerebral palsy at the start of his races. The swimmer has unsure standing balance and the coach assists by standing behind the swimmer and holding the swimmer's hips until the starting signal is given. Should the Referee allow this?
11. A parent calls to ask about hooking-up an extra portable strobe light to the starting system to accommodate his deaf swimmer. The parent owns the extra strobe and is willing to bring it to the meet. Is this permissible?
12. It is the Referee's responsibility to ascertain a swimmer's disability and provide any needed equipment. True or False?
13. Starters must always give arm signals when starting a heat, which includes deaf or hard of hearing swimmers. True or False?
14. The parents of a swimmer who uses a wheelchair contact the Meet Director and LSC Board of Directors to insist that a scheduled meet be moved from an inaccessible facility to one with an elevator and hydraulic pool lift. Does the law require this request be approved?
15. The parent of a deaf swimmer asks that an American Sign Language interpreter be provided during every meet session when the swimmer is competing. Would this be required? What alternatives would there be?
16. Swimmers with a disability must present written proof of that disability to the Referee. True or False?