



ENGLISH SCHOOLS' SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

Patron: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales

South East Division - Primary Schools' Team Championships

Relay start and takeover further information.

In order to aid the Team Managers to prepare their teams for this event and to attempt to make the interpretation as simple as possible for schools thereby minimising the numbers of disqualifications in Relay take-overs, the following information is provided.

Where multiple galas are used within a division's qualifying stage and one or more of the pools used for those galas has a pool depth that does not permit safe diving for inexperienced swimmers, the division may impose additional conditions to ensure consistency and fairness in the qualification process.

This is the approach taken in the South East Division, where diving is not permitted at the shallow end of the pool in any qualifying stage gala within their Division. Where races are started at the Deep end of the pool and the pool depth is sufficient for it to be safe to do so, swimmers 1 and 3 are permitted to dive as long as they have satisfied the conditions of the Swim England Preliminary Start Award criteria.

Interpretation of rules for in the water starts or takeovers:

- 1: In the following text, the ***extended starting platform*** is any of the starting block, the pool wall at the end of the lane, or a pad attached to the pool wall at the end of the lane; Where two hands are in contact, they can be with any combination of the block, wall or pad
- 2: For swimmers starting the race in the water (i.e. 1st leg) at least one hand of the swimmer starting in the water must remain in contact with the ***extended starting platform*** until the start signal is issued.
- 3: For relay races for swimmers starting their leg (other than 1st leg) in the water, at least one hand of the swimmer starting in the water must remain in contact with the ***extended starting platform*** until the incoming swimmer has completed their length and touched the end of the lane.
- 4: No physical restraint of the outgoing swimmers intended to prevent that swimmer leaving their starting position before the incoming swimmer has touched the wall is permitted. Any such occurrence may result in the team being disqualified for pace-making (SW 10.16). This includes, but is not limited to, holding any part of the body.

i.e. *The team of the swimmer who is starting their relay leg in the water and has neither hand in contact with the ***extended starting platform*** before the preceding swimmer touches the end of the lane (before the start signal is given for 1st swimmer if starting in the water) may be disqualified.*

Examples:

When the incoming swimmer touches, if the outgoing swimmer is:

- Holding with one hand = good takeover – No DQ
- Holding with two hands = good takeover – No DQ
- Not holding with either hand = illegal takeover – DQ

Note: The position of the feet is immaterial to the decision for a swimmer starting their leg in the water.