



LXI DESCENSO A NADO DE LA RÍA DE NAVIA

Navia's Estuary Downstream Swimming

REGULATIONS

(21st edition – April 2018)

1. GENERAL RULES

Navia's Estuary Downstream Swimming (*Descenso* from now on) is an open water swimming competition under the legislation laid down by the Royal Spanish Swimming Federation (*RFEN* from now on). The main purpose of this regulation is to complement that legislation taking into account the *Descenso's* particular circumstances.

The *Descenso* rules differ from the *RFEN's* on one point: the use of non-textile swimwear (neoprene). ONLY 1100m and 2400m swimmers are allowed to wear non-textile swimsuits, 5000m swimmers are only allowed to wear textile swimsuits. For more information, please refer to *Descenso General Rules*. Every piece of swimsuit must follow the *FINA Requirements for Swimwear Approval*.

2. DESCENSO'S TECHNICAL ORGANISATION

The *Descenso* is organised by a committee sponsored by the *Asociación Amigos de la Ría de Navia (AARN from now on)*. The *Chief Judge* of the competition is appointed by the *RFEN Committee of National Referees*, and under its authority, independently for each of the four races, there will be appointed juries. Any doubt, misunderstanding or interpretation query about the technicalities and regulations governing the *Descenso* will be resolved by the *Chief Judge*.

3. JURY

As detailed in *Appendix I*, the competition consists of four different races. Each of them will be controlled by at least two *judges* – *Judge Referee* and *Assistant Judge*- forming the *Jury*. The *Chief Judge* will coordinate the appointment of a *Judge Referee* and an *Assistant Judge*, who will usually be provided by the *Committee of Referees from the Asturias Swimming Delegation/FDNA*. The *Chief Judge* may act as well as *Judge Referee* of one of the races.

Each *Jury* will also be advised by a representative of the Organising Committee (appointed *Race Manager*). The *Chief Judge* may also seek advice from the *Race Manager* on the interpretation of sports and regulations governing the *Descenso*.

The specific mission of the *Judge Referee* is to supervise the race under his or her responsibility, especially focusing on the start and the finish. The finish recordings and any other that may be considered relevant will be done under his or her direction. The *Judge Referee* will have full authority over the *Assistant Judge* and will oversee him or her.

The *Assistant Judge* will complement the work of the *Judge Referee*. The *Assistant Judge* will also replace the *Judge Referee* if the circumstances require so.



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4. FINISH LINE SUPERVISION – SUPPORTING GROUPS

Each swimmer will be individually identified by a number (decal) and by an electronic timing system (microchip), affixed to their wrists using a strap - the organising committee will provide swimmers with everything. The classification at the finish line will be based on the detection of the microchips at the finish line's touch pad, which records the exact moment the swimmer reaches the finish line.

Therefore, it is mandatory that the swimmer touches the finish line's touch pad with the hand the chip is affixed to. Failure to do so may mean a later recording or a non-detection of the microchip and may have negative implications on the finish recordings.

The essential purpose of the electronic recording upon finishing is to support the *Judge* and make their work easier, not to replace them. Hence, the criterion of the Judge takes precedence over the information the system provides. Swimmers should be aware that they will not be allowed to request the judges to amend the prompts in order to correct errors or failures attributable to themselves. For example, in the event of touching the touch pad with the hand not wearing the chip, the Chief Referee may choose not to classify the swimmer or to do so subject only to his or her own criteria - which will not be appealable.

In addition to the Judges, the *Descenso* organisation will have five supporting groups:

- One group that will act globally for the four different races - 1100m, 2400m and 5000m (men and women);
- A specific group to each of the races (four in total).

The **global team** is made up of:

- Two people located on a control dock at a right angle to the finish line (where the electronic sensor of the touch pad is located) and a bit ahead of it. Of those, the **observer** of the order of arrival, will shout the cap numbers of the swimmers as they cross the finish line, while the **arrival recorder officer** will sequentially record these numbers.
- Two people (again, **observer** and **recorder officer**) located on the service dock, placed behind the finish line. They will be positioned by the ramp the participants use to leave the dock and climb onto solid ground once they cross the finish line. These observer and recorder officer will act identically to their counterparts on the control dock. They will be referred to as the "ramp" **observer** and **recorder officer**.
- **Audiovisual recorder officer** also located on the control dock and as in line with the arrival panel as possible.

The **specific teams** for each race are made up of:

- A **Race Manager**, acting as *technical director* of the race. He/she will be the main contact between the organising committee and the *Judge Referee* and *Assistant Judge*, being available to them at any time. It should be clear that the *race manager* is not a referee, and therefore will not interfere with the referees' duties.
- An **arrival recorder officer** taking dictation from the *Judge Referee* of each race.
- A **time recorder officer** also taking dictation from the *Assistant Referee* (a.k.a. **Time Judge**). The *Assistant Referee* (or, alternatively, a person appointed by the *Judge Referee*), provided with a chronometer, will shout to the *time recorder officer* the times of at least the first twenty swimmers who complete the race.
- A **coordinator** assisting the *Race Manager* in monitoring the competition, whose main mission will be to write down the swimmers who abandon and any other possible incidents.

4.1. Race Manager

The **Race Manager** is the link between the *Jury* and the *Organising Committee* (supported by the *AARN*). He or she is the representative of the *AARN President* in all matters relating to the technical and sporting issues of the race. During the race, he or she will accompany the *Judge Referee*, supporting them and attending to their suggestions and directions.

With the data provided by the *coordinator* (see 4.2.), he/she will verify any discrepancies between the number of swimmers starting the race, completing it and those who have abandoned.

He or she will collect the arrival records provided by the electronic control system and take the *judges* and personnel involved in the making of the rankings and the minutes to the classification room in order to do the final classification.

4.2. Coordinator

The *coordinator* will take note of any incident that may occur during the race: specifically he or she must record the cap numbers of the swimmers who have abandoned. The *coordinator* will be in close communication with the *Race Manager*, the *Judges* (*referee* and *assistant*) and the safety and rescue personnel located on the water.

Once the last swimmer finishes the race, the *coordinator* will meet the *Race Manager* and will join the rest of the *specific* team to do the rankings¹.

4.3. Observer and Recorder Officers

Observers of the order of arrival are in charge of shouting the cap numbers of the swimmers as they cross the finish line or pass the ramp while the *arrival recorder officer* writes down these numbers. *Observers of the order of arrival* are only part of the *global* team, as each *specific* team has a *judge* in charge of shouting the cap numbers.

Each *observer* is supported by a *recorder officer* who will write down the cap numbers. Sometimes², in order to make sure that there are no mistakes on the recordings, there may be more than one *recorder officer* per *observer* as well as extra *recorder officers* who independently write down the order of arrival or the order the swimmers leave the water, always under the *Judge Referee's* supervision.

If an *observer* is supported by two or more *recorder officers*, these should operate independently.

The *specific* teams do not have *ramp* observer and recorder officer.

4.4. Time Recorder Officer

This person is part of the *specific teams* for each race. The Time Recorder Officer will write down the dictation of the swimmers' times, following the instructions of the *Judge Referee* or the person in charge of shouting the times.

As with the *arrival* and *ramp recorder officers*, there could be more than one *time recorder officer* per *observer* as an exception.

4.5. Audiovisual Recorder Officer

This person is part of the *global team*. He or she is responsible for recording with a recording device (camcorder or several synchronized video cameras) the finishing of all the swimmers. This way all the *Judge Referees* will have the filming available as support for the clarification of any doubt that may arise in the process of making the rankings. There will be a playback device in the room where the rankings will be made. The recording device will be placed where it has complete visibility of the finish line. The use of a second filming device will be considered.

¹ The *coordinator* will not share a boat with the *Race Manager* and *Judge Referee* as the expected contribution value of her or his function is directly linked to the efficiency of the security and control communication network at the service of the organisation.

² The Organising Committee aims at lessening the amount of people on the *service* and *control docks*. Therefore, this is an extraordinary measure.

5. GRADUAL START FOR EACH OF THE RACES

The four different races do not begin simultaneously but have a gradual start. Being the shortest (1100m) the first race to start, then the medium-length one (2400m) and finally the longest races (5000m women first and later 5000m men) so that the winner of each of the races will arrive to the finish line within an interval of 15-20 minutes³. The reason behind this is, on the one hand, to make a more entertaining *Descenso* for the spectators and, on the other hand, to reinforce the thrill of being the stars of the *Descenso*⁴ on each age group. Such gradual start is influenced by the acceptable maximum duration of the four races (beginning with the 1100m start and finishing when the last swimmer from the 5000m men crosses the finish line). In total, the event should not exceed 2 hours, and it is advisable to limit it to about 1h 45 minutes, otherwise it could be boring for the spectators. Besides, during those two hours the tidal conditions may change making it more difficult for the swimmers to complete the race.

It is therefore necessary to juggle both conditions. Experience has led us to establish a 15-20 minute interval between the finishes of every two consecutive races (i.e., between the 1100m and 2400m, 2400m and 5000m women, and finally, 5000m women and 5000m men) and to admit a certain overlap between the races on which the swimmers ahead usually reach some of the last swimmers of the previous race.

6. TIME LIMIT– RACE CONCLUSION

There is no need to set a time limit for completing the race after the adjustments explained above, especially for 1100m and 2400m swimmers, as the main purpose of such races is to promote swimming among children and young people.

The *out of classification* issue is aimed exclusively to the 5000m men, as its main purpose is to avoid a race exceeding 2 hours of duration (see section 5 above). It is the organising committee's decision every year to set a time limit or not. In case of them setting it, they will inform the swimmers on the race instructions.

As soon as each race finishes, the *Jury* plus the *supporting* team of that race, will head to the classification room. Once there, a board containing both the *Judge Referee* and the *Assistant Judge* will be constituted with the *Race Manager* acting as an adviser (see section 2), in order to take any necessary measures in accordance with the regulations. After that, the *Judge Referee* will appoint a **Director** for establishing the rankings. The *Judge Referee* will also become the *Complaints' Committee* together with the *Race Manager*. They will deal with any complaint that may be logged. Such complaints – only to be logged by properly authorised people - shall be made filling out the complaints form on *Appendix II* and paying a 20€ fee. The established time for making complaints is relatively short, due to the pressing needs of agreeing the rankings and finalizing the minutes in order to hold the award ceremony on time. Hence, we request that clubs and swimmers bear this circumstance in mind.

³ This interval varies every year depending on the time of the competition and the tides.

⁴ For Infant B winners (1100m race) it is not the same experience to reach the finish line among a group of elder swimmers as it is to enter with their own age group and hear the cheering of the crowd. Same can be said for Infant A winners (2400m) and for 5000m women.



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(26th edition –April 2018)

APPENDIX I

There are four different races:

- a) 1100m, for any swimmer;
- b) 2400m, for any swimmer older than 13 (or who will be 13 this year);
- c) 5000m women, for women older than 13 (or who will be 13 this year). These women may choose between this race, 2400m or 1100 m;
- d) 5000m men, for men older than 13 (or who will be 13 this year). These men may choose between this race, 2400m or 1100 m.

As an exception, a different race division could be established i.e. due to a later high tide time (the *Descenso's* completion time would also be shortened). Such new division would vary depending on the particular circumstances. In any case, attempts should be made to keep the same four races as the normal competition.

The groups are as follows:

- 1100m: a.1] **Infant B boys**; a.2] **Infant B girls**; a.3] **Men general**; a.4] **Women general**;
- 2400m: b.1] **Infant A boys**; b.2] **Infant A girls**; b.3] **Men general**; b.4] **Women general**;
- 5000m women: c] **Women general**;
- 5000m men: d] **Men general**.

Only swimmers from a.1, a.2, b.1, b.2, c and d will be awarded trophies. However, special prizes may be awarded (such as registering the participation on the *Descenso*). In groups c and d, on the other hand, special sub-rankings may be created for swimmers belonging to clubs with its registered office in Navia or Coaña. For further information, please see *Appendix 3 to Preparation of Ranking & Awards' Ceremony List*.

Note: All swimmers that successfully complete the race they signed up for will get a *finisher* medal. And, in the case of 55+ (and over) Master swimmers, they will receive, regardless of the race they signed up for (the 1100m one or any other), the *Descenso's* Little Mermaid traditional award alongside the finisher medal.

It must be borne in mind, as stated in the *Descenso's General Rules*, that the organising committee reserves the right to ask any swimmer for a proof of age (even during their stay in Navia). This can be proved with any legal document displaying the birthdate (e.g. ID, passport...). There are multiple reasons to ask for this proof of age: to check if a swimmer is a minor and therefore needs parent's or guardian's permission; to handle complaint forms from a.1, a.2, b.1 or b.2 races; or for the classification as *Infant* or *Master*.



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(9th edition, April 2018)

APPENDIX II

Complaint form

D/D^a ha recibido, en el marco de sus funciones como **Director del Comité de Atención de Reclamaciones** (véase el apartado 6 del *cuerpo principal* de esta Reglamentación), la cantidad de **20,00 €** (veinte euros) en concepto de tasa por la presentación de la reclamación/alegación que debajo se formula.

(firma y sello)



LXI DESCENSO A NADO DE LA RÍA DE NAVIA – Race

Check the one that applies

- 1100m
- 2400m
- 5000m women
- 5000m men

COMPLAINT FORM Nr.

(to be completed by the Committee Director)

I, Mr./Ms....., ID/Pass no., on behalf of (Club/Swimmer) and, in the light of the provisional rankings of the aforementioned race, wish to lodge the following complaint/allegation:

Navia,..... July 2018

(One complaint form per allegation)



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