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April 14, 2011

To: General Chairs  
Officials Chairs  
Rules & Regulations Committee  
Board of Directors, USA Swimming  
USA Swimming Officials  
USA Swimming Coach Members

From: Daniel W. McAllen III, Chair, Rules & Regulations Committee  
Clark Hammond, Chair, USA Swimming Officials Committee

Re: Interpretation of USA Swimming Rules Article 101.2.3 (breaststroke)

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It has come to our attention that there is considerable inconsistency in the application of Article 101.2.3 as it relates to judging the single butterfly kick prior to initiation of the first arm pull in breaststroke. In 2008 the following interpretation was issued, and it is hereby reiterated.

**December 8, 2008:** For purposes of Article 101.2.3, as it relates to what constitutes the initiation of the first arm pull and the allowed single downward butterfly kick, the following applies: After the start and after each turn, any downward or outward lateral movement of the hands or arms is considered to be the initiation of the first arm pull.

If the official can, with the same degree of certainty that would be used to report any other stroke infraction violation, state that no lateral or downward movement of the arms preceded the butterfly kick, the call is appropriate and should be made.

Should you have any questions regarding the above, please contact Clark or me.

 

Daniel W. McAllen III, Chair, USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee  
Clark Hammond, Chair, USA Swimming Officials Committee