

Attention MCSL Officials:

The MCSL rule for arm recovery in butterfly states "both arms must be brought forward over the water and pulled back simultaneously" (2010 MCSL Handbook, page 71 and 2010 Official's Guide, page 15). Several questions have been raised during officials clinics seeking clarification as to what constitutes the arms.

In order to clear up any uncertainty and to ensure that the butterfly arm recovery is judged consistently at all meets, the league is adopting the interpretation that the entire portion of the arm between the wrist and the elbow must break the surface of the water during the recovery phase of the stroke.

Beginning immediately, when briefing officials regarding the recovery portion of the Butterfly stroke, please do not refer to "any part of the arm" breaking the surface, and instead instruct judges to observe that the entire portion of the swimmer's arms between the wrist and elbow breaks the surface of the water. There is no requirement for the arms to be completely out of the water (i.e. there does not need to be "daylight" between the arm and the water), but the judge should observe that the entire portion of the arm between the wrist and the elbow breaks the calm surface of the water during the recovery phase. As always, the benefit of the doubt should go to the swimmer.

Referees should ensure that this interpretation of arm recovery is discussed during official's stroke briefings at all MCSL meets.

Please direct questions to clinics@mcsl.org.

Thank you.

The MCSL Clinics Team