

Sport Terminology

Terminologie du sport

As of WED 21 OCT 2026

Term	Definition
Call Room	A room to which the athletes report prior to the race.
False Start	Occurs when an athlete initiates a start before the starter officially starts the race.
Flip/Tumble/Turn	Used in freestyle and backstroke races, where athletes somersault before reaching the wall and push off with their feet, never touching the wall with their hands.
Lane lines/Ropes	The dividers used to create lanes.
Negative Split	A race strategy in which a competitor swims the second half faster than the first.
Reaction Time	The elapsed time between the starting signal of the race and the time the athlete leaves the block or touchpad in backstroke races.
Reserve	The two non-qualifying athletes with the fastest times are potential replacements for any qualifier that is unable to, or chooses not to, swim.
Splits	Intermediate times within a race.
Starting Blocks	An elevated platform on the deck at the end of a lane from which the athlete starts an event except in backstroke events when athletes start in the water.
Strokes	There are four strokes as follows: - Freestyle - Backstroke - Breaststroke - Butterfly Individual Medley is made up of equal portions of all of the above four strokes in the order of Butterfly, Backstroke, Breaststroke, and Freestyle.
Swim-off	An extra race used to determine which athletes will advance to the final, in the case of a tie for the last qualifying position(s). A swim-off may also be held to determine reserve positions.
Touchpad	An electronically-sensitised panel which is placed into the water at the end of a lane to record an athlete's intermediate or final time in an event.

Note:
For further information please consult: www.worldaquatics.com

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