

Managing the Deck

Referee Clinic
Minnesota Swimming, Inc.
Saturday, April 18, 2009
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Qualities of a “Good” Referee - (Ron Van Pool)

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| -Calm | -Confident |
| -Alert | -Team Player |
| -Delegator | -Professional |
| -Knowledgeable | -Proactive |
| -Communicator | -Interpersonally skilled |
| -Experienced | -Fair |

Responsibilities of a Deck Referee

1. Manage the competition.
2. Make a deck record of the competition.
3. Insure the competition is conducted according to the Rules.
4. Insure the competition is **fair**.

Managing and recording the competition.

Coaches Meetings (Before each Meet/Session)

- Introduce yourself and key officials
- Review the conduct of the meet
- Review the facility
- Discuss any issues
- Entertain questions

Officials Meetings (Before each Meet/Session)

(Delegate to Chief Judges if possible)

-Assign officials positions and jurisdiction

Balance the deck

Timed Finals

Prelim/Finals

-Explain procedures and jurisdictions for the meet

Review the rules and stroke requirements without creating a
“rule de jour”

Review protocols for the meet
Explain what is expected

-Review conduct of the meet and issues

-Build a team

Delegate (Use Chief Judges if possible)

Use other Referees (Rotate! Keep everyone fresh!)

Be proactive as the session approaches. Make sure everyone is ready and on time.

Equipment installed and tested

Deck Officials and Starter

Timers

Timing table

Announcer

Once the competition starts, **Focus your attention on it!**

Watch everything!

Avoid turning your back to the pool!

Keep your clipboard in your hand - not your face!

At the Start-

Work with the Starter-

Let the Starter pick his/her spot and adjust to that.

Be aware of the Starter's vision

Start Protocol

Short "chirpy" whistles

Long whistle

Turn over to the Starter with arm extension

Give full attention to the Start

After the Start-

Move to position where you can see the entire pool

Always mark program

False Start Protocol-

If you observe a False Start

Mark your program

Wait for the Starter to approach you

NO signals, gestures or discussion

if Starter approaches, compare programs, again without discussion

Once the Race has started-

1. Monitor the competition
Watch the athletes!
2. Monitor the officials
In Position? Alert? Be first to see hand go up!
3. Monitor the upcoming heat
4. Focus constantly - avoid socializing during a race

Making Calls as a Referee -

Rule 102.13.2

Be cautious in making calls, don't call simply because you see a violation

But, there will be occasions where you should make calls

If an official consistently misses calls-

Be a mentor! Do not single out or embarrass.

Discuss. See what training may be necessary.

If an official makes more calls than others-

Observe. The officials may just be more perceptive.

But be aware for an over zealous attitude or misinterpretation of rules.

Again - mentor!

Managing the Time Line of the Meet

Be proactive

Keep track of the time

Mark your program with the time

Use techniques to catch up if you fall behind

But **NEVER** pressure the Starter to save time

Your whistles are a timeline tool

When to use them

How to whistle

Pacing of the meet -

Essential to establish a pace

Swimmers will feel it and become comfortable

if you need to adjust, don't be abrupt

Keep a record in your program-

- Disqualifications

- Open lanes or “no shows”

- Additions or changes

- Time

- Turn your program in for the meet record-

Dealing with Coach Inquiry

- Expect coaches to advocate for their swimmers

- Listen

- Make diligent inquiry

 - Talk to official

- Be firm but fair

- Take discussion or conflict off deck

Build and use your team.

- Delegate, it is good for the meet, it is good for other officials and it is good for you!

Always remember that you are there to protect the interests of the swimmers and to insure fair competition!!!