

How to conduct competition under Covid 19 Official considerations

(based on several documents from USA Swimming and a few ideas of the WI OC)

ALL USA SWIMMING TECHNICAL RULES STILL APPLY

1. Follow the local guidelines (municipality, county)
2. Keep the number of people in the venue as small as possible
3. Officials
 - a. Officials should wear masks. Use of electronic whistles by Deck Referees is highly encouraged.
 - b. No officials' briefing on site. MR to communicate assignments, stroke briefing, and protocols via e-mail or phone call prior to meet.
 - c. **Minimum number of required officials:**
 - i. Intra-squad meets and dual meets: 3 officials: 1 Referee (who is also AO certified), 1 Starter and 1 S/T. If the Referee is NOT AO certified, you need 1 Ref, 1 Starter and 1 AO. Starter and Referee also serve as S/T in those scenarios. If it is a LC meet, one S/T is desirable.
 - ii. All other meets, including time trials (new 102.10.3): 4 officials: 1 Referee, 1 Starter, 1 AO and one S/T.
 - iii. Impedances to minimum standards:
 1. Officials must be able to ensure fair and equitable meet.
 2. Ideally, officials do not observe more than three (3) lanes per turn judge in keeping with best practices
 - iv. Officials willing to officiate do not need to be turned away, however, please be cognizant of the number of people on deck and their ability to keep proper distance, thus at this point in order to keep everyone safe, meets should be run with small official crews who are positioned appropriately.
 - d. Duties:
 - i. Officials with multiple roles who observe an infraction might want to write a note on the heat sheet and submit the heat sheet after the end of the session to the Admin Table or find another time saving method to communicate infractions and avoid having to write DQ slips in addition to all the other on deck tasks and in order to reduce paperwork to further reduce the chance of any transmission.
 - ii. Do the best you can, knowing that under the current circumstances, conditions are suboptimal. Results may thus be delayed.
 - e. Bring minimal belongings, preferably no clipboards.
 - f. Bring personal water bottle for hydration.
 - g. Officials can bring a cinch bag or fanny pack for minimal personal belongings.
4. Meet Referee
 - a. Work on a plan with head coach which entails
 - i. On which side of the lane swimmers will exit pool and when and where timers are placed. Preferably, timers always go to the left side of the block to maintain distancing.
 - ii. If and how fly over starts are used.
 - iii. Who will check on data from pads coming in during the meet and take corrective action if needed?
 - iv. Have coaches instruct swimmers not to ask for times.
 - v. Have longer intervals between heats to allow for safe conduct of meet. Sessions will most likely be shorter, but run more slowly than what we are used to.

- b. Make sure timers briefing is done remotely via email prior to the meet, no on-site timers briefing.
 - c. Consider using only 1 timer per lane (instead of the customary 2) as backup, plus a chief timer, as long as one pad, one back-up button and one watch are used per lane. Ensure disinfection of watches and buttons after each user.
 - d. Check officials participating in the meet in OTS to verify all their requirements are met or ask officials to send Deck Pass screen shot.
 - e. Has final authority over conduct of the meet if sanctioned.
 - f. Move slowly to allow time for swimmers and timers to be safe.
5. Starter
- a. Only one starter per session, disinfect microphone before and after use, consider using face shield for the safety of the starter and those around the starter if wearing a mask is not feasible.
 - b. Take OOF on your end of the pool (might not be possible for 50 m races in LC pool). Starting October 19, 2020, it is possible for starter apprentices to receive mentoring on deck. Mentor and mentee need to both wear masks and keep social distance. Disinfectant wipes or other means of disinfection need to be available to disinfect the microphone and cord thoroughly after each user. Err on the side of safety.
 - c. Maximum of 1 starter apprentice per session
6. Referee
- a. Check into the possibility of an electronic whistle to avoid contamination around the referee.
 - b. Wear mask for protection of the referee and those around him/her.
 - c. Starting October 19, 2020, it is possible for referee apprentices to receive mentoring on deck. Mentor and mentee need to both wear masks and keep social distance. Disinfectant wipes or other means of disinfection need to be available to clean any shared items after each user. Err on the side of safety.
 - d. Maximum of 1 referee apprentice per session
7. Stroke and Turn official
- a. Wear mask
 - b. Do the best you can
 - c. If mentoring an apprentice, make sure you keep appropriate distance despite both of you wearing masks.
 - d. Maximum of 1 apprentice per Stroke and Turn on deck. Keep at least 6 feet distance (i.e. about 1.5 lanes)
8. AO
- a. Wear mask
 - b. Reduce paperwork as much as possible.
 - c. Consider having several events on one sheet to reduce the amount of paperwork
 - d. Keep eye on times coming in, know who to address in case of equipment malfunction
 - e. Be prepared to score after the end of the session or with much delay as on-deck officials have limited ability to communicate DQs. At this point, DQ slips are discouraged
9. Apprentices (until further notice)
- a. Maximum of 1 starter and 1 referee apprentice per session. If starter and referee are on the same side of the pool, only 1 starter or referee apprentice is allowable.
 - b. 1 S/T apprentice per dedicated Stroke and Turn official. Need to keep distance of at least 6 feet (one and a half lanes) as much as possible. Be creative.

- c. If a dedicated AO position is used at the meet, 1 apprentice can be trained. Keep as much distance as possible. All wear masks. Disinfect hands and any shared computer equipment frequently.

10. Virtual meets

- a. Minimum of three officials at each site. See above under (dual meet for details)
- b. If there are multiple sites, a single lead AO/AR is required to merge results from all participating clubs before uploading into the SIMS Database

11. Provisional officials

- a. For a limited time, a new official’s category has been created.
- b. Target group: Coaches, 18 and over swimmers, apprentice officials
- c. Which meets: Intra-squad, dual meets, virtual dual and invitations
- d. Duration: 60 days from first meet on deck
- e. Training: Online officials training (training videos are a must), abbreviated 25 question test, 2-3 hours deck mentoring, which can happen during practice sessions
- f. Fee: None
- g. Interested ? Questions : Jacqueline Jugenheimer at officialschair@wisconsinswimming.org

2020-July-14	Original document
2020-July-20	Water bottle added, minor corrections
2020-Oct-19	Several updates, esp. regarding apprenticing
2021-Feb-17	Addition of time trials