

Safety Chair Report
December 18, 2012

Dive Certifications: I sent out emails to two clubs who appeared to have swimmers that had not passed the dive certification as they had swimmers who were jumping from the starting blocks. If a swimmer has not passed the dive certification he/she MUST start in the water. Effective May 1, 2009 USA Swimming Board of Directors modified the racing start rule, 103.2. All clubs must ensure that all team members are certified and those coaches understand and comply with the certification process. Failure to do so could jeopardize club and coach insurance coverage. The checklist is found on the USA Swimming website. Clubs should compile a list of their swimmers who have not passed and make that list available to all their coaches. This way a coach at a meet would know which swimmers must start in the water.

Safety Marshals: A number of meets that I have attended this fall had no visible safety marshals. There were also no lifeguards on duty, which is a huge safety and liability issue if someone was to need assistance in the pool.

Rule 102.19 USA Swimming Rule Book

Safety Marshals "Shall wear identifying attire and enforce warm-up procedures and maintain order in the swimming venue. The Marshals shall have full authority to warn or order to cease and desist, and with the concurrence of the Referee to remove, or have removed from the swimming venue anyone behaving in an unsafe manner or using profane or abusive language, or whose actions are disrupting the orderly conduct of the meet."

USA Swimming requires that Safety Marshals be present at all sanctioned meets. The goal is to ensure the safety of swimmers, coaches and meet volunteers while on the pool deck. This means that a coach is not designated as the Head Safety Marshal – it needs to be an individual having only the job of Head Safety Marshal and they need to be at all the sessions of the meet. They need to assure that the Safety Marshals are in their designated positions.

2012 3rd Quarter Accident Statistic Summary: This report is based on 1,204 incidents reported through September 30, 2012.

Age Breakdown:

19 and over: 140, **15-18:** 267, **13-14:** 255, **11-12:** 218, **9-10:** 213, **1-8:** 111

Most injuries occur to the head/neck area, followed by eye/ears/nose, hand/arm/wrist, and leg/ankle/foot. The last three groups are fairly evenly distributed.

Who was Injured?

Athlete - 96%, Guest/Spectator - 48%, Parent - 25%

These are the three largest groups that were injured.

Where and when did Accidents Occur?

In Water - 43%

Deck - 24%

These are the two greatest areas where accidents occurred. Most accidents occurred at meets (44%), followed by practice (26%).

Certifications: Please make sure courses that you take are approved courses by USA Swimming. The list is on the USA Swimming website. If you have questions please feel free to contact me. Please make sure that if you take a course the instructor is aware that you need the following information on the certificate: the course name, the date the course was completed, the place the course was taken, and the name of the instructor. Hand written cards are not acceptable. The Red Cross has made many changes over the past year and will continue to be making changes and updates to both courses and the length that certifications are valid. If you need any of these courses please feel free to contact me and we can work on setting up a course or I can help direct you to one that is being taught in your area.

Thank you,

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