



NEW JERSEY  
SWIMMING

## Safety Marshal Handbook NJ Swimming

*Rule 102.19 USA Swimming Rule Book 201:*

“Shall wear identifying attire and enforce warm-up procedures and maintain order in the swimming venue. The Marshal 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.”

### **BACKGROUND**

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. One cannot prevent all injuries from occurring but a Safety Marshal is instrumental in providing a safe environment.

### **GROUPS REQUIRED ON THE POOL DECK**

- **Meet Volunteers-** There is both sponsoring meet volunteers and non-meet sponsoring volunteers. Those from non-meet sponsoring clubs are typically timers. Parents of swimmers ARE NOT allowed on the pool deck for any reason unless they are part of the volunteer staff.
- **Coaches-** Coaches are required to wear their USA Swimming registration ID while on deck. Do not assume that because a person is wearing a team shirt, they are a coach. You may ask to see their ID and if they do not have it coach, or not, they are not allowed on deck.
- **Swimmers**

**SAFETY MARSHAL JOB DESCRIPTION-** A safety marshal may not do multiple jobs. There must be a designated Head Safety Marshal at each session of the meet.

**SAFETY is the ONLY concern. Be respectful, courteous and FIRM!**

The Safety Marshal must wear identifying attire. A Safety Marshal should not leave their post until a replacement arrives. They should locate where the first aid/lifeguard station is.

**A Safety Marshal can provide a safe environment by:**

- 1) Enforcing the warm-up/warm-down procedures. This includes no diving- feet-first-entry- except in one-way sprint lanes. (controlled warm-up only). No backstroke starts except in a controlled one-way sprint lane. (They are dives).

- 2) No socializing in warm-up/warm-down lanes. Swimming only! Swimming must be in a counter-clock-wise direction. Swimmers must keep moving. There should be no congregating at the ends of the pool to chat. There should also be NO hanging on lane lines. Coaches cannot appropriate a lane for their sole use unless they have been assigned that lane for warm-up. Coaches cannot do a drill or set that prevents others from using "their" lane. Examples would include swimmers swimming clockwise or treading water in the middle of the lane.
- 3) Maintain deck safety, stopping those that are running, horse playing, pushing others into the pool, whipping towels, etc. In general any behavior that is inappropriate or dangerous. This could also include inappropriate touching. (Please go to the USA Swimming website under athlete protection) If instituted by USA Swimming they will need to pass any Athlete Protection Training courses. Rude and disrespectful behavior is not tolerated. This includes but is not limited to, profanity, even if it's not directed at a Safety Marshal.
- 4) Pick up any trash that can be knocked into the pool, stepped on or tripped over. There is also NO glass allowed on the pool deck or in the locker rooms.
- 5) If a pool has a bulkhead please make sure swimmers do not go under the bulkhead. This is extremely dangerous. Climbing or walking on the bulkhead is also not allowed except for coaches, officials, lifeguards, and safety marshals.
- 6) Training equipment is not allowed during warm up. This includes kick boards, fins, pull buoys, and paddles. Please remove it from the edge of the pool. Use of equipment is only permitted in designated areas after general warm-up sessions. (NJ Swimming Warm-Up Procedures and General Safety Guidelines WUP 1.5) Designated areas must be in an area where there is no timing equipment in the water. If the safety marshal or safety coordinator determines the use of equipment is dangerous due to overcrowding all equipment will be prohibited. Coaches shall supervise with direct line of sight of activity at all times. Additional warm-up procedures include: a) Sprint lanes may not be used until the announcer has declared them open. b) Exiting must be done at the side of the pool if the pool has a bulkhead. c) If there is a second warm-up the pool must be cleared of the first warm-up.
- 7) Report any unsafe areas on the deck to Meet Referee or Head Safety Marshal.
- 8) In the event of an injury or blood contamination please request a bystander to walk to the nearest Safety Marshal and have them get a lifeguard that is not working on the deck or contact an on duty guard with a walkie talkie.

- 9) Keep unauthorized individuals off the pool deck. This includes children of timers, officials, coaches, or volunteers. USA Swimming insurance does not allow for this coverage. Everyone on deck at a meet is either a participating club timer, coach member or an athlete member. There is reference in the USA Swimming rulebook concerning the conditions of a meet sanction and how all members on deck (aside from host club volunteer timers, deck marshals) are to be members as well. This does not mean that by simply paying for athlete or non-athlete insurance will allow for young children to be on deck. They are not actually participating in the meet. If they are liability insurance is in jeopardy for the coach, the club, and any meet host who allows such non-members on deck.
  
- 10) Report any unsafe areas to the Meet Referee, Head Safety Marshal, or Safety Coordinator.

The Safety Marshals should patrol the following areas:

- Hallways
- Stands
- Locker rooms (gender appropriate). There should be NO shaving since this is a potential blood hazard. Watch for inappropriate camera or phone camera use in the locker rooms. Please take the individual and camera/phone to the Meet Referee or Meet Management.

Patrolling needs to be considered a deterrent for inappropriate actions of others.

### **How many Safety Marshals and where should they be posted?**

This can vary depending on the facility being used but the following are some general guidelines.

**Warm-up:** Two marshals are positioned in the following manner:

One should be placed at the block end of the pool and the second marshal at the opposite end of the pool. When lanes become designated "sprint lanes" it is the marshal's responsibility to make sure that the remaining swimmers in the lane get out at the opposite end of the pool. This is most critical when the announcement is initially made. Swimmers currently in those lanes may not hear the announcement and are unaware that the lane is no longer available for general warm up.

**Meet:** Two marshals are positioned in the following manner:

Two marshals at the block end of the competition pool but on opposite sides of the pool. Do not turn your back on the pool. It is also not acceptable to use a cell phone or any other device while on deck. If there is a warm down pool (this may be closed during warm ups) an additional marshal would be placed walking around this pool. This pool will be open once the meet starts and a lifeguard is present.

**Stairs (or any deck access area):** An additional marshal should be placed around this area to limit deck access to volunteers, coaches, and swimmers.

**Locker rooms:** The marshal would walk through gender appropriate locker room. A rotation of marshals is important but no marshal should leave their area until another marshal relieves them. The number of marshals needed will vary based on the facility being used but host clubs should plan on needing 3-5 marshals per session of the meet.