



Florida Swimming Covid-19 Guidelines Effective: July 7, 2020

This document outlines the Florida Swimming's Covid-19 guidelines for hosting an intra-squad, dual, or virtual swim meet.

It is EXPECTED that each club adhere to the strictest guidelines that govern their facility or swim meet – Federal, State, County, City, Facility. Failure to adhere to the guidelines, could invalidate your sanction.

Please note that this document can be changed in a moment's notice because of the fluidness of the current Covid-19 pandemic.

If you have a meet sanction or you are having an unsanctioned meet, it is expected that if the governing bodies determine that we must close down, and swimming is not allowed, that your sanction is invalid, and that we request that you do not continue to host a meet other than an intra-squad meet (if the facility allows the meet).

If you have questions, contact information is included on page 5 of this document.



Florida Swimming Meet Recommendations During the Covid-19 Period



General Meet Considerations

1. All swimming meets **MUST** adhere to the State, County, City, facility, and any other local governing agency about occupancy, distancing, face coverings, etc. It is suggested that the meet adhere to the *strictest* agency.
2. The host team and or facility is responsible for enforcing the governing Covid policies that apply to their meet location during the meet. All teams attending the meet, must understand that the Covid polices can change during the meet, and that they must adhere to the changes as soon as reasonably possible (Change of session, Change of day).
3. All coaches, officials and volunteers must sign in on an appropriate sign-in sheet. These sheets must be submitted to Florida Swimming at the completion of the meet and kept by the host team in case there is a COVID issue.
4. It is recommended that the swimmers in the water exit the pool from the **TURN END**. At the completion of the heat, after the last swimmer touches, and at the request of the deck referee or starter, the swimmers will swim to the **TURN END**, and exit the pool.
5. If watches (tertiary) timing is not being used, you can have the next swimmer in line push the buttons for the heat that is in the water.

General Meet Considerations (Coaches)

1. Provisional Officials - USA Swimming has allowed a provisional official to be used if there are not a sufficient amount of certified officials to have legal meet. As a coach, you may volunteer to be a stroke and turn official for a meet, or a session of a meet.
2. Registration issues can be dealt with prior to or after a meet by contacting the Florida Swimming Office, however, **APT, Background, or Red Cross (life saving)** must be dealt with prior to the meet starting or you are **NOT** allowed on deck.

General Meet Considerations (Officials)

1. Protocol for disqualifications should be followed with these exceptions
 - a. Disqualification slips are not required but a written journal must be kept of all infractions.
 - b. Radios may not be shared between officials
 - c. Officials without radios will make notes on their heat sheet or and report the infractions to the referee at an appropriate time, such as, between heats, a break, or at the end of the meet.
 - d. If at all possible, one starter should be used for the entire session or meet.
 - e. All officials must sign in on a sign in sheet and this sheet must be sent to Florida Swimming with the meet backup.
2. Registration issues can be dealt with prior to or after a meet by contacting the Florida Swimming Office, however, **APT or Background** must be dealt with prior to the meet starting or you are **NOT** allowed on deck.



Florida Swimming Meet Recommendations During the Covid-19 Period



Intra-Squad & Dual Meets

1. Minimum number of Officials – **Three (3) of the following four (4):**
 - a. (1) Meet Referee, (1) Starter, (1) ST & Admin Official (1)
 - b. If a Meet Referee is not available, an experienced Deck Referee may be considered but must be approved prior to the start of the meet. If a Deck Referee is used, a certified AO must be used.**
 - c. If no AO is available, the Meet Referee may fill that role.
2. The referee and starter are allowed to be on opposite sides of the swimming pool (8-lanes or less), and both officials after the start of the race may walk the edges of the pool and observe the swimmers in the water if no S&T Judge is being used.
3. Use of the referee and starter in the manner as described by number 2, can only be possible for short course meets
4. Pool configurations must allow for the Starter to safely and promptly move into a position at the start end to provide fair and equitable judging.
5. Number of lanes being observed should be no more than four (4) per stroke and turn in keeping with best practice
6. **Visiting Teams** must adhere to the local governing Covid rules of the facility they are visiting.

All Other Meets

The Rules limit the roles of the Referee and AO (102.10.3), unless there are insufficient qualified officials available due to unusual circumstances beyond the control of the host team. The Starter may act in the capacity of a stroke and turn judge for the start end. One stroke and turn judge may be positioned at the turn end of the pool.

1. Minimum number of Officials – **Four (4)**
 - a. (1) Meet Referee, (1) Starter, (1) AO, (1) ST
2. Pool configurations must allow for the Starter to safely and promptly move into a position at the start end to provide fair and equitable judging.
3. Number of lanes being observed should be no more than four (4) per stroke and turn in keeping with best practice



Florida Swimming Meet Recommendations During the Covid-19 Period



Virtual Meets

This is a competition meet that will be held at more than one (1) facility.

1. There will be only one sanction number given for the meet
2. The meet must be completed within ten (10) days after the first splash. Any team that does not complete within ten (10) days, their results will not be submitted to SWIMMS. The swimmer's age is based on the first day of the meet.

Host Team

1. There will be only one host team.
 - a. Host Team Responsibilities
 - i. Will write and have approved by all clubs the meet letter before submitting
 - ii. Will determine and have approved by all clubs one (1) surcharge, and all other appropriate fees
 - iii. Will be granted the sanction number by Florida Swimming
 - iv. Will provide - a single Lead AO/AR who will merge results from all participating clubs before uploading into SWIMS database.
 - v. AO/AR will provide to the other teams the final meet file that is to be used for each virtual (different) meet site.
 - vi. Must provide a Meet Referee

Participating Team

1. There can be multiple participating teams
 - a. Participating Teams Responsibilities
 - i. To use the meet file provided by the host team
 - ii. To submit their fees directly to Florida Swimming along with the Fees report from Hy-Tek
 - iii. To submit their meet file backup and pdf meet result backup to the host team within four (4) hours after the final session.
 - iv. Must retain all back-up documentation for scoring for at least sixty (60) days for reference purposes

Officiating Guidelines

Each site should have a meet referee. All participating sites should use the same number and types of officials with uniform assignments and jurisdiction.

Must be approved (prior to the start of the meet) – If a Meet Referee is not available, that site can be overseen by a Deck Referee, but all final decisions are made by the host team's Meet Referee**

If there is an AO who has the qualifications and certification to merge data from more than one pool, then they may oversee the computer operator's work from each venue. Even when there is a lead AO/AR, each site must have its own AO who can manage the meet setup and entries and send verified results to the Lead AO. If no AO is available at a site, the Meet Referee at that site may fill that role.



Florida Swimming Meet Recommendations During the Covid-19 Period



1. Minimum number of Officials at each site – **Three (3) of the following four (4):**
 - a. (1) Meet Referee, (1) Starter, (1) ST & Admin Official (1)
 - b. If a Meet Referee is not available, an experienced Deck Referee may be considered but must be approved prior to the start of the meet. If a Deck Referee is used, a certified AO must be used.**
 - c. If no AO is available, the Meet Referee may fill that role.
2. The referee and starter are allowed to be on opposite sides of the swimming pool (8-lanes or less), and both officials after the start of the race may walk the edges of the pool and observe the swimmers in the water if no S&T Judge is being used.
3. Use of the referee and starter in the manner as described by number 2, can only be possible for short course meets
4. Pool configurations must allow for the Starter to safely and promptly move into a position at the start end to provide fair and equitable judging.
5. Number of lanes being observed should be no more than four (4) per stroke and turn in keeping with best practice
6. **Visiting Teams** must adhere to the local governing Covid rules of the facility they are visiting.

Notes

It should be obvious that these minimums are not best practices. In order to have reasonable coverage and to provide a fair venue for all competitors, you should have no fewer than four (4) stroke and turn officials, a referee, a starter and an AO for a short course meet in a six-lane pool. It is the role of the LSC, clubs, coaches, and officials to recruit, train and retain a sufficient number of officials in order to effectively officiate meets sanctioned by USA Swimming. As long as there are minimum national standards, LSCs should be allowed to fit to their own needs.

Florida Swimming in conjunction with USA Swimming has laid out these guidelines for returning to competition. However, if your team has a legit reason for not being able to adhere to the above guidelines, please seek approval prior to your meet by contacting:

1. Ira Klein, 941-928-7946, usacoachira@gmail.com
2. Charlie Rose, 407-617-2770, bdcoachrose@gmail.com
3. Roger Deary, 904-509-8947, dearyr@comcast.net
4. Cary Showalter, 813-334-6977, cshowalter@showtechsolutions.com
5. Vanessa Brewer, 239-565-6351, vanessa.brewer@floridaswimming.org

**If the MR is not available, the DR must be approved by Roger Deary or Cary Showalter & the Area Official Representative prior to the start of the meet.



Bottom Line

**Get the athletes in the water,
let them swim, let them have
fun, and have the competition
as fair as possible.**