

Stroke and Turn Judges



Discussion Topics

How we teach
How we watch a race
Trouble spots



How we Teach Judges

What do judges know coming
out of a clinic?
Only the basics
Little of how to watch



How we Teach Judges

Be Positive



How we Teach Judges

Session One

Generally the Trainer makes the calls during this session

Meet the trainee before the session if possible, and keep them with you during your time on deck, narrating what you do and how you do it.

Review rules and discuss how to observe swims.

Most of what we see is legal and we are looking for exceptions. Discuss the "ugly but legal" examples that you see.

After you make a call discuss what you saw and what rule was violated.

Progress to asking them why you made a call first.

Emphasis on fairness and equality of treatment.



How we Teach Judges

Session Two

Transition from the trainer making the calls to the trainee as you are comfortable with their skills and knowledge.

Encourage your trainee to begin discussing infractions they see with you to help them get used to saying the rules out loud.

When they make calls act as their CJ, asking all the normal questions – jurisdiction, observation, rule.

Have them write DQ slips but check the slip carefully.

When swimmers are not in your jurisdiction, ask/answer questions and share tips for handling multiple calls.

Share your experiences.



How we Teach Judges

Session Three

Function as the trainee's personal Chief Judge

Emphasize watching all swimmers in jurisdiction, and covering empty lanes.

Talk about "seeing what you call, and calling what you see," and importance of the descriptions they give.

Work on making the translation from what is observed to how to record on the DQ slip.

Discuss, if not practice, how to talk with a swimmer about a DQ. We notify, but don't coach.

Discuss differently abled swimmers and officiating even if no accommodated swims occur in the session.



How we Teach Judges

Session Four

Cover contents of prior trainings, ensure they have had enough exposure. Go through the training form and ask them what they have seen. Fill in the gaps in their knowledge.

If possible get a shift as a finish judge (picks), or a relay take-off judge so your trainee can become familiar with these positions as well.

Discuss what to bring to every meet (creds, clipboard, writing utensils).

Review the uniform expectations, other officiating experiences you have, etc.

Assess what your trainee needs practice with, and emphasize those points.



How we Watch Swims

Preparing for a race

Knowing your position and jurisdiction

Thinking though the brief and how to watch the upcoming heat.



How we Watch Swims

For each stroke – coming at you and moving
away from you
Turns and transitions
Exchanges



How we Watch Swims

Keeping up with the rules
What's good and what's bad information
Urban legends?


