Training Stroke and Turn Officials

Some general guidelines for training judges:

-Help the trainee become comfortable in their new role. Compliment observations, demeanor, etc. as appropriate and make certain that questions and concerns are voiced. Be positive!

-Ask your trainee about clinic and other on-deck training experiences. Have they worked at both the start and turn ends? Had the experience to walk stroke? Have questions, or a harder time with a certain stroke? Then work with the meet referee to provide opportunities to "fill the gaps."

-Set a specific focus for your training session.

-Review with your trainee the jurisdictional assignments for this meet, and procedures and protocols given at the officials meeting.

-Be the best official you can be; model proper deck protocol, avoid unnecessary conversation while on duty, be focused on the pool during swims, return promptly to position after a break.

-Stress that all questions about calls should be referred to the referee without comment.

-Share your experiences on other decks, pass along what you have learned over time.

Suggested Topics of Focus for Each Session	
Session One *Generally the Trainer makes the calls during this session*	Session Two *Transition from the trainer making the calls to the trainee as you are comfortable with their skills and knowledge.*
-Narrate what you do and how you do it. -Review rules and discuss how to observe swims (feet leave the wall, check body position, apply pull/kick rules, etc.). -Share tips for marking your heat sheet and getting the DQ slip written and delivered to the deck referee. Note that 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. -Talk about what to do with empty lanes. - Review positioning, and how relief will happen at this meet and others.	- Discuss notating DQs on the heat sheet and being certain you have the correct heat and lane. - 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. - Review assignment, positioning, jurisdiction and relief procedures, not just of this meet but other meets you have been to. -Share your experiences.

Suggested Topics of Focus for Each Session

Session Three

The trainee will be making the calls for this session.

- Function as the trainee's personal Chief Judge, reviewing what they saw and what rule was broken. Let them focus on the pool, and get used to recording infractions on their heat sheet. Write DQ slips for them if needed.
- 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 disability swims and officiating even if no accommodated swims occur in the session.

Session Four

The trainee will be making the calls for this session. This is the last session – be thorough!

- 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.
- Review with them what happens next: test taken? Scan/photograph training cards, fill in Certification Requirements Checklist, and send to ilswimofficials@ilswim.org
- Offer to be a continuing resource for them on deck as they "go solo."

Completing a Training Card:

Please use the main portion of the card to give constructive advice for improvement. Praise what was done well and offer advice on what to try to focus on in future trainings. There is no expectation that newer trainees are completely proficient.

At the bottom, circle Y or N for advancement. N means the training session will not be counted, Y means they are proficient enough for their relative level of training. Only use N when a trainee does not show proper learning for their training status.

After the Session:

Review the card with the meet referee, and give it to the trainee. Provide some feedback about your comments and answer any questions they may have. Remind them they must submit their training cards via email when all training is done. BE POSITIVE ABOUT OFFICIATING!