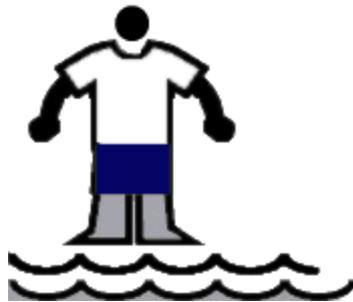


OFFICIATING MYTHS & URBAN LEGENDS



MYTHS & LEGENDS

- Always go up to edge of pool and stand with left/right foot forward.
 - *Not So! Only if there is a compelling reason, e.g. national prime time television and producer requests it!*
 - *The goal is not to fall in the pool!*



MYTHS & LEGENDS

- Referee must step swimmers up and extend arm to close heat, then step them down to find alternate.
 - *Not So! If possible, resolve placement of alternates before step up.*



MYTHS & LEGENDS

- After start, referee must move to the other side of the backstroke flags and stay there until the end of the race
 - Must? Not at all. Referee should keep his/her attention on the pool but unless TV requirements are in place, referee can choose their spot.



MYTHS & LEGENDS



■ Starter's Dance

- *there isn't one!*

- Protocol heard: Starter stands in one spot on the short whistles, steps to another spot on the long whistle, while at the same time bringing the microphone to a required position.

- *See above! Just be in position for the heat's start and show that you're relaxed and ready to start the race.*



MYTHS & LEGENDS

- Starter must hold microphone with one hand
 - Must? No. If it takes both hands to hold microphone securely, do it.
 - One hand on the mic and one hand holding the cord is a good practice, but only if possible



MYTHS & LEGENDS

- Referee whistle on lanyard around neck vs. in pocket.
 - *Lanyards help prevent “whistle in pool” and “can’t find it” syndromes for some of us.*
- Short whistles should be quiet and not alarming/scary to the swimmers!
 - *Swimmers don't differentiate between short and long whistles. All they hear are two sets of whistle blasts. If they don't hear the first set, they don't step up on the second set.*



MYTHS & LEGENDS

Although
Melissa will
take exception
to this one

- Referees must only use a whistle with a “pea” preferably an Acme Thunderer
 - No, I often use a “pealess” whistle such as a Fox 40 when outdoors (or indoors)



MYTHS & LEGENDS

- Requiring false starts or other AR paperwork indications specifically by dots, asterisks or stars next to the lane number, circling the lane number or underlining the name.
 - *Do what works for you!*
- Pencil vs. pen for DQs
 - *As long as it is clear and legible, it works!*

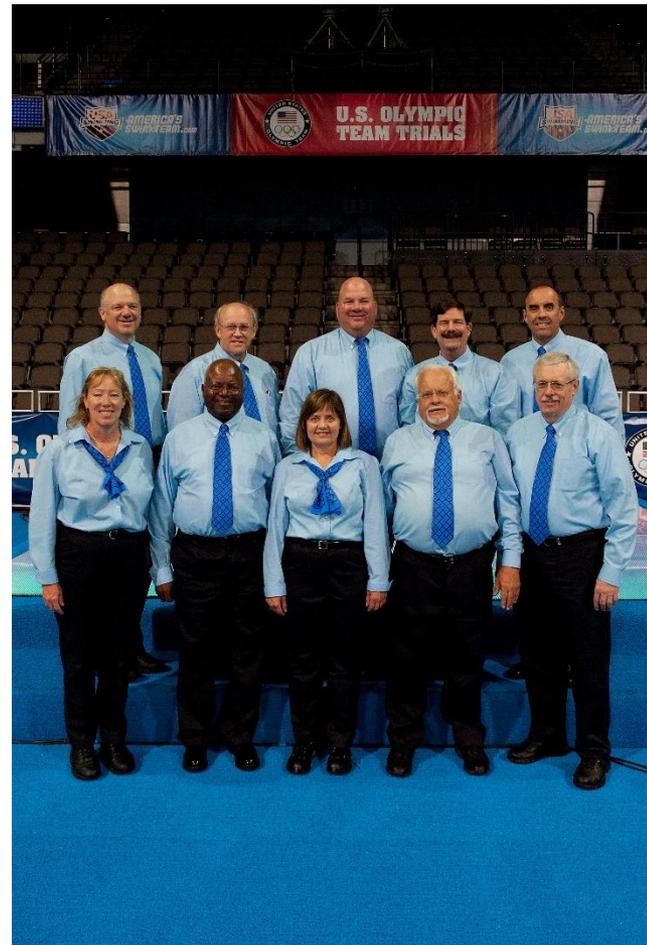


MYTHS & LEGENDS

- **CJ signing the S&T's name on a DQ slip vs. the S&T signing the slip.**
 - *ST should review the slip to verify it reflects the call and "sign" it.*
- **Khaki is the approved uniform.**
 - *There is no nationally "approved" uniform. LSCs set their own requirements. (So does national for national meets .. It often varies.)*



IT VARIES!



MYTHS & LEGENDS

- *Your shoes must be totally white*
 - *Your LSC can have its own rules, but on the national deck we use the “Wimbledon criteria,” i.e. predominately white*
 - Gone are the days when you’d be asked to apply “White Out” to the offending “Swoosh” on your shoes
 - *I wear a size 15-try finding that in all-wi*



MYTHS & LEGENDS

- **Deck Referees cannot hold a clipboard.**
 - *Sure they can, just don't drop it in the pool*
- **Deck referee must keep the whistle in his mouth and arm extended to the starter until all the heads have surfaced in a heat or the last swimmer has reached the 15 meter mark.**
 - *Not hardly*



MYTHS & LEGENDS

- On a backstroke start with full-face pads, the swimmer is allowed to have his/her feet out of the water, but the hips/butt must remain in the water.
 - *The hands must be on the grips or gutter and toes of both feet must be on the pad*
- When using backstroke ledges, swimmer's feet must contact the wall
 - *This one is true*



MYTHS & LEGENDS

- **A remote strobe for a deaf swimmer must be placed between the deck referee and the swimmer.**
 - *No, it's placed where the swimmer can see the strobe without turning their head*
 - *The starter should stand where the swimmer can see her/him*



MYTHS & LEGENDS

- You can only get training opportunities and/or evaluation opportunities inside (or outside!) your own LSC
 - *No, while there are certainly advantages to training inside (or outside) your own LSC, there is no national requirement on this issue*



MYTHS & LEGENDS



- **An official cannot wear shorts at an OQM**
 - An official must wear the uniform requested by the meet referee (usually listed in the meet invite)
 - If shorts are authorized, an official can wear shorts
 - We often allow shorts during prelims at outdoor national championships

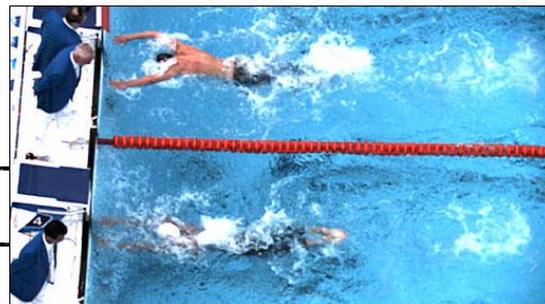


MYTHS & LEGENDS

- If there is an error filling out the DQ slip, the DQ is overturned.
 - No, if the call was correct, the DQ stands.
 - A scrivener's error (typo) can (and should)



MYTHS & LEGENDS



- On a non-simultaneous touch call, the referee must know which hand touched first.
 - Why? Does it matter? Anything in the rules about one hand or the other?
 - Can introduce unneeded confusion



MYTHS & LEGENDS

- If there is any confusion about at which turn (2 vs. 4 vs. 6, etc.) a violation occurred, the referee must overrule the call.
 - No

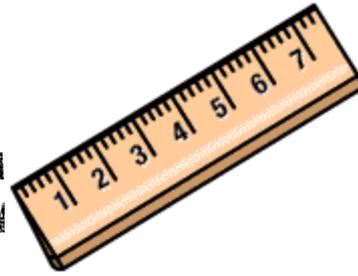


MYTHS & LEGENDS

- Referees need a “picture painted” of the call as she/he didn’t see it
 - Yes, but the referee needs a sketch, not a completed Rembrandt masterpiece.



MYTHS & LEGE



- Referee must know, feet and inches, the swimmer was from the wall ...
- Or, how many seconds between the hands touching ...
- Or, the angle the body was at upon leaving the wall ...
 - No, we don't have rulers, or stopwatches or protractors out there



MYTHS & LEGENDS

- “Benefit of doubt goes to the swimmer” applies to making the call not to our paperwork or description.
- “Is this a valid DQ call?” should guide the discussion

