

Dear Marlin Swim Team,

I have found that officiating is an interesting and rewarding way to contribute to our team. This letter is an invitation to you to consider volunteering as an official for our team.

Here are some reasons why you may want to consider officiating:

1) The Team Needs You!

- We must have officials to have home meets
- We are responsible for providing officials at championships
- We are occasionally asked to help at away meets, but these are normally optional

2) Your Swimmers Need You

- Good officiating early in swimmer development avoids surprises later in the season and in the swimmer's career (like losing a high school conference medal because of some 'tighter' calling.... But I digress!)
- Coaches use this feedback to reinforce their training with the swimmers
- Having this knowledge can help you with your personal stroke / infraction discussions with our team's swimmers (& parents)

3) Experience Swimming

- If you're not a 'swimmer', you will learn more about the sport that your athlete spends a good amount of time on
- You will have the best view in the house
- You will see great swimmers, unique swimmers, and beginning swimmers and you'll never be bored
- You will interact with some good folks from other teams



In addition, there are also some tangible benefits to officiating, such as:

- 1) Food – All thanks to the great folks that setup & run the hospitality rooms!
- 2) New White Shirt! And, we don't have to wear white pants anymore either!
- 3) Free Training
 - You'll learn, all on the Y's nickel
 - Good background to practice in High School (paying gig)

I have heard some comments that officiating takes a lot of personal time. Here's what this cost is:

- 1) Training
 - Certification (initial, and every 3 years)
 - 1x 4 Hour Training
 - Take Home Test (~ 3-4 hours)
 - Work with Experienced Officials at 6 sessions (aka shadowing program)
 - Annual Refresh - 1 hour refresher between Certification years
 - Last year we did this before our first home meet
- 2) Officiating
 - Show up for the official's meeting (normally ~30 minutes before meet, so not before our team's warm up time). During this meeting, you'll review the stroke rules, and get updates regarding rules / interpretations.
 - Work the meet, and you're normally done right around the time your swimmer is done with their shower after the last relay of the day

That's it. Anything beyond this is up to you. Many do this, for which we are thankful. Some do more, for which we are also thankful.

In the past, our team has been blessed by having a good number of talented officials. As some of our experienced officials hang up their white shirts, have their swimmer graduate, and/or move into other ways to support the team, we need to bring in new talent.

If you're interested in discussing this in more detail, please feel free to contact me directly at castan@woh.rr.com.

Thanks for your consideration!

Tony Castaneda
Swim Dad & MCY Official