

## Premeet Officials Meeting Instructions

Don't take this meeting lightly. I know you're busy prior to meets, but you need to devote sufficient time to this meeting to avoid problems during the meet.

Make sure you address the following:

- You are in charge, and they report to you, not their parent rep.
- They are expected to watch the swimmers during the race, and not be distracted.
- Any problems they have with parent reps, coaches, parents, etc., should be directed to you for resolution.
- Review positioning, jurisdiction; establish the judging pairs.
- Review any special situations specific to the pool.
- Any special accommodations for swimmers, eg., disabled swimmers, developmental swimmers.
- Review the stroke and turn rules and what to look for, especially those that they are likely to see dq's, e.g., backstroke turns, incorrect kicks, underwater recoveries, nonsimultaneous touches, etc..
- Emphasize consistency in calls; this means all judges should call infractions the same way regardless of age or ability of the swimmer. I know some judges like to lighten up on the younger kids, but there are some dq's that cannot be overlooked. Swimmers who work hard to do the correct stroke should not be penalized by those who can't. Calls must be made; it's not fair to the swimmers, and will hurt them in the long run.
- Review positioning and procedures for relay takeoffs.
- Remind them to raise their hand when they agree on a dq.
- Remind them to complete dq slips properly, including signature/initials; incomplete or incorrectly prepared dq slips may be grounds for overturn. (Sidenote: have your scorers or runners alert you to any dq slip irregularities. Also, and I don't know the answer here, is there any way to get dq slips back to the coaches during the meet in a timely manner?)
- If they have a dq/rules question, to consult with you.
- Remind them that one of your jobs is to ensure they are doing their jobs, and if not, you will take appropriate action, which includes anything from a gentle reminder to replacement with another official.

By reviewing these things you will find that you will eliminate many problems during the meet.

An ounce of prevention....

If you have high expectations, your officials will respond accordingly.