

MOUNTAIN HI SWIM LEAGUE RELAY TAKE-OFF JUDGE INSTRUCTIONS

The job: For events of 100 yards/meters (8 & Unders), four (4) Relay Take-off Judges are needed. There are two (2) Relay Take-off Judges at the Start end and two (2) at the Turn end of the pool, positioned one on each side of their respective ends. For events of 200 yards/meters there are only two (2) Relay Take-off Judges needed; again, positioned at the Start end, one on each side of the pool. The Relay Take-off Judge looks at all lanes in the pool as the exchanges happen to see if the exchanges between the swimmers are either legal or illegal.

What to do: For each lane, as the incoming swimmer approaches the wall, the Relay Take-off Judge watches the next relay swimmer who is on the block (or in the water for in-water exchanges at pools with a depth less than 4') to see when that next swimmer loses contact with the block or wall. As the swimmer loses contact with the starting block platform (watch the feet leave the block) or the wall, then look down to see if the incoming swimmer for each lane have arrived. For in-water exchanges, any part of the next relay swimmer may be in contact with the wall. Once that swimmer loses complete contact with the wall, the incoming swimmer must have arrived for a legal exchange. If the next relay swimmer leaves the block (or wall) before the incoming swimmer arrives, then the exchange is illegal.

How to fill out a relay exchange slip: If the exchange between the next relay swimmer and the incoming swimmer is legal for a lane, circle the next swimmer. For example, in lane 3, the next swimmer is swimmer #2; when swimmer #1 is coming in to touch for the finish of that leg, watch the feet of swimmer #2 leave the platform, then look down to see if swimmer #1 has arrived (finished). If so, circle swimmer #2 for lane 3 on the relay exchange slip. Or, if for lane 6, when swimmer #2 has lost contact with the starting platform and the Relay Take-off Judge looks down to see that swimmer #1 is still 4 inches away from the wall for that lane, then the exchange is illegal and an "X" should be placed over swimmer #2 for lane 6 on the relay exchange slip.

What to do once each heat has been judged: Each Relay Take-off Judge separately marks his/her relay exchange slip. An Independent Judge – typically an off-duty referee who is not monitoring the exchanges – reviews. If all exchanges are legal for one of the Judges, the relay is clear. The Independent Judge then radios the Deck Referee stating the event and heat plus the message that the relay exchanges are "all clear." For example, "Event 7, Heat 1, all clear." If one of the Relay Take-off Judges has any illegal exchanges marked on his/her exchange slip for that heat, then the Independent Judge compares the two Judge's slips. If any of the illegally marked exchanges match the same swimmers on both slips, then the relay is disqualified. The Independent Judge should call in, "Dual confirmation for illegal exchange on Event 7, Heat 1, Lane 4." The Deck Referee follows the procedure for accepting the call and asks the Scribe to write up the DQ. Both relay exchange slips are passed to the Deck Referee and attached to the DQ slip. The slips are then attached to the card at the scoring table. If there is more than one illegal exchange for different lanes in that heat, then keep the relay exchange slips with that heat.