



MARSHAL

The role of the Marshal is significant at any meet. The exercise of polite, but firm, authority greatly assists in the maintenance of proper competitor and spectator decorum. This individual is specifically responsible for closely observing warm-up procedures and maintaining order in the swimming venue. To do this, he/she has full authority to: 1) warn or ask any individual to cease and desist, and 2) with the Referee's concurrence, remove, or have removed, from the vicinity of the competition, anyone who a) behaves in an unsafe manner, b) uses profane or abusive language, or c) commits actions that disrupt the orderly conduct of the meet.

The Marshal's responsibility starts prior to warm-up and continues through the completion of the meet. Marshal(s) shall meet with the Referee or if appropriate, the Meet Manager prior to warm-ups to go over assigned duties. In addition to ensuring safety, other duties may include: maintaining order among competitors, spectators, officials, and coaches. This includes full oversight of the pool deck (in particular, the starting area, the sides of the course, and the finish area). It is important to help maintain order in the starting area and to prevent competitors or spectators from crowding the course. The officials' view at the finish must be preserved.

The team coaches are generally responsible for the conduct of warm-ups during the dual meets. There should be no racing starts or diving off the deck or the edge of the pool while other swimmers are in the lane and in the vicinity of the diver unless practicing relay takeoffs (and must be closely supervised by the coach). Swimmers should enter the water feet first unless the coach has designated specific sprint lanes or is warming up the entire team with every lane as a sprint lane. Lanes where racing

starts are permitted become one-way (and one length) only. Coaches must maintain as much control over their swimmers as possible. However, coaches have much on their minds during warm-ups and Marshals are invaluable in watching over safety issues.

Either the Meet Manager or the Referee will assign positions to the Marshals and instruct them. They should be assigned before the meet and then properly identified in a visible manner (armband, hat, vest, or t-shirt).

During the larger meets, the Referee or the Meet Manager will indicate when and where lanes will be open to practice starts and those lanes will be designated by an announcement over the PA system. Marshals should also politely caution swimmers not to rest on the lane lines, to preclude breaking of the lines. Not only is this a potential safety issue, but a broken lane line could also delay the start or continuance of the meet.

Finally, the rules should be enforced. Locker room conduct, unauthorized smoking, drinking and food consumption, and related conduct should be closely monitored. Marshals can contribute greatly to a well-run meet.