

GUIDE TO BROOKINGS SWIM CLUB (BSC) MEET MARSHAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

USA Swimming Rulebook for 2012:

102.19 MARSHALS — Shall wear identifying attire and enforce warm-up procedures and maintain order in the swimming venue. The Marshal shall have full authority to warn or order to cease and desist and, with the concurrence of the Referee, to remove, or have removed from the swimming venue anyone behaving in an unsafe manner or using profane or abusive language, or whose actions are disrupting the orderly conduct of the meet.

GENERAL

Marshals are an important element in the conduct of a safe and efficient meet. They should be involved not only in supervision and control of the warm-up sessions, but also in other aspects of the meet. This includes maintaining crowd control, deck access, proper competitor and spectator decorum and safe, courteous behavior in other areas such as locker rooms and camping areas. They should be responsible individuals who can communicate instructions to swimmers, coaches and spectators without creating an adversarial atmosphere. The exercise of polite, but firm, authority by Marshals will go a long way towards assuring a pleasant, safe and efficient meet.

Brookings Swim Club will have one male and one female marshal on duty for the entire meet. Marshals operate under the supervision of the Meet Coordinator, Meet Director, or Meet Referee depending on the practices and policies of the BSC. They should be instructed and assigned by the appropriate person(s) having that assigned responsibility for that meet.

To indicate authority and for easy identification, each marshal wears a bright vest provided by BSC.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Marshals should arrive at the swim venue at least 15 minutes prior to the beginning of warm-ups.
- One marshal will be assigned to each end of the pool during warm-ups and competition, and most of their time will be spent on the pool deck.
- If a separate pool or diving well is available for warm-up/cool-down, a marshal should be assigned to monitor that facility should remain there continuously during the competition.
- For larger meets, additional marshal(s) may be assigned responsibility for other duties such as crowd and access control.
- Only one marshal may leave the pool area at a time to monitor hallways, camping areas, and locker rooms/rest rooms of the same sex.
- Marshals should identify and report anyone who refuses to follow their instructions to the Meet Director and/or the Meet Referee for further action.
- Marshals have full authority to warn or order to cease and desist and, with the concurrence of the Meet Referee, to remove or have removed from the swimming venue anyone behaving in an unsafe manner or using profane or abusive language. This action applies to anyone who disrupts the meet.

- Notify a custodian, meet manager, or referee of other unsafe situations such as electrical hazards, tripping hazards, overfull trash cans, etc.
- Know where the first-aid kit is located in case it is needed.
- Know what to do if soap, paper towels, or toilet paper are needed in restrooms.

Warm-up Procedures

Suggested general procedures are:

- Marshals must be posted at each end of the warm-up pool(s) and should be instructed on warm-up procedures by the meet director or referee.
- Typically, a general warm-up period will be scheduled first, with specific lane assignments for teams or age groups. During this period, the outside lanes may be used for pace or kick lanes. The use of paddles, kickboards or pull buoys is usually prohibited. Signs, cones or other devices should be placed on all of the blocks to prevent diving or racing starts. Time may be allotted at the end of the session for specific warm-ups.
- During general warm-ups swimmers may not dive into the pool but must enter feet first from the starting end of the pool. They may not practice backstroke starts during general warm-ups.
- If sprint lanes are permitted during the general warm-up, it is recommended that inside lanes be used.
- Sprint lanes (one-way) must be controlled by marshals. Swimmers may start from the blocks or the deck and must exit at the far end of the pool. Swimmers should not be permitted on the blocks when a swimmer is in the water for a backstroke start.
- Meet director or meet referee should determine if any penalty will be imposed on swimmers who violate warm-up safety procedures. Marshals should bring the offenders to the Meet Referee for enforcement. Removal from part or all of the remaining warm-up period may be considered.

The preceding information was adapted from the USA Swimming Officials Manual,
GUIDE TO OFFICIATING SWIMMING
CHAPTER 7 – MARSHAL
Rev Oct 2007

Additional information:

- Know the current rules for the warm-up/cool-down pool—those rules might change from meet to meet.
- Keep crowds back away from the rope barriers. (This is most often a problem during shorter races.) We need to make sure that officials and coaches have enough space to function.
- Keep walkways clear.
- If we have to clear the deck for inclement weather, marshals can help notify families of our city policy: No one is allowed back on deck for 30 minutes after the most recent lightning strike.