

## The “Professional” Meet Marshal

Meet Marshals are important members of the meet management team with primary responsibility for ensuring a safe environment for the coaches and meet volunteers but, most importantly, for the athletes. Aspects of a safe meet environment include:

- Deck access is limited to credentialed individuals including coaches, officials, and meet volunteers.
- Traffic on deck moves safely and does not interfere with the conduct of the meet.
- Warm up lanes are supervised and proper procedures are practiced to avoid injury.
- Hazards on deck or in locker rooms are identified and addressed appropriately.
- Locker rooms are reserved for athletes use only unless separate bathroom facilities are not available for others.
- Locker rooms are monitored periodically to ensure safe, respectful, and appropriate behavior, that cameras are not in use, and that suspicious or unauthorized people and swimmers are not loitering.

The “Professional” Meet Marshal should, ***depending on an LSC’s practices and policies:***

1. Arrive at the pool about 15 minutes prior to warm up start time.
2. Upon arrival, report to the Meet Director, the Meet Referee, Head Marshal, the Safe Sport representative, or Safety coordinator. Identify the individual to whom any issues observed by the Marshal should be reported.
3. Wear identifying attire such as a vest, armband, special shirt, etc. as required by USA Swimming rule 102.19.
4. Locate the first aid station and meet the head lifeguard. Ask to review the Emergency Action Plan if available.
5. Ask the Meet Director if any accommodations affecting the locker rooms have been granted to swimmers with disabilities.
6. Be briefed on any specific responsibilities for the meet which could include:
  - a. Politely but firmly enforcing safe warm up procedures as dictated in the meet announcement.
    - i. Feet first entry from the start end of the pool during warm ups or from either end in the warm down pool or during breaks.
    - ii. No diving or backstroke starts from the blocks except in lanes designated as one-way starts during specific warm up periods.
    - iii. No congregating in lanes.
    - iv. No swimming style, unauthorized use of equipment such as paddles or fins, rough housing or horseplay, or any behavior that endangers other swimmers.
    - v. Report overcrowded lanes to the Meet Director or Meet Referee immediately.
  - b. Checking USA Swimming or LSC issued credentials of adults wishing to gain access to the deck. Politely but firmly challenging any adults on deck who do not have the appropriate credentials as required by the meet announcement. Alerting the Meet Referee to any issues.
  - c. Politely but firmly requesting photographers not position themselves behind the blocks or in



- ways that risk swimmer safety.
- d. Controlling traffic on deck to avoid interference with officials.
  - e. Periodically monitoring locker rooms according to USA Swimming best practices with lifeguards, pool staff, fellow Meet Marshals, coaches, or other volunteers as needed to enforce appropriate, respectful, and safe behavior. Ensure both locker rooms are monitored before, during, and immediately after each meet session according to USA Swimming Safe Sport Best Practices for Monitoring Locker Rooms at Meets.
  - f. Observing the deck to watch for hazards such as glass, slippery areas, blood, tripping hazards, loose wires, or other conditions that can be reasonably considered dangerous. Bring these to the Meet Referee's or Meet Director's attention.
7. Work effectively with other Meet Marshals to cover all stated responsibilities.
  8. Adapt to meet conditions and help as requested.
  9. Apply and use common sense generously and maintain an appropriate sense of humor.
  10. Avoid fraternizing with coaches or swimmers however, remain hospitable, helpful, and approachable. Be polite but firm in all dealings with athletes, coaches, volunteers, and spectators. Report to the Meet Director or Meet Referee any concerns with unsafe, inappropriate, or concerning behavior. Ask for help when needed.
  11. Maintain vigilance at all times to proactively resolve and avoid any safety or Safe Sport issues that arise. Remember the Safe Sport charge for keeping swimmers safe: ***Hear something. See something. Say something.***

