



VSI Referees' Clinic

The Deck Referee

Presented by

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Timer Briefings for Starters

- Make certain the Chief Timer is experienced
- Thank lane timers for volunteering
- Identify first time lane timers
 - Don't allow two inexperienced Lane Timers work together
- Explain procedures (Read from the “Lane Timers Briefing Sheet”)
 - Timers **MUST** see touchpad to push button or stop their watch.
 - Make a note of anything unusual.
 - ALWAYS ask the swimmer to tell you their name. NEVER ask the swimmer if their name is “XXXXXX”



Timer Briefings for Starters

- Identify situations which may cause confusion
 - 25s (in which either swimmers or Lane Timers switch ends)
 - Count the laps. (Lane timing is very social, but don't forget that your primary responsibility is to help certify the swimmer's time Pay attention and count the laps. Don't become confused.)
- Discuss relief procedures
 - Don't just hand the watch/button to the relief timer and then depart
 - Be certain the Chief Timer is aware of the relief.
- Thank them again for volunteering



Starting Issues

- False Starts
 - When do you recall?
 - False Start vs. Bad/Unfair Start
 - Dual confirmation
 - Starter initiates
 - What constitutes a false start or bad/unfair start?
- Missed Heats
 - Delay of meet
 - Not paying attention
 - Legitimately detained
 - Mixing sexes and/or ages
 - Lane separation requirement



Starting Issues

- Distance Events
 - Count the laps
 - All lanes
 - Where's the bell?
 - Mixed heats
- Swimmers with Disabilities
 - Blind & Visually Impaired
 - Deaf & Hard of Hearing
 - Mentally Impaired
 - Physical Disabilities
 - Inform officials ahead of time
 - Review rules



Stroke & Turn Issues

- Recommended Stroke Brief
 - On VSI Web Site
- Jurisdiction
 - Briefing during Officials' meeting
 - Reasons for modification
 - Number of S&T officials
 - Venue limitations
 - Breast & Butterfly
 - Start/Turn Judge: from blocks until head breaks surface
 - Stroke/Side Judge: starts with head breaking surface after the start and turns to watching the feet all the way into the wall for a turn or finish and everything in between
 - Turn Judge: the last stroke into the wall, the turn, and from the wall until head breaks surface
 - 15 meter mark
 - Relay take offs



Stroke & Turn Issues

- Rotation
 - Out positions
 - When do they return?
- Balancing the Deck
 - DQ Log – why & how to use one?
 - Experience levels
 - Trainees



Stroke & Turn Issues

- Chief Judges
 - Why & how to use a Chief Judge
 - Maintain momentum
 - Venue not conducive to quick movement
 - Another set of experienced eyes
 - Is Chief Judge (Cert Ref) authorized to sign DQs?
 - Strongly recommended that the Deck Referee sign them
 - Radio Protocol
 - Recommended Practice



Stroke & Turn Issues

- DQ Slips
 - Fill in form CORRECTLY – avoid challenge
 - Confirm swimmers' names! (Radios help!)
 - Fill out neatly, completely, & accurately
 - Include team name
 - Circle appropriate stroke
 - Check appropriate violation
 - Individual Medley
 - Turn vs Finish of stroke?



Stroke & Turn Issues

- DQ Slips (continued)
 - Fill in form CORRECTLY (continued)
 - Notations on Heat Sheet for historical reference
 - Sign so Referee can identify the Official making the call
 - Referee will notify the coach
 - Enter in DQ Log (Who? Ref? TJ? Admin Ref?)
 - How much description is enough?
 - Open a can of worms?
 - Unclear?

**DISQUALIFICATION REPORT**

EVENT # _____ HEAT _____ LANE _____

SWIMMER _____

BREASTSTROKE

DURING: START _____ SWIM _____ TURN _____ FINISH _____

10 KICK: ALTERNATING _____ BUTTERFLY _____ SCISSORS _____

11 ARMS: NON-SIMULTANEOUS _____ TWO STROKES UNDER _____

12 ELBOWS RECOVERED OVER WATER _____

14 CYCLE: HEAD NOT UP _____ DOUBLE PULLS/KICKS _____

15 TOUCH: ONE HAND _____ NON-SIMULTANEOUS _____

16 NOT TOWARD THE BREAST OFF WALL _____

17 OTHER _____

BUTTERFLY

DURING: START _____ SWIM _____ TURN _____ FINISH _____

20 KICK: ALTERNATING _____ BREAST _____ SCISSORS _____

21 ARMS: NON-SIMULTANEOUS _____ UNDERWATER RECOV. _____

23 TOUCH: ONE HAND _____ NON-SIMULTANEOUS _____

24 NOT TOWARD THE BREAST OFF WALL _____

25 HEAD DID NOT BREAK SURFACE BY 15M _____

26 OTHER _____

BACKSTROKE

DURING: START _____ SWIM _____ TURN _____ FINISH _____

30 TOES OVER LIP OF GUTTER AFTER START _____

31 HEAD DID NOT BREAK SURFACE BY 15M _____

32 NOT ON BACK OFF WALL _____

33 NO TOUCH AT TURN _____

34 PAST VERTICAL AT TURN:

NON-CONTINUOUS TURNING ACTION _____

INDEPENDENT KICKS _____ STROKES _____

35 SHOULDERS PAST VERTICAL _____

36 OTHER _____

INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY

41 STROKES INFRACTION # _____

42 OUT OF SEQUENCE _____

FREESTYLE

50 NO TOUCH TURN # _____

51 HEAD DID NOT BREAK SURFACE BY 15M _____

RELAYS

70 STROKE INFRACTION # _____ SWIMMER # _____

71 EARLY TAKE OFF SWIMMER # _____

72 CHANGED ORDER: SWIMMER _____ STROKE _____

OTHER

60 FALSE START _____

61 DELAY OF MEET _____

62 DID NOT FINISH _____

63 OTHER _____

JUDGE: _____

REFEREE: _____

NOTIFIED: _____ SWIMMER _____ COACH _____

rev (2/98)

DESK/REFEREE



Stroke & Turn Issues

- Referee Pass Down List
 - Why?
 - Issues
 - Trends
 - Rationale for decisions
- Report of Occurrence
 - Why? When?
 - Who gets copies?
 - Referee
 - Host Team
 - Swimmer's Parents
 - Swimmer's Head Coach
 - Venue Management
 - Reimbursement of Deductibles



Dealing with Coaches

- Lay down the ground rules in the Coaches meeting
 - Expect coaches to be advocates for their swimmers
 - Professional enthusiasm is acceptable behavior
 - Belligerence is not professional enthusiasm
 - Keep them informed of anything out of the ordinary
- Treat them with respect and common courtesy
 - Have a thick skin when they question a call or decision
 - Don't be intimidated
 - Set a cooperative tone – invite coaches input at any time during the meet



Dealing with Coaches

- Difficult/confrontational Coach
 - Ease the situation out of sight of the audience
 - Maintain your professional bearing (the moral high ground)
 - Explain your plan to further investigate the complaint
 - Be prepared to cut-off discussion and tell coach to write their situation out.
 - Keep him/her informed of what is going on



VSI Recommended Practices

- Administering DQs
 - Speak to the coach, not to the swimmer
- Official's Attire
 - Non-Championship meets
 - Championship meets
 - Championship meet leadership team
- Radio Procedures & Etiquette
 - Not for chit chat
 - We are not alone...Others will be listening
 - Referees should have their own radio with headset
- Handling Missed Heats
 - “Reasonable” accommodation



VSI “Proposed”

Recommended Practices

- Handling Apprentices at Meets
- Handling Coaches at Meetings
- Handling Meet Juries
- Handling the Pre-Session Meeting
- Filling out the DQ Slip



Difficult Stroke Rule Issues

- Backstroke
 - Flip turn
 - Independent kicks or Non-simultaneous turning action
 - Your position with regard to the direction the swimmer turned
- Breaststroke
 - Butterfly kick
 - Feet moving downward as a result of undulation of the body
 - Knees bending during downward foot motion
- Butterfly
 - Arms
 - Underwater recovery
 - Non-simultaneous stroke