



Meet Referee

Introduction

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Rules Regarding the Referee

- Article 102 – Conduct and Officiating of All Swimming Competition
 - * 102.13 – Referee
 - .1 – "Shall have full authority over all officials and shall assign and instruct them; shall enforce all applicable rules and shall decide all questions relating to the actual conduct of the meet, the final settlement of which is not otherwise assigned by said rules; can override any meet official on a point of rule interpretation, or on a judgment decision pertaining to an action which the Referee has personally observed; shall also disqualify a swimmer(s) for any violations of the rules that the Referee personally observes
 - * 102.11 – Protests
 - .1 – "Protests against the judgment decisions of starters, stroke, turn, place and relay take-off judges can only be considered by the Referee and the Referee's decision shall be final.
 - * 102.8 – Change of Program and Postponement

Qualities of a “Good” Referee

- Calm
- Alert
- Delegator
- Knowledgeable
- Communicator
- Experienced
- Confident
- Team Player
- Professional
- Proactive
- Interpersonally Skilled
- Fair

ATTITUDE

The Art of Refereeing

Levels of Meets

- Regional
- LSC
- LSC Championships
- Sectional Championships
- Zone Championships
- National Championships
- International Championships

**Most of the procedures and problems are the same.
All deserve full attention and total quality effort.**

The Art of Refereeing

Roles and Responsibilities

- **Meet Referee**
 - Top Official at the Meet, Team Leader
 - Overall responsibility for the conduct of the meet
- **Admin Referee**
 - Supervises and directs the ‘dry-deck’
 - Takes care of the details
- **Deck Referee**
 - Supervises and directs the ‘wet-deck’
 - Runs the session

Ensure fair and equitable competition for all swimmers!

The Art of Refereeing

Roles and Responsibilities

- Meet Referee
 - Assist Meet Director in pre-meet planning
 - Assist Host Team Officials Chair in recruiting and assigning officials for the meet
 - Conduct Officials/Coaches Meetings
 - Supervise Officials Team
 - Make final decisions regarding interpretation/application of the rules
 - Ensure Safety

The Art of Refereeing

Roles and Responsibilities

- Admin Referee
 - Assist Meet Referee and Meet Director in pre-meet planning
 - Supervise the CTS Op, Timing Judge, Recorder, and Clerk of Course
 - Make decisions regarding fair application of:
 - Entries Procedures
 - Check-in Procedures
 - Scratch / No-show Procedures
 - Review Seeding and Heat Sheet Preparation
 - Approve Timing Adjustments
 - Process DQs
 - Review Results Preparation/Publication
 - Coordinate Swim-Offs
 - Review Relay Seeding and Results
 - Coordinate Time Trials

The Art of Refereeing

Roles and Responsibilities

- Deck Referee
 - Supervise Starters and Stroke & Turn Judges
 - Control the flow of the meet
 - Approve DQs
 - Make initial decision regarding interpretation/application of the rules

The Art of Refereeing Plan

- Work with the Meet Director
 - Start Early, Keep in Touch
- Review Draft Meet Invitation
 - Be Proactive, Think Ahead
 - Look for Problems, Recommend Solutions
- Determine Staffing Requirements
 - Depends on level of meet and venue

The Art of Refereeing

Prepare

- Work with the Host Team Chair
 - Assign available officials, approve schedule
- Work with the Meet Director
 - Review Final Meet Invitation
 - Review Site Preparation (checklists)
 - Review Entries, Time Lines – recommend solutions
- Prepare Meet Referee Notebook
 - Review Rules and Policies
- Inspect Venue
- Conduct Coaches Meeting
- Conduct Pre-Session Officials Meetings

The Art of Refereeing

Coaches Meeting

- Introduce Key Officials
- Facility Layout
- Venue Rules
- Meet Invitation Changes
- Timelines
- Warm-up Procedures
- Warm-up / Cool-down Procedures
- Heat Sheets
- Relay Cards
- Scratches
- Positive Check-in Procedures
- Start Procedures
- Finals Procedures
- Time Trials
- Protests / Complaints / Meet Jury
- Decorum
- Meet Results
- Meet Evaluation Form
- Who to go to for Information
- Hospitality
- Questions

Always hold a coaches meeting before every meet!

The Art of Refereeing

Officials Meeting

- 1-hour prior to each session
- All officials (for at least the first part)
 - **Build the ‘Team’**

- | | |
|---|---|
| – Final Assignments
(balance the deck) | – Timing Adjustments |
| – Overview (timeline) | – Rules Discussion
(careful of the ‘rule du jour’) |
| – Instructions to Leadership | – Previous Problems |
| – Deck Protocol / Rotation | – Unusual Circumstances |
| – Jurisdictions | – Announcements, Training |
| – DQ Processing | – Apprentices |
| – Radio Protocol | – Uniform, Appearance |

The Art of Refereeing

Execute

- Supervise Warm-Ups
 - USA Swimming/Virginia Swimming Policy
 - No marshals – no swimming!
- Walk the Deck
 - Talk with Coaches, swimmers, and officials
 - Sense problems, build respect and ‘team’
- Work with Admin Referee / Deck Referee
 - DELEGATE (authority, not responsibility), SUPPORT
- Work with ‘Dry-Deck’ Officials
 - Monitor position, alertness, calls
- Work with ‘Wet-Deck’ Officials
 - Monitor flow of data, decisions, timeliness of results

The Art of Refereeing

Execute

- Work with Coaches, Swimmers, Parents
 - Keep them informed
 - LISTEN, answer questions, get additional information
 - Take conflict off deck
- Work with Announcer
 - Discuss responsibilities and expectations, coordinate announcements
- Work with Chief Timer
 - Discuss responsibilities and expectations
- Work with the Meet Director
 - Control the venue
 - Solve problems
- Decide Protests
 - Conduct Meet Juries

The Art of Refereeing

Meet Jury

- Coordinate with Meet Director to Appoint Meet Jury Pool (coaches, officials, swimmers) prior to beginning of meet
- When to use Meet Jury
 - Written Protest
 - Meet Referee Discretion
- Determine Jury Members
- Determine Meeting Location
- Gather Information and Witnesses
- Present Question and Explain Appropriate Rules
- Answer Questions, Provide Guidance and Instructions
- Allow Deliberation
- Announce Decision

The Art of Refereeing

Execute

- Be careful of setting precedents with early decisions
- Don't be afraid to ask questions or correct mistakes
- Teach, provide constructive criticism
- Say 'THANK-YOU' to everyone
- Conduct Self-Evaluation

Referee Handbook

- Collection of information important to Referees – intended as a one-stop reference
- Some documents still To be Published
- All Documents will be on the Officials Page
- Email notification of posted updates
- Use it!