



Meet Referee Clinic

Introduction

- Rules Regarding the Referee
- Qualities of a “Good” Referee
- Art of Refereeing
 - Levels of Meets
 - Roles and Responsibilities
 - Planning
 - Preparation
 - Execution
- Reference Material
- Training Opportunities

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 TSO, 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)
- Overview (timeline)
- Instructions to Leadership
- Deck Protocol / Rotation
- Jurisdictions
- DQ Processing
- Radio Protocol
- Timing Adjustments
- Rules Discussion
(careful of the 'rule du jour')
- Previous Problems
- Unusual Circumstances
- Announcements, Training
- Apprentices
- 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 ‘Wet-Deck’ Officials
 - Monitor position, alertness, calls
- Work with ‘Dry-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

Reference Material

- VSI Web Site Officials Page
(virginiaswimming.org/Officials.htm)
- Collection of information important to Referees – intended as a one-stop reference
- Print out forms, put documents on CD or flash drive, make a notebook
- Use it!

Training Opportunities

- In general, all training sessions must be performed at VSI/USA Swimming sanctioned meets. Approval to train at non-VSI LSC meets requires prior approval of the apprentice's District Officials Chair, or the Officials Committee Chairperson
- To sign up for training contact your team official's chairman

Training Opportunities Cont'd

- LSC Championship Meets (Senior Championship, Age Group Championship and similar meets) may only be used to complete Administrative Referee training under supervision of the assigned Administrative Referee.
- District/Regional Championship Meets (District Champs, Region Champs, Summer Awards) may be used for limited training of apprentices subject to the discretion of the meet referee as follows:
 - Dry deck apprentices must have completed at least four (4) training sessions with positive ratings, including the familiarization sessions at other administrative positions. Final sessions and certification may occur if all requirements are met.

Training Opportunities Cont'd

- Stroke & Turn apprentice training is not allowed except under unusual circumstances which must be approved by the VSI Officials Chair in consultation with the District Chair. Final (“white and blue”) sessions may not be accomplished, nor may final certification.
- Starter apprentices must have completed at least five (5) training sessions with positive ratings. Final sessions and certification may occur if all other requirements are met.
- Referee apprentices must have completed at least four (4) sessions and have the positive recommendation of their District Officials Chair. Referees may complete the administrative referee session.
- Other championship-format meets run by individual host clubs provide additional opportunities for specialized training in the administrative aspects of trials and finals as well as for all other types and forms of training, including initial sessions.