

Notes for the Chief Judge

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If you are on the turn end, please alert the counter to the problem of touching the pads and messing up the splits of their teammates.

If glare on the pool is a real problem, tell the chief judge. The referee can make a ruling that a turn judge can cover for the stroke judge or vice versa. This gives all swimmers the same chance.

When stroke judging, scan the swimmers and try not to concentrate on the two lanes closest to you. This is a common error and most calls are made in these lanes. Try to avoid this syndrome.

Be aware of the rules you are using at the meet. Most of us work not only USS meets, but FINA, high school and college meets. **All** have different rules and we do tend to be confused at times.

Know your jurisdiction.

The chief judge will ask three questions:

What did you see (Were you in the proper place?)?
Did you have jurisdiction?
What rule covered the infraction?

The chief judge should always ask for himself, "what did you see?" This is especially important in a head under or dipped shoulder call.

Photographers: These people give us needed exposure. Treat them with great courtesy. Do not let them get in the swimmer's face before a race or in a turn. We discourage flash photos on the start. In an important race, sometimes too many photographers surround the starting area and the clicks on the start are astounding. This will throw even the most experienced swimmers.

Do not let the photographers stand in front of the sponsor's banners in the starting area. The sponsors pay many thousands of dollars for this opportunity.

All disqualification's are delivered to the referee. The chief judge does not have authority to "pocket" or destroy a disqualification slip even if it is questionable. The DQ must be ruled on by the referee on duty.

On the deck at nationals or any other meet that has the luxury of two chief judges, one should be stationed on the turn end of the starter's side and one on the recall side at the start end. If three are used (and this is overkill), the third should be on the start side near but not in the starter's area. Stay out of the way.

Relay take-off - Do not raise your hand on false start. Turn people do raise hand.
Remind them!

Do not ever raise the voice. You lose the audience. Use a whistle to gain attention if necessary. A raised hand sometimes works. Senior officials should never "cluster" after a call. Only referee and other judge concerned.

Relay Take-off Judges do not raise hands on false (early) starts. Turn people do raise hand on infraction on medley relay.

Do not ever talk to a coach about a call you have made during a race. Be polite and refer him to the referee.

Do not talk to or touch a swimmer before a race. **If** a swimmer talks to you first, it is fine to respond.

Smile.

Clap when the swimmers are introduced before a race or when they are being honored on the awards stand.

Officials are to be seated as follows: Facing the pool, watch button on left (this is also the relay take-off judge), recorder in middle, turn judge on right. When the relay take-off judge and the turn judge must be at the blocks at the same time, having the relay take-off judge stand on the left and the turn judge stand on the right keeps everyone separated.

When judging a stroke: On the referee's whistle, the turn judge stands to the right of his chair. On the starting signal, he walks forward to watch the first stroke out then returns to his chair.

When judging a stroke, judge walks to the pool side, stands with his hands behind him. This not only looks uniform across the deck, but helps maintain balance. Do not carry a clip board or heat sheet. You could drop them in the pool.

Backstroke judging must be done as closely above the swimmer as the judge can get.

Deck officials shall not leave their chairs to chat with other officials. If credibility is to be maintained, we must keep the air of a professional.

If you make a call, raise your hand promptly and raise it high. Keep it there long enough for the chief judge to see it and then put it down. Make sure when you are asked if you were in position, you can safely say you were. Remain on the job until the race is over.

Ask questions. There are no dumb questions. **All** of us have a mental block at one time or other.

Do not hesitate to make a call if you have seen an infraction. **All** swimmers have made a mistake at one time or other. If you are not sure, give the swimmer the benefit of the doubt. You are the kind of official we need.

Do not place buttons on the starting block. If you cannot bend over, it's time to retire or become a chief judge, referee, starter or coach. Use same buttons every time.

Stay alert. Rest your eyes between heats so you won't get mesmerized.

No alcoholic beverages between preliminaries and finals, please. No explanation is necessary.

If you see a problem, let the chief judge or referee know. You are closest to the swimmers and will probably see it first. Examples: swimmer suffering from hyperventilation, a touch pad in the water, counter touching the pads with the counters and messing up the splits and timing device.

Chief Judge

These are notes I have made to myself over several years. None is written in blood or is sacrosanct. Use what you need or applies.

Do instruct officials on the way to stand on the edge of the pool. Not only does this look more uniform, but it helps balance. A judge who falls in the pool is embarrassed and may be disqualified.

An official should stand erect, hands behind the back, one foot in front of the other (for balance). No heat sheet or clipboard should be in the hand. The stroke judge is an exception to this rule because he has to walk and write.

If at all possible, have official's meetings in a quiet Place with conference seating. A chief judge watches the officials, not the competition.

Officials should never second guess other officials. They are never in the same place at the same time. The only person that has any jurisdiction is the official making the call and the referee if he observes the infraction.

There are certain officials that, due to seniority, feel that they may leave the deck to talk with coaches or friends. This is a touchy area but if they persist in doing this, the referee should speak to them privately after the chief judge has made him aware of the situation.