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# Officials Training Clinic

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Professionalism in  
Swim Officiating ©





# Who am I ?

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- USA Swimming, FINA, & NCAA Referee
- Biologist & College Professor
  - in College of Arts & Science at U. Miami
  - Scientific Journal – *The Scientist*
    - Audience listening ability
      - 3% remembered all facets
      - 7 % many details
      - 12% 1 or 2 items
      - 21% only talks title & 55% tuned out pic



**Pablo Picasso. *The Lovers*. 1923. Oil on canvas.**  
The National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, USA

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tuned out...

and visualized about  
**Romantic Fantasies**

thus ½ of you will be  
entertained today





# OBJECTIVES

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- ❖ Extend the Lines of Communication
- ❖ Exchange Personal Knowledge of Officiating
- ❖ Strive for New Knowledge of Officiating
- ❖ Promote Consistency in Swim Officiating
- ❖ Promote Uniform Interpretation of the Rules
- ❖ Encourage Respect Toward Officiating
- ❖ Promote a Philosophy of Professionalism



## A Philosophy for Swim Officiating... Professionalism ?



- What do we mean by  
"A Philosophy" ...

Philosophy is defined as :

- a set of beliefs.....
- a state of mind.....
- a general understanding.....
- the manner in which one wishes to act when involved in swim officiating.....
- the only acceptable philosophy must be.....
- "to provide safe, fair, and equitable conditions of competition so that no swimmer shall obtain an unfair advantage over another", rather than to catch violators of the rules
- What is the best way to achieve this goal...

**Professionalism**



A Profession has Professionals.

Is "Swim Officiating"..... a Profession ?

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To be a profession - an institution must have...

- Mastery of Substantive Body of Knowledge
- Programs of Professional Preparation & Certification
- A Code of Ethics or Standards of Conduct
- A Tradition of Public Service
- Promote Information and Idea Exchange

So How do we make its practitioners... **PROs**



1<sup>st</sup> must answer question

## Why Does One Choose to Officiate ?

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**Positive Reinforcement**



**Parental Commitment**



**Enjoyment**

**Swim Groupies**



**Professionalism**





# Alphabet of Professional Swim Officiating

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The PROFESSIONAL swim official is the one who...

A . considers it an advantage & a privilege  
...not an obligation to officiate.

Success of every meet depends  
upon the officials.....



**integrity, knowledge, concern and regard  
for the competitive interest of swimmer**



The PROFESSIONAL swim official is the one who...

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B . gives benefit of the doubt to swimmer...

"but, he gained no unfair advantage"  
..... is not a good yardstick by which to judge



If you are sure, then  
a hand goes up right away.

There's no room in swimming for a Bad call





The PROFESSIONAL swim official is the one who...

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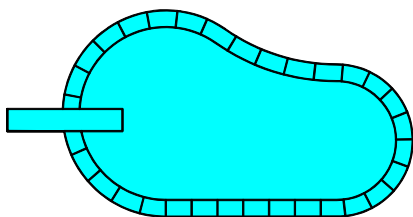
C. is consistent and provides a uniform application of our common practices and procedures in all situations both.... Locally & Nationally

Two Major Consistencies of Swimming:

1. TIME = universal standard
2. DISTANCE = 25y, 25m, 50m



We must strive to be consistent.....



across all lanes,  
at both ends of the pool,  
throughout all sessions.

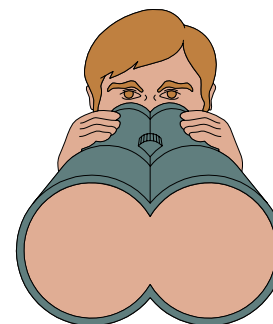


The PROFESSIONAL swim official is the one who...

D. maintains his/her dignity

E. has respect for all those working to make a swim meet a great experience for all young people

F. focuses on observation.....  
not.... anticipation,  
not.... expectation,  
nor.... preference.

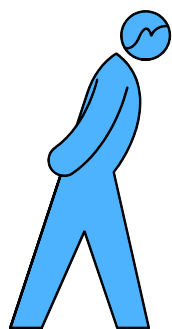


Swim officials just observe & don't care who wins



The PROFESSIONAL swim official is the one who...

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G. knows his/her intentions are genuine....

knows their attention was correctly focused

however, if you blow a call,  
admit it... be honest.

H. builds a healthy environment for competition...

has a protective rather than...

...a punitive attitude

"Looks for a reason NOT to DQ,  
rather than a reason to DQ a swimmer."





## Top 10 Phrases that Scare A Referee

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1. Does anyone know how to run the Colorado?
2. I'm sure we have counters somewhere.
3. We still don't have enough timers.
4. The lane-line just broke.
5. Was that thunder and lightning?
6. But my video shows that she didn't do that.
7. The heat sheets will be here soon.
8. I left Johnny off the Master Entry by mistake.
9. What coaches certification card.
10. But, we told everyone there would be time trials.



The PROFESSIONAL swim official is the one who...

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I. is impartial

different views on Fairness in a swim competition...



Swimmer - wants fair starts & knowledgeable S/T judges

Coach - projects outcomes & doesn't want an official to decide that outcome

Official - observes & does not care who wins



The PROFESSIONAL swim official is the one who...

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J. doesn't make officiating into a jousting contest

between a competitor and the official...

"Mary always false starts, &  
I'm going to get her today"



between one official and another...

"but I don't want to work the far end,  
I want to start"





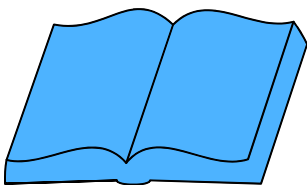
The PROFESSIONAL swim official is the one who...

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**K.** has a strong working knowledge of the rules,  
while remembering purpose of the rules...

... Knows the rules -

reads rule book before each session



... Understands the rules -

language nuances & intent of a rule

... Uses the correct interpretation of the rules

Conducts every meet according to the written RULES



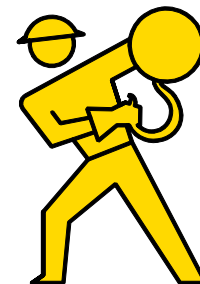
The PROFESSIONAL swim official is the one who...

L. listens, to all sides...



M. puts forth maximum effort  
before, during, and after a meet...

... volunteer officials will work harder  
than most coaches....who are paid



N. makes sure a swimmer or coach is notified of DQ...

Never let a swimmer leave a pool thinking  
they made finals, only to return & be told  
.... they were DQ'ed



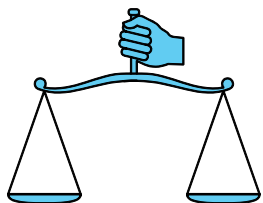


The PROFESSIONAL swim official is the one who...

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**O.** keeps a balanced outlook... avoids snap judgments

(we often form opinions in first 10 - 15 sec)



... listen, weigh all sides, consider, ...and then decide

**P.** has a protective, rather than a punitive attitude...

... a DQ must not be considered a penalty against  
any individual swimmer,

... but rather a protection of ALL the other swimmers  
who went to the effort to swim  
properly and in accordance with  
USA Swimming Rules & Regulations.



The PROFESSIONAL swim official is the one who...

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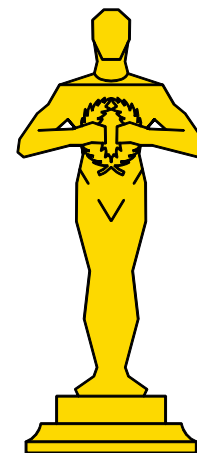
**Q.** avoids quarrels and adversarial relationships



... with coaches, swimmers, parents,  
meet directors, other officials, and spectators;  
but remember, honest controversy between  
honest individuals is productive.

**R.** finds it rewarding to serve...

officiating provides a great sense of  
accomplishment & well being.



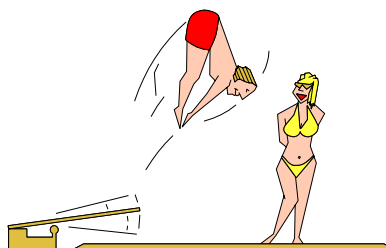
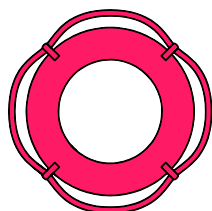


The PROFESSIONAL swim official is the one who...

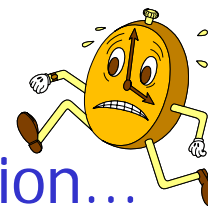
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S. provides a safe.....

and a fair competition for all involved



T. renders decisions in a timely & decisive fashion...



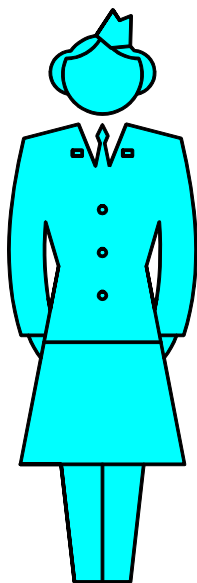


The PROFESSIONAL swim official is the one who...

U. has a professional appearance (uniform)  
& is physically fit

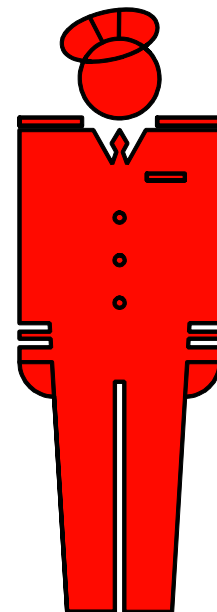
... looking professional commands respect

... dressing the part will make it easier to do the part



"Look sharp, Feel sharp, Be sharp"

... acting professional,  
being attentive, being punctual,  
staying focused...  
will help make one more professional





## Board Approved Uniform

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**& it's not necessarily a romantic fantasy...**

**Speedo cap -- \$5**

**Speedo goggles -- \$10**

**Speedo Fastskin -- \$300**

**Picture of USA Swimming staff wearing all of the above in the office**

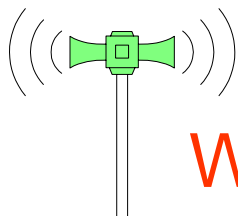
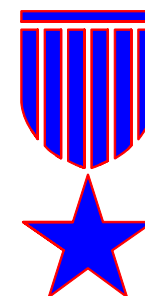
**priceless**

**Jill Chasson  
Board Member  
April 21, 2000**



The PROFESSIONAL swim official is the one who...

V. has the **v**alor and the courage  
to make a call when they see it  
**8 & unders or Olympians**



W. does not get hung up on **w**orst case scenarios...



X. practices critical Self-Evaluation  
**x**-marks the spot







The PROFESSIONAL swim official is the one who...

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Y. who doesn't yabber or yack about themselves

... no room for a GRANDSTANDING official

... meet not an opportunity to show authority

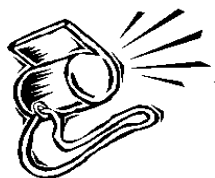
"Were there any officials at the meet" ?

Z. is zealous about acting in the spirit of  
Professionalism and Good Sportsmanship.



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Professionalism  
in Swim Officiating  
is not a thing ...



It's an Attitude.



The end.....

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Thanks for your attention...

now how many of you visualized about  
... romantic fantasies