

THE REFEREE

**Pacific Swimming Officials Clinic
Alameda, CA
January 8, 2000**

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

*** BACKGROUND & OVERVIEW**

*** OBJECTIVES**

- Discuss the technical requirements/expectations of the referee
- Talk about the qualities and techniques of “good refereeing”

*** FORMAT**

- Talk extemporaneously
- Interact and discuss as we go

*** RULES**

- 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

*** MINIMUM STANDARDS**

- “Previous certification as Stroke and Turn for 2 years or as Stroke and Turn for 1 year and as Starter for 1 year.”

- “Be familiar with the positions of Announcer, Clerk of Course, Starter, Stroke and Turn Judge, Chief Judge, Timer, Timing Judge and Meet Marshall.”

- Must pass U.S.S. Officials’ test (all sections) with a grade of at least 80%.

*** QUALITIES OF A “GOOD” REFEREE**

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| - Calm | - Confident |
| - Alert | - Team player |
| - Delegator | - Professional |
| - Knowledgeable | - Proactive |
| - Communicator | - Interpersonally skilled |
| - Experienced | - Fair |

COMMENTS:

- * Really the same for all officials
- * Not specified in the rules
- * All the qualities are to better serve the customer – coaches, swimmers and other officials

*** “THE ART OF REFEREEING”**

- Levels of Meets

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| * LSC | * LSC Championships |
| * Regional Championships | * Zone Championships |
| * Junior Championships | * National Championships |
| * International Championships | |

COMMENTS:

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

* **“THE ART OF REFEREEING” (cont.)**

- **Planning**

- * Meet Announcement
- * Meet Directors
- * Check Lists

COMMENTS:

- Pre-meet preparation is highly important.
- Day of meet is in most cases too late to change, only time to execute.
- Time lines are critical and result of planning.
- “Failing to prepare is preparing to fail.”

- **Officials Preparation**

- * Team concept
- * Categories of officials
 - Timers
 - Starters
 - Deck Referees
 - Stroke & Turn
 - Chief Judges
 - Administrative Referee
- * Officials meetings
 - Assign
 - Teach
 - Review
 - Instruct
 - Procedures

COMMENTS:

- Selection of the key team members is important.
- Build a team and then delegate.
- Clearly state what you expect.
- Explain the rules but don't single out the “rule de jour”.
- Clearly spell out jurisdiction.
- Balance the deck (physically as well as by ability/experience).
- Discuss unusual circumstances.

* **“THE ART OF REFEREEING” (cont.)**

- **Coaches Meeting**

- * Introduce the other key officials.
- * Review the conduct of the meet.
- * Review facility and other issues.
- * Entertain questions.

COMMENTS:

- Don't chastise.
- Conduct a meeting at all levels of competition.
- Discuss unusual circumstances.
- **BE VERY RELUCTANT/CAREFUL IN CHANGING MEET FORMAT/PROCEDURES.**
- Anticipate issues prior to the meeting and deal with them before the meeting.
- Listen to questions and comments.

- **“Walk the Deck”**

COMMENTS:

- Walk the deck before the meet starts and during the meet.
- Talk to the coaches and swimmers (as appropriate).
- Know who the key coaches are.
- Sense where there are problems.
- Ask opinions.
- Build respect and “team”.

- **Monitor Officials**

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| * Appearance | * Alert |
| * Positioning | * “Ambitious” / ”Gray Area” |

COMMENTS:

- Officials must be professional.
- Handle the over-zealous official.

* **“THE ART OF REFEREEING” (cont.)**

- **Conflict**

- * Calm
- * Listen
- * “Cooling off period”
- * Firm
- * “Due diligence”
- * Take conflict off deck

- **Infractions**

- * 3 questions (Position, What observed, What rule applies)
- * Write up
- * Notify
- * Review

COMMENTS:

- Should also ask what the person’s jurisdiction was?
- Write up should include necessary description but don’t over do.
- Swimmer or coach should be notified in clear and concise terms.
- Review or answer coaches’ questions.

- **“Tend to your business”**

COMMENTS:

- Delegate
- Do not insert yourself into areas where you are not needed.

- **Ask for others opinions**

COMMENTS:

- It is not a sign of weakness or lack of knowledge to ask for someone’s opinion.
- Be selective but your sources can be other officials, meet directors and coaches.
- Builds team.
- Builds confidence of newer or less senior officials.

* **DISCUSSION**