

Responsibilities of the Head Starter

April 25, 2018

Officials often wonder "What does the Head Starter do?"

First and foremost, the Head Starter is the Meet Referee's "right hand". The Meet Referee will direct the Head Starter to be their "designee" in various roles. It is important for the Meet Referee and Head Starter to communicate prior to the meet to discuss the Deck Protocols that will be used.

The Head Starter will put together the Deck Referee/Starter Teams and rotations and send them to the Meet Referee for review and comment and then send the assignments out to the Starters and Deck Referees. This includes scheduling the Invigilators during the warm-up sessions.

The Head Starter also has the responsibility of making sure the pool is ready for competition and the starting system is ready. In regards to the pool, the Head Starter or their Designee, shall check the starting blocks for stability, check the backstroke flags for location and height (always have a tape measure in your bag) and verify that the 15 meter floats are straight. Also, during warm-ups, check that the lane lines are not loose. Report any concerns to the Meet Director. "Fixes" can be done during warm-ups or just after the pool closes after warm-ups prior to the start of the competition.

Always check the Starting System before each session for sound. Have an official go out to the starting blocks to verify the Speakers are working and the volume is correct for the Starter's voice.

Also, it is the Head Starter's responsibility to have all Distance Counting Sheets, False Start Slips and No Show Slips (if required) at the meet. The Head Starter also verifies there is a Bell for the Distance Events. (Two if two courses)

Lastly, the Meet Referee may ask the Head Starter to evaluate the Starters and possibly the Deck Referees. Please have the Pacific Evaluation Forms with you.

Note: From the April 2018 " Pacific Swimming Officials' Newsletter Spring 2018 "