
Meet Referee with focus on Zone and LSC meets

Officials Clinic

October, 2015

Meet Referee

Person who is ultimately responsible for
providing and administering a Safe,
Equitable and Fair environment for
competition.

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Meet Referee



Zone meets: - No show penalty not enforced

Age group meets

LSC meets: No show penalty enforced

Age Group Open

Senior meets

Higher level LSC meets: No show penalty enforced

JO, Far Western, Senior Circuit

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Meet Referee



- **Fast to Slow Seeding:**
- Accomplished swimmers (& coaches) will know approximately when they will swim based on the Meet Program
- Accomplished swimmers will set an example and rhythm for their event, especially important for the younger age groups in 25 yard events
- Ability to add swimmers who missed their heat to the last heat without having to split heats (in meets where no show penalty is not enforced-beneficial for swimmers)

For additional information please refer to Fast to Slow Seeding handout

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Meet Referee



Zone meets: - No show penalty not enforced

Swimmers: - provide opportunity to swim

Coaches: - some novice coaches

Officials: Mentoring and Evaluation

- Opportunity for officials to try new positions
- Gain experience and prospective in position
- Evaluation for advancement – review and sign off on recommendation for Advancement in Evaluation form.

Meet Referee



LSC meets: No show penalty enforced

Age Group Open

Senior Open and Senior II meets-meet opportunity for older swimmers (12 and older) – draw down on age group meets

Swimmers: - provide opportunity to swim

Officials: Mentoring and Evaluation

- Opportunity for officials to try new positions
- Gain experience and prospective in position
- Evaluation for advancement – review and sign off on recommendation for Advancement in Evaluation form

Meet Referee



- Responsibilities of a Meet Referee – 102.11
- Know the rules – USA-S and LSC rules
- Understand the roles of other officials in the meet
- Resolve protest(s)
- Meet Results

Meet Referee



You are assigned as a Meet Referee:

- Understand the class of meet
- Identify key members of your team - Officials
 - Head Starter
 - Administrative Referee
 - Chief Judge
- Identify the Meet Director and Host team –
 - Experience
 - Performance at past meets
 - Check with other officials
 - Communicate

Meet Referee



You are assigned as a Meet Referee:

- Identify the facility:
 - Talk to other officials who have worked at that facility
 - Visit the facility (with Meet Director), wear the hat of a MR and view it with that perspective
 - Number of competition lanes, course configurations possibilities, single or double ended (LC), diving board placements, warm up lanes, ladders, pool deck space, locker room, lighting, facility restrictions etc.

Meet Referee



You are assigned as a Meet Referee:

- If your assigned meet is early in the calendar year, make sure you renew your USA-S membership early, including BGC and APT – no delay in sanction process
- Remind your Head Starter and Administrative Official/Referee to do the same

Meet Referee



Communicate with Meet Director:

Important to find out:

- Experience of Meet Director
- Meet Management Software – experience of computer operator
- Timing Equipment – experience of timing equipment operator

Meet Referee



Red Flags:

- Team hosts 1 meet a year, first meet ever
- New Meet Director, Meet Director with bad reputation
- Runs meet management software in house with inexperienced (new) computer operator
- Runs own timing equipment or borrows timing equipment from high school, JC or college
- Ran poor meets in the past

Meet Referee



Mentoring and Training:

Provide resources for Host Team Personnel to gain experience prior to assigned meet –

- Training at other comparable meets
- Specific Mentor/trainer for area of deficiency
- More guidance to MD on decision making process
- Provide alternative solutions – hiring outside help

Meet Referee



Brush up on latest USA-S and Pacific Swimming administrative rules especially those that pertain specifically to the level of meet you are assigned to:

- Scratch rules
- Finals Check in procedure- scratch out vs positive check in
- No Show Penalty
- Finals sequence – alternates
- Scoring heats
- Bonus events

Meet Referee



Meet Sheet Approval:

- Latest set of required wording from Sanction chairs
- Should have draft meet sheet for review 90 days before meet
- List of events – balanced yardage/ age group/day
- Order of Events – 4 hour rule for age group meets
- Friday evening events
 - start time
 - distance and 400 IM

Meet Referee



Order of Events:

Don't:

- start meet with 12 & under events
- start meet with 25 or 50 yard/meter events
- bunch all 50's events during lunch time

Do:

- start with 200 Free or Backstroke
- start with older age group

Meet Referee



Order of Events:

- Plan good interval between events of same age group
- Put open distance events at end of meet
- Consider different days for girls/boys for open distance events
- Plan for shorter Sunday session

Meet Referee



Corollaries of swim meet

- 100 Free has the most number of swimmers
- 25/50 breast stroke – most number of DQs
- More girls than boys
- More events with odd number of heats than even #
- Meet runs smoother swimming Fast to slow
- Girl/Boy course configuration more efficient than odd/even with less problems

Meet Referee



Meet Sheet Approval:

Consider wording that afford administrative flexibility

- up to x number of competition lanes
- may alternate Girls and Boys
- may scratch down if conditions.....
- may swim 2 to a lane
- meet may close early
- Finals will not start before

Meet Referee



Capping of Meet Entries;

- Hard cap vs timeline estimates – gut feeling vs entry data
- Course configuration management
- Competition facility management
- Competition process management

Close communication with Meet Director

Meet Referee



Your Team:

- Are there gaps in assigned positions
- Check with officials chair – changes & update
- Communicate with Head Starter – assigned deck, collaborate on pairing (input from officials chair)
 - Mentoring opportunity
 - Compatibility
 - First pair to start race: working pace, experience
 - Deck procedure – including how to handle 10 & U Breast stroke DQs

Meet Referee



Your Team

- Administrative Referee
 - Handle no show excuses
 - * Did not call my name
 - * In the bath room
 - * On the wrong end
 - * In warm up pool
 - * Blocked by timers
 - Time adjustment
 - * On deck by off shift corner
 - * In office by admin official

Be consistent, what you do for one, you must do the same for everyone else

Meet Referee



Day of the Meet –

- Arrive at meet – leave ego at home
- Communicate with Meet Director to see if there are any last minute problem(s)
- Greet your team, introduce yourself
- Walk through Check in –
- Credential issues
- Facility walk through – safety issues, Marshals

Meet Referee



During the Meet:

- Try not to sit in the office or in the starting area
- Be visible – walk around the venue, observe your team, give hints & suggestions (when warranted)
- Mentor - Evaluate
- Talk to S/Ts – put a name to a face
- Talk to coaches and listen to gripes and suggestions

Meet Referee



During Breaks:

- Mingle and chat with officials other than just your friends
- Show some interest in new officials – especially why they volunteer to officiate, what are their aspirations, and give helpful hints for training opportunities and advancement

Your behavior as an experienced official goes a long way in recruiting and retention of new and current officials.

Meet Referee - Conflicts



Comments most used in protest discussion:

"It is for the swimmer, isn't this what we are here for?"

Keep in mind that the correct phrase is "It is for the swimmers"

Do not hesitate to use that during the discussion and let the protestor know that your decision is based exactly on the term swimmers - *not just a single swimmer.*

Safe, fair and equitable environment for competition.

Meet Referee - Conflicts



- When issues or conflicts arise, do not feel you have to solve it right there and then.
- Take any discussion off the deck away from the starting area
- Listen to the complaint (parties) with interest and compassion, do not appear to take sides
- Write things down, you are there to get the facts
- Separate the parties and listen to them separately
- Don't be afraid to look for help – transfer Meet Referee duties to Head Starter (if needed)

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Meet Referee - Conflicts



- Separate the parties
- Get the facts – both sides whether it is an irate parent or coach
- Tell them you need to think about it and get back to them – do not feel you have to make a hasty decision
- It also gives everyone a cooling off period

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Meet Referee - Conflicts



Getting help – organize the facts then:

- Talk to other experienced official(s)
- Call your officials chair
- Talk to Senior coach – if appropriate
- Convene Swim Committee to help with decision

Meet Referee - Conflicts



Get back to the parties periodically to give them an update:

- Will appreciate your effort to resolve issue
- Could tell you to forget the whole thing
- Could apologize for their behavior
- Continue to be irate and threaten you

Meet Referee



End of Meet

- Thank everyone
- Sit down with officials and go over what they did well and suggestions for improvement
- Do the same with Meet Director
- Get sign in sheets and evaluations from HS & CJ
- Discuss evaluations
- Fill out OTS
- Write Meet Report
 - Simple - # swimmers, course, finish time, comment on meet, host team, facility etc