



So You're Going to be A Chief Judge – Now What?

Tips on Planning For Success

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Disclaimer / Acknowledgement

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Agenda

- Introductions
 - Who is this guy and why is he talking to us?
 - And you?
- Traits of a Good CJ
- Things to do before the meet
- The Meet itself
- Almost done (post meet to do's)
- Closing Remarks

Traits of a Good CJ

- Organized but flexible
- High energy
 - Willing to do the overtime for scheduling assignments, evaluations, etc.
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Knowledgeable
- An upstanding soul
- Eyes and Ears
- Can be certifiable
 - Depending upon the LSC
- Be The Duck
 - Calm on the surface, paddling like heck underneath

Before the meet

- Identify your CJ Team
- Coordinate expectations, roles, etc. with
 - Meet Ref
 - Meeting times
 - Attire
 - Time Trials
 - Number of positions
 - Jurisdiction preferences
 - Distance events
 - Etc.
 - Admin Ref / Team
 - Creation/distribution of paperwork (e.g., RTO's, Heat Sheets, etc.)

Before the meet (cont.)

- Coordinate expectations, roles, etc. with
 - Meet Director
 - Meet Supplies
 - Paper / Printer / Copier access
 - General office supplies
 - Hospitality
- Know your deck
 - Obtain listing(s) of Deck Refs, Starters, and S&T's
 - How many pools to staff
- Initial prep. work
 - Draft deck staffing plan
 - CJ team duties – rotation of meet duties (briefings, radios, etc.) or no rotation?
 - Briefing agenda(s) for each session

The Meet Itself

- Keeping you sane – the CJ Notebook
- Running the pre-game show
 - Briefings
 - Deck Assignments
 - Radios / Radio Roll Call
 - Etc.

The Meet Itself (cont.)

- Oh yeah, there's that swimming thing...Handling DQ's, False Starts, No-Shows, and RTO's
 - Radio protocol/process
 - Remember that DR's should be willing to question the calls. As a CJ, your job is to merely report (and perhaps recommend) a call. You do not deny a call to a S&T; that's the DR's job
 - Recall, too, that it's easy for experienced officials to talk an unsure official into an infraction. One key to the CJ role is to determine that the official *observed* an infraction and can tell you what rule had been violated. If you can't get to a clear description of a rule violation, then the benefit of the doubt goes to the athlete

The finale

- Meet evaluations
- Entering sessions into OTS
- Thank you's

In Closing...

- Chief Judge – the toughest job on deck you'll ever love
- Resources:
 - USA-Swimming has several wonderful items, including:
 - Officials manual / Guide to officiating – esp. Chapter 4 CJ
 - Stroke Briefing
 - Radio Protocols
 - Evaluation criteria/checklist (S&T, CJ, etc.)
 - Officials Blog

Your Turn...

QUESTIONS?