

VIRGINIA SWIMMING MEET SAFETY PROCEDURES

The following procedures have been established to ensure safe meet conduct.

Safety is an important factor for our program. Anyone seeing an unsafe condition or activity around the meet venue should intervene or summon available meet and/or facility personnel to immediately stop it. The unsafe conduct should also be reported to the Meet Director and the Meet Referee.

These procedures **SHALL** be followed at all meets. The Referee has the authority to remove a swimmer/coach/club/parent from the meet for failure to comply with these safety procedures.

GENERAL SAFETY GUIDELINES

1. The Meet Director and Meet Referee are responsible for venue safety inspection (see Virginia Swimming Safety page for checklist) and resolution of issues prior to the beginning of the meet.
2. Hazards in locker rooms, on the deck, or in areas used by coaches, swimmers, spectators, or officials shall be removed or clearly marked.
3. Assignment of Marshals shall be the responsibility of the host club/Meet Director. A minimum of two Marshals must be present and on duty at all times. These Marshals shall be at least 18 years old. Lifeguards required by colleges and recreation centers may **NOT** be used in place of Marshals. Marshals shall wear distinctive, bright-colored, identifying shirts/vests (preferably, USA Swimming orange Marshal vests) at all times while on duty.
4. Some areas of the venue may be off limits for the swimmers, parents, and coaches. These areas shall be clearly marked, and such boundaries shall be enforced by the Marshals.
5. Where feasible the Announcer should announce periodic safety reminders throughout the meet (see Virginia Swimming Safety page for examples).
6. Running on the deck is not permitted during the meet or during warm-ups.
7. Horseplay is not permitted anywhere in the venue during the meet or during warm-ups.
8. Shaving is not permitted anywhere in the venue (including locker rooms). Swimmer noncompliance will result in dismissal from the meet.
9. **USE** of cameras or camera cell phones is prohibited in locker rooms.
10. Warm-up procedures shall be enforced for any breaks scheduled during the competition.
11. A swimmer, coach, or parent may be removed from the deck for interfering with a Marshal in the performance of his/her duties.
12. Any accident/incident, no matter how seemingly insignificant, which occurs at the meet must be reported to the LSC Safety Chair and to USA Swimming using the USA Swimming Report of Occurrence Form (see Virginia Swimming Safety page). The Meet Director/Meet Referee is responsible for completing and submitting the form.

WARM-UP PROCEDURES (also applicable during all scheduled breaks in the competition)

1. Warm-ups will not begin until the Marshals are on deck and present for duty.
2. A Marshal must be present and on duty at any separate warm-up/warm-down area that is designated for use before, during, or after competition.
3. Warm-up procedures and schedule of warm-up lanes and times for each team shall be posted throughout the venue. The announcer shall announce lane and time assignments, special venue rules, and any change in the procedures directed by the Meet Referee or Meet Director.
4. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their swimmers. Coaches shall instruct their swimmers regarding safety guidelines and warm-up procedures as they apply to conduct at meets.
5. Coaches must be in the immediate vicinity of their swimmers at the start of warm-ups to supervise the entry of their swimmers into the pool. Coaches must maintain line-of-sight control and supervision of their swimmers at all times. Swimmers who are unsupervised will not be allowed to warm up, unless placed under the supervision of a coach by the Meet Referee/Meet Director.
6. All swimmers must start warm-ups at the starting end of the pool. Entry into the pool from the sides and turn-end is prohibited.
7. Entry during general warm-ups is feet first only. There will be **NO DIVING OR RACING STARTS** from the blocks or end of the pool during general warm-ups.
8. Each team may be assigned a lane(s) and a specified time for warm-up. Alternatively, warm-ups may be unassigned and follow a format similar to that presented in the "Unassigned Warm-Ups" section, below.
9. During the sprint period of warm-ups, a racing start will be permitted only for one-way swimming, where the swimmer exits at the far end of the pool. The sprint lanes must be cleared by the Marshals/Referee before they are opened for use. Swimmers must **NOT** cut across adjacent lanes to exit the pool at one of the sides.
10. During the sprint period of warm-ups, backstroke swimmers must be allowed to complete their start and to clear the area before any swimmer steps onto the block.
11. Use of training equipment (kick boards, pull buoys, paddles, etc) is prohibited during warm-ups.
12. For facilities with a separate warm-up/warm-down area, there shall be no diving or racing starts in that area unless a lane has been specifically designated for one way racing starts.
13. To avoid over-crowding of warm-up lanes, the Meet Referee/Meet Director may restrict warm-ups to those swimmers participating in the session immediately following the warm-ups.

Unassigned Warm-Ups

Depending upon the type of meet being conducted, the following warm-up format provides an alternative to specific warm-up times and lane assignments. Other formats that take into account the total number of swimmers and the available lane time are also acceptable, and may be assigned by the Meet Referee/Meet Director.

Time	Lanes							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1 st 25-30 min	General							
Last 25-30 min	Pace	Sprint	General	General	General	General	Sprint	Pace

If lanes 2 and 7 are overcrowded during the sprint phase of warm-ups, lane 3 and/or lane 6 can also be designated as a sprint lane.

For long course competition in which the 50 M Freestyle is starting from the “turn” end of the pool, lane 2 or lane 7 should be designated for one-way sprints from that end of the pool.

Sprint lanes should be marked as such. All warm-ups will start from the starting end of the pool (except as noted above for the 50 M Freestyle in long course competition).

Steve Woolfolk
Safety Chair, Virginia Swimming, Inc.
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