

VSI Swimming Deck Access Recommendations

1. Because our meets are run in a variety of venues, the ability to control access to the deck will naturally vary from venue to venue. Some venues have clearly delineated areas for spectators, while others do not. Venues with separate seating areas often prohibit spectators from being on deck as part of the facility rules. In other facilities, the spectators and athletes are intermingled in the on-deck bleachers or seating area. Thus, there can be no hard and fast rule regarding access to the deck.
2. If the policy of the venue at which the meet is being held prohibits spectators from being on deck, this should be noted in the Meet Invitation and discussed at the Coaches Meeting / General Meeting. Deck access at such meets will ordinarily be limited to those athletes, coaches, officials, and other volunteers participating in that session of the meet.
3. Venues at which spectator seating is located on-deck present special challenges. Depending on the venue and the size of the meet, it may be prudent to rope off or otherwise control access.
4. Possession of a USA-S registration card does not confer automatic entrance to a closed deck. For example, officials not working a particular session should not expect to have on-deck seating at that session.
5. Coaches should not have their children / infants on deck at meets, as they may be viewed as a distraction (per USA-S insurance) which could prevent a coach from providing continuous direct line of sight supervision for her / his athletes.
6. Coaches are reminded that USA-S insurance requires that they have direct line of sight contact with their athletes.
7. Athletes not involved in the meet should not be on a closed deck if it interferes with the meet's safe conduct. Athletes acting in a mentoring capacity for younger athletes and / or assisting the coach can be allowed on deck to the extent that it does not interfere.
8. When crowding conditions on deck are such that access to the deck needs to be further limited to provide either safe conditions and / or fair competition (such as deck conditions that allow ready access to the blocks), the Referee may further limit access to those athletes competing in the current session or particular events.
9. When crowding conditions warrant greater control of deck access, it is strongly recommended that the Referee consult with the coaches, soliciting their feedback on how to best manage the problem.