VHSL NO-RECALL STARTING PROTOCOLS

REFEREE & STARTER DUAL CONFIRMATION

The referee shall –
1. Immediately upon observing a false start, record in writing the lane or lanes that have committed a false start.
2. When the last swimmer has completed his/her last turn, indicate the potential false start by raising the hand with palm open.
3. Compare written records with the starter and, upon confirming that both have observed the same violation, will disqualify the swimmer(s) at the completion of the race. S/he will also notify the swimmer(s) and/or coach(es) of the violation.

The starter shall –
1. Immediately upon observing a false start, record in writing the lane or lanes that have committed a false start.
2. Compare written records with the referee to confirm/not confirm the potential violation(s).

VHSL strongly recommends use of the dual confirmation protocol

STARTER-ONLY

1. Immediately upon observing a false start, the starter shall raise the hand with palm open to indicate the violation.
2. At the completion of the race, s/he shall notify the swimmer(s) and/or coach(es) of the disqualification(s).

RECALLING THE ENTIRE HEAT

When the start is such that the starter and/or referee is not satisfied that the race was properly begun, it is always permissible for the starter and/or referee to recall the entire heat. It is not necessary to charge any swimmer with a false start under these conditions, although that may also occur. Things that negatively affect the start – such as a loud noise or photographic strobe flash just as the starting signal is given that affects one or more swimmers – should be part of any starter's awareness when commencing a race.

RATIONALE

1. The first start is generally the best start.
2. The majority of swimmers, who have not committed a starting violation, should not be penalized from taking advantage of their best start by the illegal action of another swimmer.
3. All other disqualifications are reported after the race and individual swimmers are not stopped from completing the race if disqualified during the race.
4. All swimmers are permitted to swim and achieve a time in the event, even though the time of the disqualified swimmer(s) will not be counted.
5. The meet is less disrupted and flows more smoothly when the no-recall procedure is utilized.