



## Swim Officiating Standards of Conduct



- If you sign up to work, please show up to work. If you can't make it, be sure to let the Meet Referee know as early as possible.
- In accordance with the Meet Announcement, arrive on time, in the proper uniform with the necessary equipment, and ready to officiate. Report to the Meet Referee to receive your assignment and attend the Officials Briefing. Be in position on time, work the entire session, be focused on your assignment, and perform your duties to the best of your ability.
- Know the rules. Continually review. Ask questions. Stay informed. Be consistent in the application of the rules at all times and at all levels of competition.
- Enforce all rules fairly and equitably. Do not allow rule infractions to go uncalled simply because no one has gained an advantage. If there is a violation, it must be called.
- If you see it, and you're sure of what you saw, call it. Be prepared to answer "who", "what", and "where" questions. Use the proper terminology. But, remember, benefit of the doubt always goes to the Swimmer.
- Never "warn" Swimmers (or their Coaches) that they were almost disqualified. A violation either occurred or it didn't. A warning constitutes coaching and Officials are present to officiate — not coach.
- Always exercise fair and unbiased judgment by disregarding a Swimmer's identity or Team affiliation. Ensure that not even a perception of bias is exhibited, e.g., cheering for a Swimmer in the water; expressing delight over a disqualification; marking your Team's Swimmers in your Heat Sheet; not disqualifying Swimmers from your Team when warranted.
- Remember, the Meet Referee is the final authority at the meet. If you are unable to provide complete support (readily complying with instructions/decisions), including gracious acceptance when overruled, do not officiate. Follow the instructions/guidance from the Referee and Chief Judge - they directly represent the Meet Referee. If you disagree with something they tell you, do it anyway and bring it to the attention of the Meet Referee after the session.
- Never engage in cell phone conversations while performing your duties on deck.
- Never enter into discussion with Coaches concerning violations, disqualifications, judgment calls, or rule interpretations (unless you are a Referee on duty).
  - Always answer *polite* inquiries in a very brief and professional manner. One answer should be sufficient. Further inquiries should be referred to the Deck Referee.
  - Coaches must never be permitted to become hostile, arrogant, or abusive to Officials. Such incidents must be promptly reported to the Referee. The VSI Officials Chair must be notified in writing by the Meet Referee after the meet.
  - Parents or other spectators must never be allowed to interfere with or question calls and/or decisions of Officials. They should see their Coach.
- Never publicly criticize another Official or an Official's decision. Report any concerns about another Official to the Meet Referee. Report concerns about a Meet Referee to the LSC Officials Chair.

- Never discuss calls or decisions with other Officials on deck, in the halls, in the locker rooms, or in Hospitality. Don't discuss them with Parents or Swimmers, either. If you have questions or comments, save them for the Officials Briefing or take them off deck away from the public.
- There is no dishonor or disgrace in the withdrawal of a disqualification. If you have second thoughts, discuss it with a Chief Judge or Deck Referee.
- Admit when mistakes have been made and correct the mistake according to the rules. Do not make a decision to "make up" for a poor decision made earlier.
- Never, under any circumstances, leave the deck without notifying the Referee or Chief Judge. If offered a break, take it, but be sure to be back in position on time.
- Be aware of unsportsmanlike conduct and report such acts to the Referee.
- Be safety conscious! Stop unsafe acts. Report unsafe conditions to the Referee.
- Be prepared to assist with the education of Apprentice Officials. Cover all the applicable tasks on the Training Card. Do your best to impart your knowledge and experience on the new Official. Report your observations about the Apprentice's ability to perform the required tasks to the Referee at the end of the session.

***The ultimate goal of your officiating mission is "to provide safe, fair, and equitable conditions of competition" so no swimmer gains a competitive advantage, rather than to catch violators of the rules.***

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