

Code of Ethics

The following suggestions address the problems that arise most often at swim meets. It is hoped that by observing them you will become a better official and swim meets will run more efficiently.

Have a **POSITIVE ATTITUDE** when you go to a swim meet to work. If you don't, it is the swimmer who will suffer.

BE AT THE POOL AND READY TO WORK at least 1 hour before the session is to begin.

REPORT PROMPTLY to the officials' area and sign in. (This lets the Referee know that you have arrived). **STAY IN THAT AREA**. It is very frustrating to have a list of people checked off and to find they have disappeared when the meet is ready to begin.

ACCEPT AN ASSIGNMENT TO OFFICIATE at the meet **ONLY IF YOU INTEND TO HONOR THAT COMMITMENT**. If for any reason you are unable to attend, courtesy demands that you let the person in charge of officials know as soon as possible. Never simply be a **"NO SHOW"**. The swimmers suffer from your negligence.

ACCEPT THE ASSIGNMENT you have been given at a meet. The Meet Officials Chairperson or Referee has placed you there for a reason. (Also keep in mind it never hurts a Senior or Master Official to time a session or be a Clerk-of-Course. You would be surprised at how "rusty" you have become in the interim).

If you find yourself doing the same job for several sessions, a word to the Meet Officials Chairperson can usually alter that situation.

Ensure you know who is in charge of your area of assignment. Check with him any rules you may be unsure of, or ask him any questions you have about your duties before the meet starts.

The Referee will take charge of his officials immediately before they go on deck. He will give you his instructions as to the way in which he intends to run the meet. At times a briefing of duties will be delegated to other Senior Officials (i.e.: Chief Timekeeper). Listen to what he says, for he will be in charge until the session ends. Often new rules may be explained at these briefings.

When you arrive on deck at your assigned station for the session, **DON'T LEAVE YOUR POST**. Timekeepers have been known to change lanes to time their child and others have left their jobs to watch their son/daughter compete. Also **BE IN THE RIGHT POSITION** to do your job properly.

In many cases you will be officiating at a meet where your child will be competing. It is a great temptation to leave the pool deck when your swimmer is done. If you have agreed to work a session, it is your responsibility to work the complete session unless you find yourself a replacement.

BE IMPARTIAL. Be careful not to use your position to the advantage or detriment of any swimmer or team. As an official, **coaching or cheering should NOT be done.**

Officials should be an **UNOBTRUSIVE and INCONSPICUOUS** as possible. Do **NOT** be overly "**officious**" in your authority, particularly as it applies to stroke and turn judging and refereeing. Assume your responsibility in a manner which earns the support of the swimmers, coaches, parents, and spectators.

Keep in mind swim meets are held for swimmers and you as an official are there to assist them by providing adequate technical supervision for the meet. You must act in such a manner as to ensure that no swimmer gains an unfair advantage over another. Also remember inattentive or inefficient officiating is unfair to the swimmer. You are there to **SERVE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF EACH PARTICIPANT.**

A commitment to this philosophy leads to a personal assessment of one's capability to perform well on deck in the assigned role. A willingness to consult with others and to continually study the current working rules is essential.

Remember at any session the **REFEREE'S DECISION IS FINAL.** Do not take offence if your decision is overturned.

Do not lecture a coach or debate disqualifications with a swimmer while working the deck. **REMAIN COOL AND PROFESSIONAL AT ALL TIMES.** Refer any problems that may come your way to the Referee.

Be fair to all competitors, your own children and opponents alike. Being continually fair, you may time or place your own children if they are in your lane.

Keep seated as much as possible. When you move around you are interrupting the view of the other Timekeepers, of the Starter, Referee, or Chief Timekeeper.

Be friendly to the swimmers but don't distract them if they are preparing mentally for a race.

KNOW THE RULES THOROUGHLY (as they apply to your assigned position). It is a good idea to glance over pertinent rules and sections in the rule book prior to the session.