

TECHNICAL OFFICIALS PROTOCOL

All the points mentioned below are to add to the image of the Technical Official. We are part of the event and our actions will either enhance the Event presentation or detract from the occasion:

BRIEFING and DEBRIEF

A Technical Briefing will take place for all Officials at a time and location to be notified before each Session. A Debrief will take place immediately after Officials have left the Pool Deck

OFFICIALS PARADE

When designated by the Promoter, Officials may be required to parade on and off the deck. The method of parade will be influenced by the pool configuration and the Promoters requirements. Guidance for a parade should be clear and given with the Technical Briefing.

The essential guiding factor when parading on or off the deck is that we are smart and purposeful. Unless directed otherwise, bags etc should not be taken on to the deck. Clipboards and water bottles are to be carried in the left hand.

OFFICIALS DUTIES

Inspector of Turns /Timekeeper (as appropriate)

All Inspectors at the Start end who have a swimmer in their lane should stand at the commencement of the Referee's long whistle blast. (First long whistle in Backstroke). Immediately the start signal has been given, please move forward to the starting platforms to observe that the competitor in your lane complies with the rules of the Start. If satisfied that you have not observed any infringement, immediately return to your chair and sit down. If an infringement has been seen remain standing and look towards the Chief Inspector of Turns.

As the swimmer in your lane reaches 15m from the turn/finish, move to the edge of the pool to observe the turn or finish, sitting down when your duties are complete. If an infringement is seen remain standing and look towards the Chief Inspector of Turns.

The Referee is looking for Officials still standing up as an indication of a disqualification report. If you have a rule infringement to report remain standing and await the Chief Inspector of Turns, he will ask you to summarise the infringement and pass this information to the Referee by radio (If radios are being used by Technical Officials). A Reserve Official (if available) will be appointed to your lane whilst you complete a written report of your observation and hand it to the race Referee.

These actions should be completed immediately you observe an infringement - do not wait until the end of the race.

In addition to decisions being made in accordance with FINA Rules it is extremely important that your reports are discussed only with the Referee. Should any other person approach and question you regarding reports or decisions, please, do not enter into a discussion, but firmly and politely refer them to the Race Referee. Should a decision require further explanation e.g. a Coach requesting further detail on a disqualification - it is the Referee who will undertake that duty.

Chief Inspector of Turns

The primary role of this duty is to observe the Inspectors of Turns at the relevant end of the pool. You will be equipped with a radio in order to give early notice to the Referee of an incoming report from a lane Inspector.

Please stand when the first Inspector of Turns stands at the Start/Turn or Finish of a race, returning to your seat when all Inspectors have sat down. The actions of the Chief Inspector of Turn will guide the Referee as to potential reports.

If an Inspector of Turns remains standing, appoint a Reserve Official to act on the lane and speak to the standing Official. By radio in the Official's presence and hearing, pass details of the report to the race Referee. Hand the Inspector a report form before returning to your seated position.

Judges of Stroke

At the start of a race Judges of Stroke stand at the commencement of the Referee's long whistle blast and take up positions at 5m and 15m from the start on each side of the pool. In Freestyle, Backstroke and Butterfly races, the Judge positioned at the 15m mark judges when the swimmers heads break the surface. As the first half of the heat swimmers pass, the Judge at 15m moves forward with the swimmers observing them up to and including the turn assisting the Inspectors of Turn. The judge positioned at the 5m mark tracks the remaining swimmers, stopping at the 15m mark from the turn end. You then reverse your relevant positions for the next length tracking the swimmers as described, continuing to exchange positions each length for the duration of the race.

Whilst you have responsibility for all swimmers in the race, your relative position along the poolside will be influenced by the distribution of the swimmers across the width and length of the pool. Concentrate primarily on the half of the pool closest to you.

In Freestyle events of 400m and longer, please move to the 15m marks from each end and observe the swimmers from those locations.

One of the Judges of Stroke on the side opposite the Referee will be equipped with a radio and provide communication with the Referee for both Judges.

If you observe an infringement, inform the Referee as soon as possible either by word of mouth or radio. The remaining Judge will then take responsibility for the length of the pool. If a Reserve Official is available, they should take the reporting Officials position.

If you are positioned at the 15m line from the Start, please make sure that you are aware of the 'False Start' rope activation method. Be alert for a faulty start signal, releasing the rope as required.

Finish Judges

Unless instructed to also operate as Inspectors of Turn, as Finish Judge, you should move into a position to carry out your duty no later than when the leading swimmer in the race reaches 15m from the Finish.

After recording your Finish order wait to see whether the Referee needs to consult you. If the result is confirmed, return to your chair and sit down.

Reserve Officials

When appointed, Reserve Officials sit alongside the Chief Inspector of Turn at each end of the pool. Your duty is to act as a replacement, carrying out the relevant duty of an official who has to leave the deck for any reason e.g. making a disqualification report, or a comfort break.

Thank you for reading these notes.

We should look professional and smart, adding a few presentational touches to our technical duties adds greatly. Have a look from the balcony some time if you don't think so!