



IASI OFFICIALS TRAINING

5. Deck Referee

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Version 2.1



Introduction & Agenda

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Safe Sport / Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAPP)

- Safe Sport applies to any relationship of unequal power.
- Federal Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017 requires any suspected abuse to be reported to appropriate authorities within 24 hours.
- MAAPP applies to all adults in contact with minor (non-related) athletes.
 - All one-on-one interactions must be observable and interruptible.
 - Cannot friend non-related minor athletes on social media.
 - Full MAAPP policy available on USA Swimming website.
- For officials, specific things to think about when working a meet:
 - Avoid locker room unless no other bathroom facilities are available. Never be alone in locker room with a swimmer.
 - Avoid any physical contact with swimmers.
 - No photography behind the blocks at any time.
 - Be careful interacting with your own children on deck. Audience will see you only as an official and a swimmer.

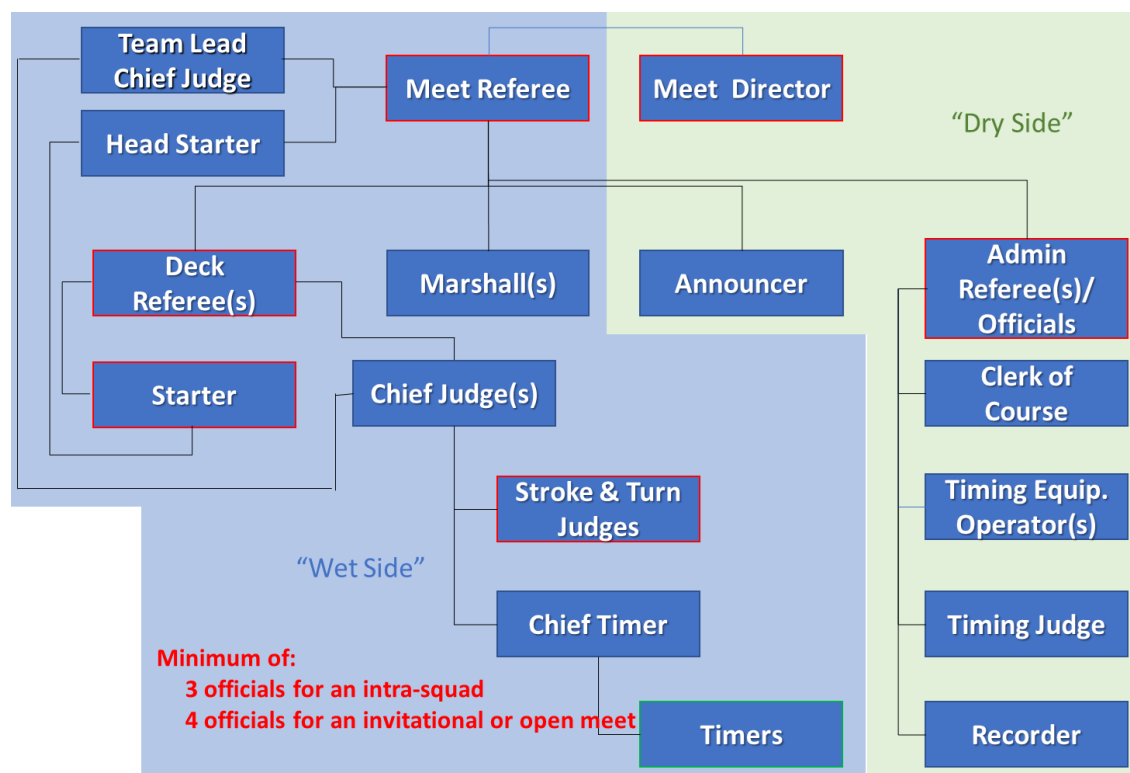
USA Swimming National Officials Committee



The Role of the Deck Referee

- Manages the Pool and Deck during competition to ensure fair competition.
- Resources available to the Referee
 - USA Swimming Rules and Regulations
 - LSC Policies and Procedures
 - The Meet Announcement
 - The Meet Referee
 - Other Officials – Stroke and Turn, Chief Judges, Starter, Administrative
 - Meet Marshalls
 - Timers, Coaches
- Deck Referee (wet side for an event) vs Meet Referee (the meet) vs Admin Referee (dry side)
- 150 references to Referee in the 2023 Rules and Regulations:
 - Includes 13 specifically Meet Referee and 4 Administrative Referee

Organization of Officials (template)





102.11 REFEREE

- .1 Shall have full authority over all officials and shall assign and instruct them; shall enforce all applicable rules and shall decide all questions relating to the actual conduct of the meet, the final settlement of which is not otherwise assigned by said rules; can overrule any meet official on a point of rule interpretation, or on a judgment decision pertaining to an action which the Referee has personally observed.
- .2 Has the authority to disqualify a swimmer(s) for any violation of the rules that the Referee personally observes and, except for false starts, shall at the same time raise one hand overhead. If the Referee does not make such a signal there shall be no disqualification.
- .3 Shall signal the Starter before each race that all officials are in position, that the course is clear, and that the competition can begin.
- .4 Shall assign marshals with specific instructions.
- .5 Shall give a decision on any point where the opinions of the judges differ; and shall have authority to intercede in a competition at any stage, to ensure that the appropriate racing conditions are observed.
- .6 For LSC and local records only, may assign three (3) additional official timers on request to record a record attempt at initial distances in accordance with 102.24 and Article 104.
- .7 Shall make an immediate investigation when an apparent malfunction of the automatic or semi-automatic timing equipment has occurred, to determine whether the swimmer finished in accordance with the rules and/or if there was an actual equipment malfunction.
- .8 May prohibit the use of any device that disrupts or interferes with the meet, such as a laser pointing device or artificial noisemaker.
- .9 May modify any rule for a competitive swimmer who has a disability. Any such modification shall be in accordance with Article 105 of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations, shall affect only the current meet, and shall not set a precedent.
- .10 Shall establish the necessary administrative and officiating procedures to conform to Part One of the rules and local conditions when the meet sanction allows conducting the events by starting them from the alternate ends of a 50-meter course.
- .11 Refer to 102.23 concerning protests.



Duties Before the Competition

- Familiarize yourself with the Meet Announcement.
- Talk with the Meet Referee.
 - Review the Timeline and understand the pace of the meet.
 - Discuss and come to a common understanding about:
 - Swimmers that miss an event
 - Swimmers that are late to the blocks
 - What type of paperwork is being maintained by you and the Starter
 - Any special situations, such as swimmers needing assistance, etc.
- Attend the Officials' Meeting to understand the protocols.
- If there are other Deck Referees in the session, discuss with the Head Starter and other referees the assignments and duties during the session.
- Observe the pool.
 - How is the 15-meter marked
 - Are there any impediments to the deck officials that need to be addressed, such as spectator and coach areas, pool ladders, etc.



Before the Competition (Continued)

- Talk with the Starter
 - Starter and Deck Referee are a team.
 - Positioning
 - Communicating with each other and with the athletes
 - Situations
 - Discuss:
 - False start protocols
 - Where the Starter will stand – the Starter has first choice.
 - Confirm the Starter can see and hear you (and you can hear the starter).
 - Swimmers requiring special accommodations
- Discuss with the Announcer what will be announced and when announcements will be made .
- Learn the timing system and display board.
 - Talk with the timing console operator.
 - Know how to tell when the timing console is ready for the next heat.



During the Competition

- The Meet Referee will instruct when the meet should begin.
- USA-S Rule 102.11.3 states that the Deck Referee “Shall signal the Starter before each race that all officials are in position, that the course is clear, and that the competition can begin.”
- The Deck Referee is responsible for the actions of all other officials.
 - Make sure they are in place before the race begins.
 - Verify officials are prepared for the next event.
- Blowing the whistle
 - Loud enough to be heard, not too loud
 - Timing of the ready whistles
 - is the next heat ready
 - Is the timing system ready
 - Does the starter have anything to say about the next heat



During the Competition (Continued)

- **Handing over Jurisdiction to the Starter**
 - When – as soon as possible when you are comfortable with the field (e.g. nothing going on behind the blocks), typically when the last swimmer is up on the blocks. It is the Starter's responsibility to make sure the swimmers are in the proper starting position.
 - How – “With an out-stretched arm. Make sure the Starter can see the arm with peripheral vision without taking eyes off of the heat on the blocks.
 - Retracting Jurisdiction from the Starter – dropping the arm may not be enough.
- **When is a “heat no longer open to a competitor”?**
 - This can vary between meets and between sessions (e.g., prelims and finals).
 - Make sure all Referees have the same understanding and it has been communicated to the coaches and athletes.



During the Competition (Continued)

- False Starts and Recalls

- USA-S Rule 101.1.3.A states that “any swimmer starting before the starting signal is given shall be disqualified if the Referee independently observes and confirms the Starter’s observation that a violation has occurred.”
- A false start requires independent confirmation from Deck Referee and Starter.
- The Rules do not specify when a heat should be recalled, however it is customary to recall heats when, in the opinion of the Starter or Deck Referee, there was an unfair start.
- A swimmer’s first start is usually their best start – it’s probably best to let the heat continue and offer re-swims to the entire heat if only a few swimmers are affected.



During the Competition (Continued)

- Managing the Deck once the heat has started
 - Has there been a fair start with no issues; are all swimmers swimming?
 - Has the timing system started?
 - What time did the heat start? Mark your heat sheet.
 - Mark any observed false starts on your heat sheet – even if the heat was stood up by the Starter.
 - Any No Shows, Declared False Starts (DFS), Lane Changes? – mark your heat sheet. Notify the admin table if using radios.
 - Observe
 - The swimmers' progress in the water
 - The officials – in position when swimmers are in jurisdiction, paying attention to the pool, any hands being raised?
 - Anything on deck that may hinder the race – spectators/coaches/volunteers
 - Do you have an unobstructed view of the entire pool?
 - Are timers being attentive?



During the Competition (Continued)

- Managing the Deck once the heat has started (cont.)
 - Disqualifications - the Deck Referee is responsible for vetting the accuracy of all calls made by the Stroke & Turn Judges during his or her shift on deck.
 - The Deck Referee is a Swimmer's advocate – all parties followed the proper rules.
 - Note in your heat sheet the jurisdiction of the judge calling the infraction.
 - Don't anticipate the infraction – The Deck Referee has a different viewpoint from that of the Stroke and Turn Judge.
 - Need to notify the swimmer or the coach (who and when)?
 - Always repeat the infraction that you are accepting as a disqualification over the radio.



During the Competition (Continued)

- Managing the Deck once the heat has started (cont.)
 - Check the DQ slip or report for completeness and accuracy.
 - Name, event, heat, lane match your heat sheet
 - Are you able to identify the swimmer and the rule violated?
 - Is the Report mis-written, or is the DQ accurate?
 - You can (and should) rewrite the slip if there is an error in the writeup but the infraction is known.
 - The Swimmer Gets the Benefit of the Doubt.
 - The Report must have the name of the Stroke and Turn Judge and the Deck Referee.
 - If using CJs, it's a good idea to include the CJ's initials on the slip for auditing purposes.
- Managing the Deck after the event is completed
 - Review and summarize the event (number of DQs, No Shows, DFSs, and Lane Changes – Close the event to further competition (i.e., Event x is closed with 2 DQs, 2 NS, 1 DFS) in accordance with the meet procedures.
 - Review the results – for prelims, check for ties that may need to be resolved (This is typically the Deck Referee's responsibility).



After the Competition (Session)

- Note the end time of the Session.
- Thank your Deck Officials and Starters, then release them if there are no reasons for them to remain on deck (e.g., swim offs) – don't leave officials "hanging."
- Turn in your paperwork to the Administration Officials.
- Be available for questions (if leaving the deck, make sure the Admins and Meet Referee know how to contact you).



Radio Protocols

- At some meets, the officials will use radios to communicate on deck, to report potential disqualifications.
- Basic Rules are:
 - Be clear and concise.
 - Avoid talking over each other.
 - Avoid talking at the start of a race.
 - Report the minimum information – don't say anything you don't want the entire pool to hear.
 - Always start with Event Number, Heat Number, Lane Number when referring to a lane infraction or change – don't assume others know which heat you're talking about.
 - If there are questions about the possible infraction, request to speak to the Chief Judge or the official making the call.
 - Be prepared to take control of the channel if people are talking over each other or discussing non-relevant items.
 - Review Radio Protocols at the beginning of the session.



Safety

- The Deck Referee is responsible for ensuring a safe environment for all participants.
 - Know the pool's safety measures for inclement weather.
 - Be mindful for loss of electricity, fire alarms.
- Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAPP)
 - Be observant.



Certification Process

The requirements to be a certified IASI Deck Referee are:

- Be at least 21 years of age;
- Attend a Deck Referee clinic taught by a Certified Clinic Instructor;
- Achieve at least 80% on the current USA Swimming Referee and Administrative Referee online exams;
- Have, prior to beginning your apprenticeship, completed one year as a certified Stroke & Turn Judge and certified Starter;
- Complete a minimum of six apprenticeships as a Deck Referee, with at least two different mentors at three different meets.
- At your final apprenticeship, have a satisfactory evaluation from an N2 or N3 Certified Deck Referee mentor.

After the final apprenticeship, submit your apprentice form to the IASI Official's Chair for final approval and certification.



Resources

Documents

- Deck Referee Apprentice Form
- The “Professional” Referee Document
- Starter and Deck Referee Situations and Resolutions Document

Current Versions of Documents can be found on the Iowa Swimming Officials website and USA Swimming website.



Questions

- Remember the resources available to you.
- The best way to learn is to practice – at meets!

Thank you for your participation!