Training Stroke and Turn Officials

Some General Hints

- Help trainees become comfortable in the role. Be thorough yet positive!
- Ask your trainee about their training experiences. Have they worked at both ends? Walked stroke? Have questions, or a harder time with a certain stroke?
- Work with the meet referee to provide opportunities to "fill the gaps."
- Set a specific focus for your training session.
- Be the best official you can be by modeling proper deck protocol.
- Stress that all questions about calls should be go to the referee without comment.
- Share your experiences on other decks, pass along what you have learned.

First Session

- Generally, the trainer makes the calls in this session and the trainee observes.
- Remember that with online clinics they no longer get a pool session.
- Narrate what you do and how you do it; explain watching empty lanes
- Review rules and discuss how to observe swims (sequence of looks, etc.).
- Note that most of what we see is legal and we are looking for exceptions. Discuss the "ugly but legal" examples that you see.
- After you make a call discuss what you saw and what rule was violated, progress to asking if they know why you made a call first.
- Emphasis on fairness and equality of treatment.
- Review positioning, and how relief will happen at this meet and others.

Second Session

- Transition from trainer to trainee making calls as appropriate.
- Discuss writing DQ slips and heat sheet notes; have write for you but check the slip.
- Encourage discussion of infractions to get them in the practice of describing calls.
- If they make calls, act as a CJ would – ask jurisdiction, observation, rule.
- Make sure to encourage questions and share tips for handling multiple calls.
- Share you experiences at other meets.

Third Session

- The trainee should be ready to make calls by this session.
- Have them focus on the pool and act as their personal CJ – writing slips and vetting calls.
- Make sure you observe the swims to see that they are not missing things.
- Explain the importance of "seeing what you call and calling what you see."

- Work on translating observations into descriptions and then DQ slip writing.
- Ask about their experience with disability rules and discuss.

Fourth Session
• Trainees should be making calls. • You should observe swims to verify their calls and help with missed calls. • Go over prior trainings and determine what they have not experienced or seen. • Talk through relays if they have not observed them yet.
Fifth Session
• Trainees need to make calls and you need to polish them. • Help them identify weak spots in their experience and advise on ways to continue learning. • See if they have any questions on what to do to become certified. Offer guidance!

Completing a Training Card:

Please use the main portion of the card to give constructive advice for improvement. Praise what was done well and offer advice on what to try to focus on in future trainings. There is no expectation that newer trainees are completely proficient.

At the bottom, circle Y or N for advancement. N means the training session will not be counted; Y means they are proficient enough for their relative level of training. Only use N when a trainee does not show proper learning for their training status.

After the Session:

Review the card with the meet referee and give it to the trainee. Provide some feedback about your comments and answer any questions they may have. Remind them they must submit their training cards via email when all training is done. BE POSITIVE ABOUT OFFICIATING!