



EXPECTATIONS OF PAID OFFICIALS – 2025

Each paid official is provided a copy of the RSC so he/she will be familiar with the CMSL, CMSL Rules of Swimming Competition (RSC), and other procedures. Listed below are some expectations of paid officials.

NOTE: ALL Officials must be registered with CMSL

1. The paid official must act in a professional and impartial manner at all times and not engage in any behavior that would give the perception of favoritism for a specific team or individual.
2. Each paid official must know the USS Rules and have a copy of the current USS Rules at the meets.
3. The paid official must understand and enforce the CMSL rules of swimming competition and be able to interpret them if required. Except as documented in the CMSL rules of swimming competition, or as modified by the board of directors, CMSL uses United States Swimming (USS) Rules and Regulations Technical Rules of Competition for starts, turns, finishes and strokes. The paid official may not alter these rules without the express authorization of the CMSL officials chair.
4. The paid official shall maintain the minimum certification required by the league and receive additional training as necessary to thoroughly understand the roles and responsibilities of the starter and deck referee.
5. The paid official should have read and follow the USA swimming documents entitled “the professional starter” and “the professional deck referee”.
6. The paid official has the responsibility to ensure the conduct of the meet follows the rules of good sportsmanship and technical rules of the meet.
7. At swim meets, the paid official shall:
 - Arrive at the pool with enough time to complete preparations and begin the meet at the designated time.
 - Meet with the team rep and coaches to understand their expectations for the conduct of the meet.
 - Prior to the start of the meet, the paid official, team reps and coaches will discuss the jurisdiction and protocols to be followed during the meet such as whether or not the swimmer shall be told orally the reason for the disqualification immediately after each race and whether or not administrative officials may be used to document disqualifications.
 - Wear their CMSL credential and lanyard and verify all officials are wearing their credential while officiating.
 - Verify that all stroke and turn judges are listed on the CMSL Officials list during the briefing.
 - Briefly instruct all stroke and turn judges on stroke rules, jurisdiction and protocols for observing swims and reporting disqualifications.
 - Briefly instruct volunteer timers of their duties and protocols.
 - Assist the stroke and turn judges in determining that the swimmers are conforming to the rules for swimming each stroke. Referees are responsible for assuring that the swimmers receive fair treatment.
 - Ensure that “DQ” is written on the timing sheet when there is a disqualification and that the reason for disqualification is clearly written on the timing sheet. If a swim is determined to be exhibition, ensure that “exhibition” is clearly written on the timing sheet.
 - Record all disqualifications on the paid official’s heat sheet.
8. CMSL is a summer swim league with the objective of encouraging participation in the sport.
 - The paid official should not be making the majority of the disqualifications. The volunteer stroke and turn judges are the primary officials to determine when a disqualification is required.
 - The paid official is to review the disqualifications and, in certain situations, where there is an obvious and egregious rule violation, make a call on their own.
 - The league accepts that the volunteer stroke and turn judges have received minimal training and may not have training and experience necessary to identify all infractions.
 - All disqualifications must be recorded both on the timer sheet and the paid official’s heat sheet. Disqualifications not recorded and accepted by the paid official shall not be accepted.
9. CMSL uses three watch timing to determine the places and points for each race.
 - The referee is expected to sweep (scan) the finish of each heat and to record the sweep in writing. In the event of a single watch failure on a lane, the average of the remaining two watches will be used in determining the finish. If only one watch records a time for a swimmer during a race, then the officials sweep will be used to confirm the swimmer’s place in the heat.
 - At the Start, the paid official shall insist upon reasonable quiet during the starting instructions and until the start so that all swimmers are assured of a fair start.
 - For Divisional Championship meets there will be four paid officials who will act as referee, starter, and stroke and turn judges. Three-watch timing is also used at the Divisional Championship meets.
 - The paid official should immediately notify the CMSL officials chair of any incidents that occur before during or after a meet that impacted the conduct of the meet such as medical emergencies, physical or verbal altercations or other events that impacted the timing or conduct of the meet. All situations should be documented on your heat sheet as well.

All questions on rules and rule interpretations and grievances should be directed to the CMSL Officials Chairperson and the CMSL Chair of Rules, Grievance & Ethics. The MOC Liaison has no authority to waive or modify rules for the conduct of a meet.