

Midlakes Swim League Officiating FAQs

| Topic  | Details  |
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| Why do we do what we do?   | Fairness & Safety<br>Support the Sport   |
| Why every year?  | So everyone is on the same page – literally and figuratively   |
| Different officials on deck – USA Swimming, Summer only  | Varying degrees of skill – but part of a team  |
| Not looking for perfection, but consistency  | Experienced judges miss things –<br><b>BUT</b><br>You need to put yourself in a position to see – usually from the sides of the pool (exceptions – see Inventory of Pools)<br>WALK the sides – you can't see when you're in one position   |
| There is an "Art" to Officiating<br>You're called a "Judge" for a reason                                     | Benefit of the Doubt – goes to the swimmer<br>You have to "KNOW" you saw it<br>Use the words of the rule book<br>Be sure to call the blatant violations – the ones the spectator in the far corner of the stands sees<br>Be able to describe the infraction and situation – for example, if the call is a one hand touch, where was the other hand?<br>And how do you know when questioned? (Write it down)  |
| Swimming is a Technical Sport – with rules<br>BUT they are the same rules everywhere (with minor exceptions) | Same rules:<br>Regardless of Age – 8&Unders<br>Regardless of speed – B meets<br>Regardless of scoring – Exhibition<br>Why does it matter? Times are used in formulation of relays and determining eligibility for B meets.<br>Very capable 8&Unders – we want to prepare all for a successful season going into Champs<br>Participation ribbons?<br>We want to be the same – swim to swim, heat to heat, race to race, meet to meet  |
| Protocol   | Officials meeting before meet<br>Location of Position (where are you going to stand – what is your jurisdiction?)<br>Provision for Relay take-offs<br>Equipment – pen, heatsheet, DQ slips, clipboard<br>Mirror the other official as best you can – split lanes, explain jurisdiction in a 4/5/6/8 lane pool<br>Who disqualifies the swimmer? Who sees the infraction?<br>Raise your hand – you can always take your call back<br>Mark on heat sheet<br>Write up forms – getting help is fine<br>Process of collecting DQ slips |
| What do you do when things don't go right?   | Set expectations ahead of time – officials meeting<br>Ask the starter/referee<br>Deal with parents (refer to coach)<br>Deal with coaches (refer to referee)<br>Overturning of a call – expect to have a conversation<br>Put aside any distractions   |