

# Stroke & Turn Judge's Guide

## *Important Considerations*

As Stroke and Turn Judges (S&T), our responsibility is to ensure fair competition among all swimmers by assuring compliance with the rules for competitive swimming, and to treat each swimmer equally under those rules.

- 1) One set of rules apply to all swimmers, no matter the age or ability level.
- 2) Violation of a stroke or turn rule results in the disqualification of the swimmer in that event. Therefore, ***the swimmer always receives the benefit of the doubt!***
- 3) An Official can only make a disqualification within his/her jurisdiction. Before a meet, judges should meet with the Referee to review and understand their placement and jurisdictions.
- 4) As S&T Judges, we do not judge style or efficiency. We only determine if a swimmer conforms to the rules. A wide variety of stroke styles are allowed under the rules.
- 5) S&T Judges should give equal time and attention to empty lanes so that no swimmer is watched more than others.
- 6) Always look and act both professional and neutral. S&T Judges are ***Observers***, not Inspectors!
- 7) Due to differing pool configurations, side judges will NOT be used during regular season meets.
- 8) ***In the event multiple lanes in a jurisdiction, S&T Judges should not adjust their position because of empty lanes in any given heat!***
- 9) **REMEMBER**, you do not disqualify swimmers – they disqualify themselves. You observe it and bring it to their attention.

## **Proper Procedures for Stroke & Turn Judges**

- 1) Be sure to sign in with the Referee at each meet that you work.
- 2) S&T Judges wear a white shirt or blouse and navy blue shorts/slacks/skirt.
- 3) Trainees wear anything except the above stated attire.
- 4) Wear your badge.
- 5) Stand as close the central point of your jurisdiction as possible (center of the lane for one lane; between two lanes when two, etc.)
- 6) Use a red pen to write all Disqualifications (DQs).
- 7) Raise your hand IMMEDIATELY when you see an infraction.
- 8) Judges observing the finishes are the “writing” judges who notate infractions on the swimmers’ time cards. When not writing the disqualification, use hand signals/gestures to identify the lane of infraction and explain the disqualification to the writing judge.
- 9) If you are the writing judge, mark a large “X” across the front of the swimmer’s time card to indicate disqualifications. On the back, write the number of the disqualifying judge and check or write out the infraction. As a timesaver, the most common disqualifications are pre-printed on the back of the time cards.
- 10) Be aware of your judging counterparts across from you at the other end of the pool. If you are the writing-judge, frequently glance at your counterparts to avoid missing calls.
- 11) Make every attempt to notify a swimmer who has been disqualified and explain the infraction.