



ON DECK PERSONAL ASSISTANT

WHO ARE PERSONAL ASSISTANTS

- Personal assistants are individuals who provide disability-related help to swimmers who have a disability.



WHAT PERSONAL ASSISTANTS ARE PERMITTED TO DO





Helping swimmers with physical disabilities:

- **enter or exit the pool,**
- **tapping blind swimmers just prior to turns and finishes,**



- **assisting swimmers who have cognitive disabilities to understand meet routines or coach instructions,**



- **sign language
interpreting for
deaf swimmers,**



- **helping swimmers with autism spectrum or behavioral disorders to cope with challenging situations at practices and meets,**

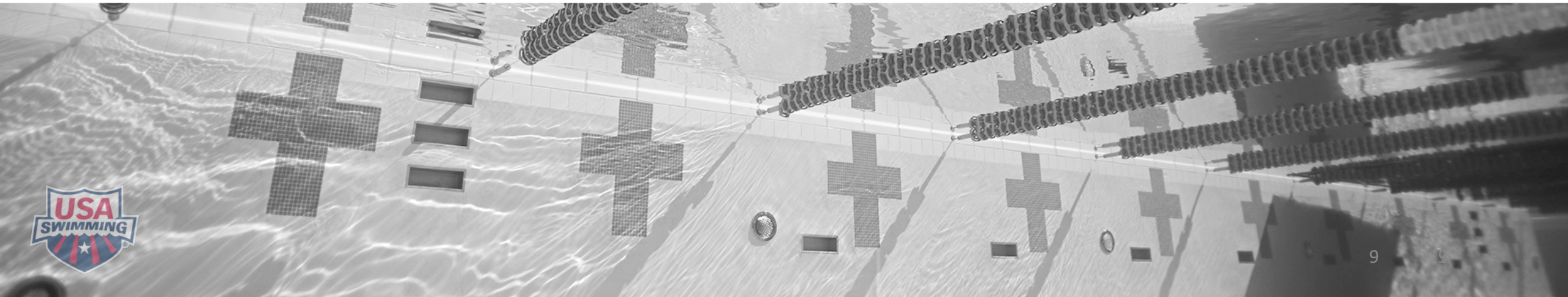


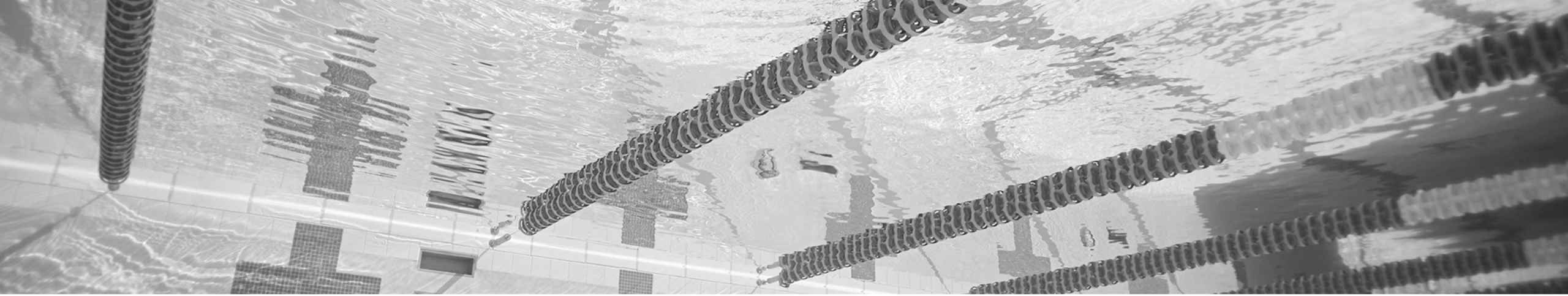
- **and assisting with personal care tasks in locker room settings.**



WHAT PERSONAL ASSISTANTS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO DO

- **may not coach unless registered as a coach member,**
- **must not interfere with meet operations.**



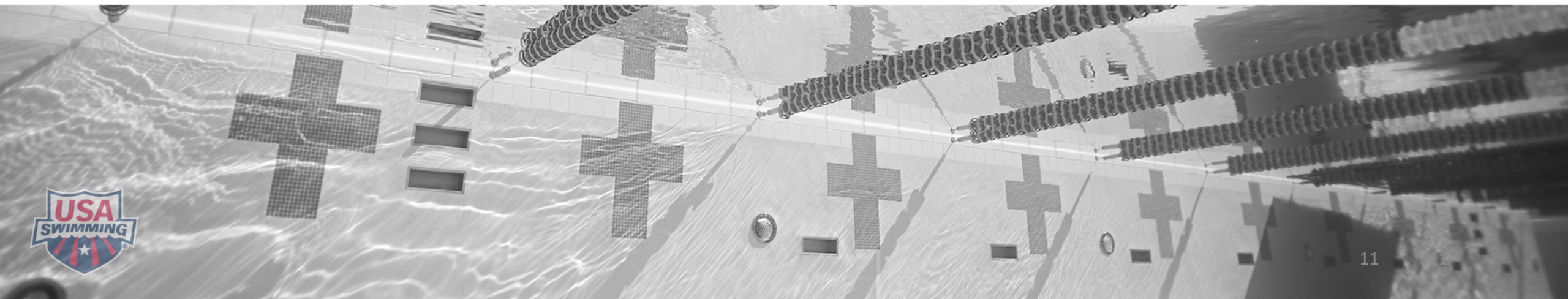


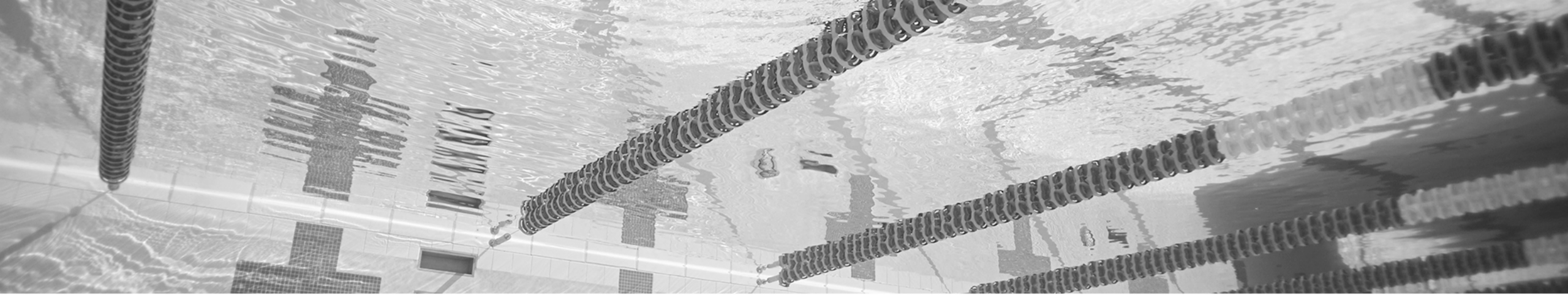
According to Article 305.3, a coach acting as a personal assistant may not perform a rubdown or massage for the swimmer.



Who Identifies and Approves the Use of Personal Assistants?

- Swimmers with a disability typically arrange for their own personal assistants, as well as any necessary disability-related equipment such as tapping devices (Article 105.1.2A).

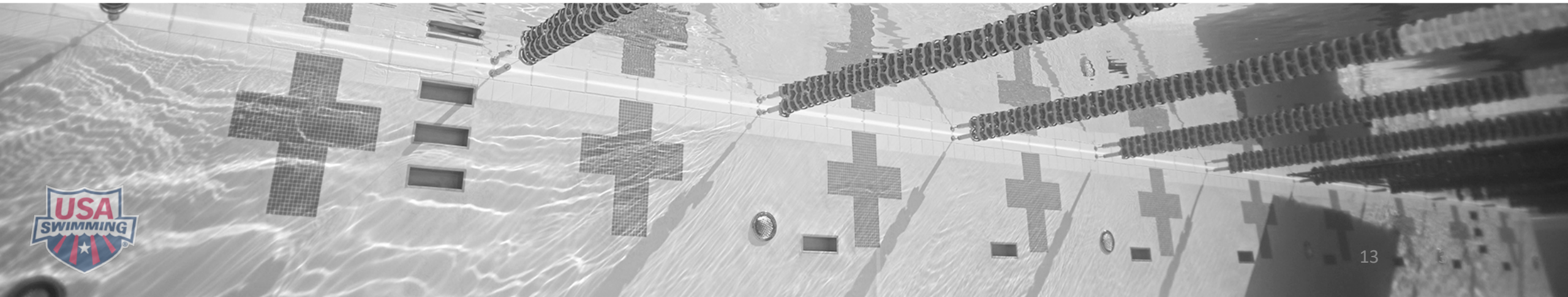




- **Swimmers may have personal assistants at swim practices if permitted by the coach and at meets if permitted by the referee.**



- **Athletes or coaches (not parents) are responsible for notifying the referee prior to the competition of the disability and requested modification (Article 105.1.2A).**



Is USA Swimming Membership Required for Personal Assistants?

- **According to Article 105.1.3C, "A personal assistant is not required to be a member of USA Swimming unless acting in a coaching capacity."**



- **John R. Morse, Secretary and General Counsel of USA Swimming, issued an opinion in 2010 that membership and background check was required for any personal assistant who interacts directly and frequently with athletes as a regular part of their duties.**



- **Further - acting as a personal assistant only at meets would not rise to the frequency standard necessary to require membership; however, a personal assistant who routinely comes on deck or into locker rooms at practices would rise to the level that would mandate a membership.**





Are Personal Assistants Covered by USA Swimming Insurance?

According to John Peterson, President of Risk Management Services, Inc. (the General Manager of United States Sports Insurance Company, a subsidiary of USA Swimming), general liability insurance coverage for USA Swimming members is not affected by the USA Swimming membership status of personal assistants.



Personal assistants who are not USA Swimming members are protected by USA Swimming general liability insurance, but do not have the benefit of USA Swimming excess accident insurance. (Please refer to the appropriate insurance policies for specific coverages, conditions, and exclusions.)"

