

# Virginia Swimming Chief Judge Clinic

Version: September 17, 2023



# What You Should Learn From This Clinic

- \* The certification requirements for Chief Judge (CJ)
- \* The role and why we employ CJs
- \* Setting up a deck
- \* Stroke briefing, jurisdiction & protocol
- \* The duties of a CJ while on deck
- \* Radio communication
- \* CJs at local meets vs championship meets



# The Certification Requirements

- \* Clinic can be OJT, or structured
- \* Certified at least one year as S&T
- \* Work four (4) sessions as CJ with positive ratings
- \* No test



# Why Do We Have CJs?

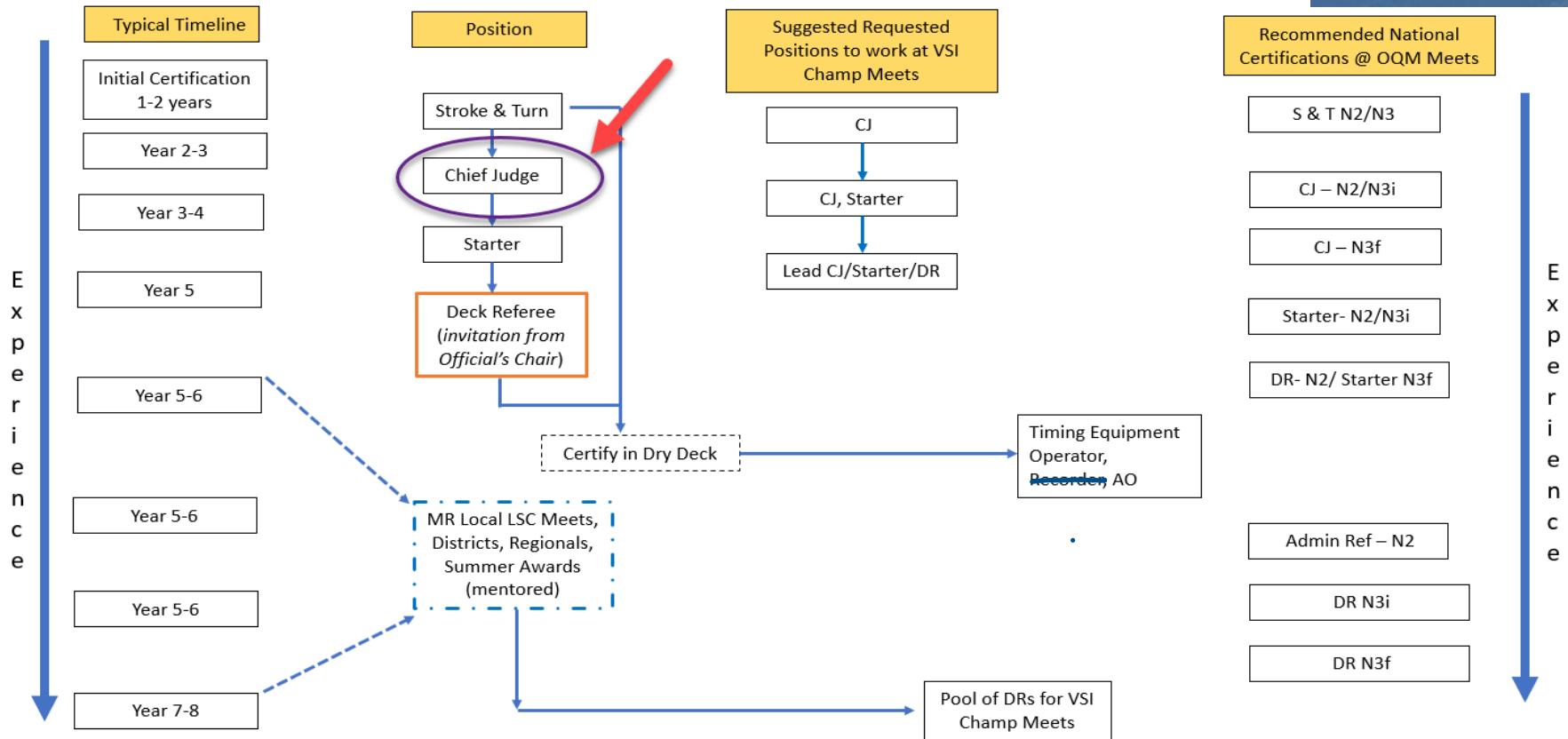
- \* Key component with running a smooth swim meet
- \* Responsible to MR
- \* Assist the DR(s)
- \* S&T Mentor
- \* Provides a deeper understanding of the interactions among deck referees, stroke and turn judges, administrative officials, and coaches
- \* Training path to deck leadership positions





# Has Anyone Seen this Before?

## Succession Plan for VSI Swim Officials



# CJ Tasks Pre-Session

- \* Run the pre-session briefings
- \* Check-in officials
- Special announcements
  - Upcoming meets
  - Intro of who is who (optional)
- \* Place S&T trainees with mentor(s)
- \* Set the deck
  - Pool configuration
  - Balance years of experience
  - Relay take off assignments
- \* Stroke briefing, jurisdiction and protocols
- \* No one leaves deck until dismissed by MR



# Setting up the Deck

(This is an example and not a requirements)

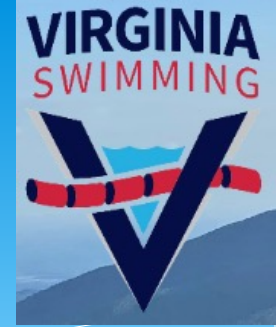
# of Officials	Start End	Turn End	Stroke	Relief
4	2	2	0	0
5	2	2	0	1
6	2	2	1+1	0
7	2	2	1+1	1
8	2	2	2+2	0
9	2	2	2+2	1
10	2	2	2+2	2
11	2	2	2+2	3
12	4	4	2+2	0
13	4	4	2+2	1
14	4	4	2+2	2
15	4	4	2+2	3
16	4	4	2+2	4



# Setting up the Deck

<b>Meet Name:</b>				<b>Location:</b>			
<b>OFFICIALS ASSIGNMENTS:</b>							
___ PRELIMS		___ TIMED FINALS		___ FINALS		___ TIME TRIALS	
<b>Day/Date:</b>				<b>Session No:</b>		<b>Team: ___</b>	
<b>Meet Referee:</b>			<b>Head Starter:</b>				
<b>Deck Referees:</b>			<b>Starters:</b>				
<b>Team Lead Chief Judge:</b>							
<b>Assistant Chief Judges</b>							
S/L 1		S/L 8		T/L 1		T/L 8	
<b>Stroke Judges</b>							
S/L 1		S/L 8		T/L 1		T/L 8	
<b>TURN JUDGES</b>							
Ln.	Notes	Start End	Turn End	Relief		Ln.	
1				S		1	
				T			
2				S		2	
				T			
3				S		3	
				T			
4				S		4	
				T			
5				S		5	
				T			
6				S		6	
				T			
7				S		7	
				T			
8				S		8	
				T			
<b>Additional Notes</b>							



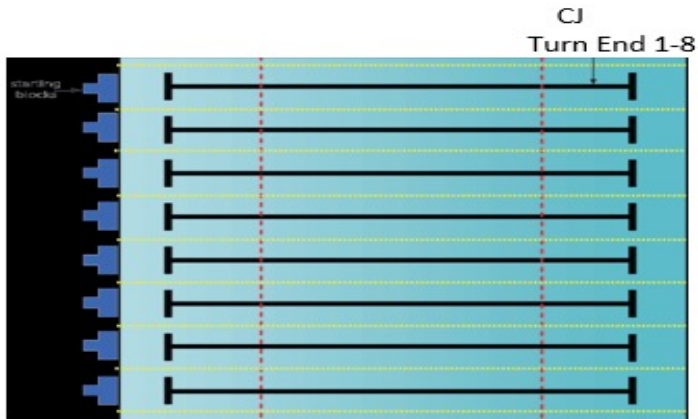


# CJ Tasks During Session

- \* Observing the S&T
  - In position & returned from breaks
  - Observing/not inspecting the swims
  - Mentors interacting with trainees
- \* Adjudicating calls
  - Three standard questions
  - DQ slip correctly filled out
- \* Can use Stroke Official to ferry DQ slips to DR in order to stay in quadrant
- \* Discuss calls with on-deck DR
  - Deliver DQ slips to Coaches
- \* Counters for distance, relay slips ready w/assignments
- \* Remind S&T in quadrant of stroke change prior to event

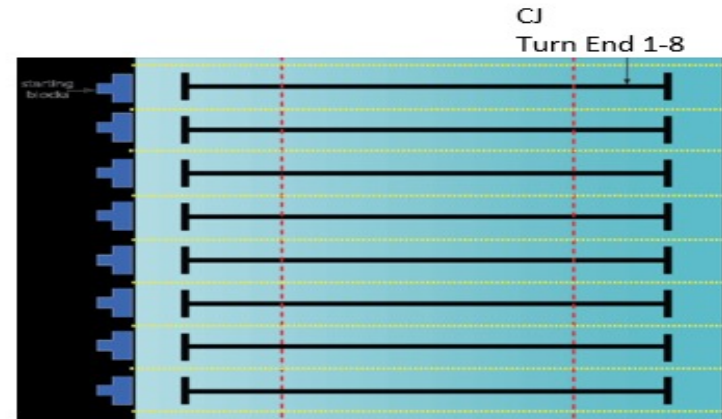
# CJ Positioning Examples

With 1 CJ



Starting Area-

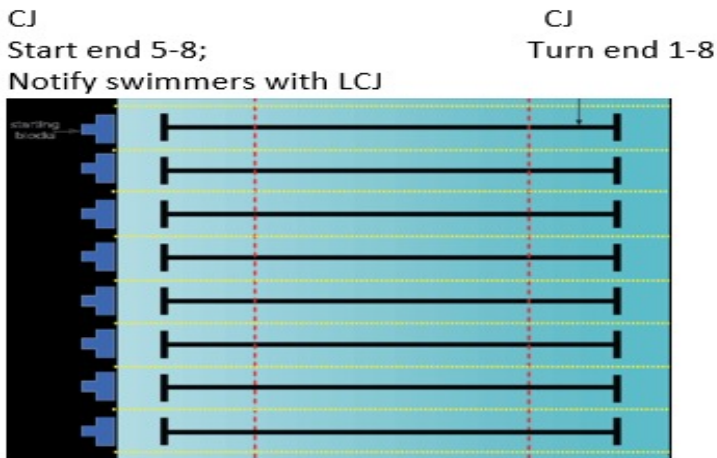
With 2 CJ



Starting Area-CJ

start end 1-8; notify swimmers with LCJ

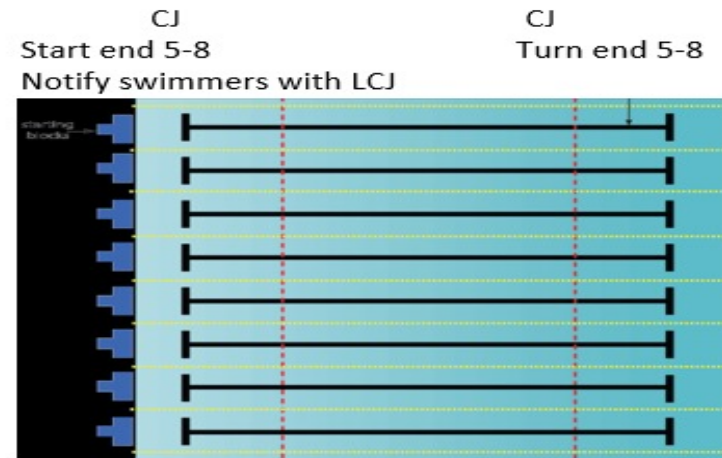
With 3 CJ



Starting Area-CJ

Start end 1-4

With 4 CJ



Starting Area-CJ

Start end 1-4

CJ

Turn end 1-4

# Radio Communication

- \* Check all radios and make sure they are on same channel
- \* 1 CJ will hand out all radios
- \* Inform everyone about roll call time (test comms)
- \* When on deck, 1 CJ will initiate a roll call at designated time
- \* Each CJ will notify DR that S&T in their quadrant, are in place.
  - Should be before the National Anthem
  - This communication means we are ready to start the meet





# Radio Communication (cont)

- At S&T briefing tell them the first thing you want to hear is the lane # when you approach them
  - Then, proceed with the answers to the 3 standard questions

How is a call communicated?

- If you see a S&T hand raised your verbiage is:
  - *“Possible disqualification, turn end, lanes 3-4”*
- After you arrive, S&T will state lane of potential call:
  - *“Lane 4”*
- After discussion with S&T, not hearing any doubt
  - *“E1-H1-L4, 1 hand touch on turn 3, I recommend you accept the call.”*
- DR will repeat back same, *“E1-H1-L4, 1 hand touch on turn 3, I accept the call.”* [NOTE: In the past, *“Please write it up and notify the swimmer”* was also said, but that is no longer the case.]



# Radio Communication (cont)

- \* What happens if the S&T is doubtful of the call?
  - ❑ If S&T rescinds, simply state “No Call”
  - ❑ If S&T is doubtful, wrong rule applied or can’t explain what they saw, then;
    - “E1-H1-L4, two arm pulls at Turn 3, I’ll come talk to you” **or**
    - “E1-H1-L4, I’ll come talk to you” **or**
    - “E1-H1-L4, two arm pulls at Turn 3, recommend you reject the call.”
  - ❑ The 3 options are up to the MR on how they want this handled
  - ❑ **Remember you cannot tell the S&T that is not a call. Only 3 people can overturn a call.**
    - S&T, DR, MR

# Radio Communication (cont)

Keep traffic minimized, no unnecessary comments

- When to **not** talk on the radio:
  - ❑ During the start of a heat
  - ❑ Try not to talk over each other if multiple calls
  
- Important items to pass over the radio
  - ❑ Cap in water, counter in the water
  - ❑ Injured athlete needing immediate medical attention
  - ❑ Pad falling off the wall
  - ❑ Etc.,



# Radio Communication (cont)

## ➤ Relays:

- ❑ CJs should always stay on the sides of the pool
  - Still responsible for watching S&T especially Medley Relays
- ❑ RTO in your quadrant
  - Can delegate if DR, w/radio, is an RTO, they can call in
- ❑ If outside RTO has no Xs – *“Lanes 1-4, Clear”*
  - Once all lanes clear, DR will repeat *“ E35-H1 all, clear”*
- ❑ If outside RTO has an X, take slip to inside RTO
  - if confirmed – *“E35-H1-L5, Confirmed early take off, swimmer number 3”*
  - If not confirmed – *“Lanes 1-4, Clear”*

# Local Meets vs Championship Meets

Biggest difference is the experience of the S&T

Situation	Local	Championship
Rotation	May have to remind S&T	Should know when to rotate
Positioning	May have to remind S&T to wrap around sides in backstroke	Should be there, normally rotated each heat
Relief	May have to remind them to show up on time	Should be there
Lead-Lag	Definitely explain they are still learning	Might have to go into detail, reminder here & there
Protocol	Explain and remind	Should know where to go and when





# Championship Meets

## Example Document from One Meet

### CHIEF JUDGE ASSIGNMENTS

Tasks		Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Assignments #/ Check-in	LCJ/Ref-Starter CJ	LCJ/Ref-Starter CJ	LCJ/Ref-Starter CJ	LCJ/Ref-Starter CJ
	Heat Sheets	TE-LN 1 CJ	TE-LN 1 CJ	TE-LN 1 CJ	TE-LN 1 CJ
	Lap Counters / Bells/Counter Sheets	SE-LN 8 CJ	SE-LN 8 CJ	SE-LN 8 CJ	SE-LN 8 CJ
	Prepare timer clipboards - sharpen pencils, split sheets, RTO slips, working watch (if required)	SE-LN 8 CJ	SE-LN 8 CJ	SE-LN 8 CJ	SE-LN 8 CJ
	Radios	TE-LN 1 CJ/LCJ	TE-LN 1 CJ	TE-LN 1 CJ	TE-LN 1 CJ
	Towels / Chairs / Shirts	All	All	All	All
PRELIMS	<b>Referee/Starter Box</b>	Carrie	Kathy	Michelle	Christie
	Start End / Stroke Lane 8	Christie	Kori	David	Ginny
	Turn End / Stroke Lane 1	Kathy		Kathy	Michelle
	Turn End / Stroke Lane 8		Christie	Carrie	
FINALS 12 & U PRELIMS	<b>Referee/Starter Box</b>	Edward	Brian	Christie	Edward
	Start End / Stroke Lane 8	Carrie	Christie	Edward	Christie
	Turn End / Stroke Lane 1	Kori	Kori	Carrie	Brian
	Turn End / Stroke Lane 8	Brian	Edward	Brian	
	Relief			Kori	

# Deck Protocols

## Example Document from One Meet

### Deck Protocols

Lead/ Lag

Event	Start End	Turn End	Stroke (2 per side)
<b>Freestyle</b> (50, 100,200)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Start:</b> remain seated</li> <li>• <b>Finish:</b> remain seated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Turns:</b> stand when swimmers are in jurisdiction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remain in place at 15 M marks on both sides of pool</li> </ul>
<b>Freestyle</b> (400, 500, 800, 1000,1500,1650)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observe from corners (CJs to workout rotation)</li> <li>• <b>Start:</b> remain seated</li> <li>• <b>Turns:</b> stand when swimmers are in jurisdiction</li> <li>• <b>Finish:</b> remain seated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observe from corners (CJs to workout rotation)</li> <li>• <b>Start:</b> remain seated</li> <li>• <b>Turns:</b> stand when swimmers are in jurisdiction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use 1 per side</li> <li>• Start side watches 15 M across all lanes for outbound lengths</li> <li>• Far side watches 15 M across all lanes for inbound lengths</li> <li>• Watch through 100</li> </ul>
<b>Backstroke</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Start:</b> remain seated</li> <li>• <b>Turns:</b> stand when swimmers are in jurisdiction</li> <li>• <b>Finish:</b> stand when swimmers are in jurisdiction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Turns:</b> stand when swimmers are in jurisdiction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Start:</b> Lead 15M, Lag at flags</li> <li>• <b>Outbound:</b> Lead walks to flags, Lag walks to 15 M</li> <li>• <b>Inbound:</b> Lead walks to flags, Lag walks to 15 M</li> </ul>
<b>Breaststroke</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Start:</b> stand on long whistle, move forward after start to observe swimmers while in jurisdiction</li> <li>• <b>Turns:</b> stand when swimmers are in jurisdiction</li> <li>• <b>Finish:</b> stand when swimmers are in jurisdiction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Turns:</b> stand when swimmers are in jurisdiction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Start:</b> Lead 7.5 M mark, Lag at flags</li> <li>• <b>Outbound:</b> Lead walks to flags, Lag at 7.5 M mark</li> <li>• <b>Inbound:</b> Lead walks to flags, Lag at 7.5M mark</li> </ul>
<b>Butterfly</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Start:</b> stand on long whistle, move forward after start to observe swimmers while in jurisdiction</li> <li>• <b>Turns:</b> stand when swimmers are in jurisdiction</li> <li>• <b>Finish:</b> stand when swimmers are in jurisdiction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Turns:</b> stand when swimmers are in jurisdiction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Start:</b> Lead 15 M, Lag at flags</li> <li>• <b>Outbound:</b> Lead walks to flags, Lag walks to 15 M</li> <li>• <b>Inbound:</b> Lead walks to flags, Lag walks to 15 M</li> </ul>
<b>Individual Medley</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Start:</b> stand on long whistle, move forward after start to observe swimmers while in jurisdiction</li> <li>• <b>Turns:</b> stand when swimmers are in jurisdiction</li> <li>• <b>Finish:</b> remain seated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Turns:</b> stand when swimmers are in jurisdiction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fly:</b> same</li> <li>• <b>Back:</b> same</li> <li>• <b>Breast:</b> same</li> <li>• <b>Free:</b> move back to individual 15 M marks</li> </ul>
<b>Medley Relay</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Start:</b> remain seated</li> <li>• <b>Turns:</b> stand when swimmers are in jurisdiction</li> <li>• <b>Finish:</b> remain seated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Turns:</b> stand when swimmers are in jurisdiction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Back:</b> same</li> <li>• <b>Breast:</b> same</li> <li>• <b>Fly:</b> same</li> <li>• <b>Free:</b> move back to individual 15 M marks</li> </ul>

### Start/Turn Judge Jurisdictions

**Start:** Heads up

**Turn:** from the beginning of the last complete arm stroke into the turn through heads up following the turn

**Finish:** from the beginning of the last complete arm stroke through the finish

### Stroke Judge Jurisdictions

Wall to wall

# Championship Meets



- Expect the email from MR with leadership notes
- More detail from MR/ LCJ with a manual
  - Read and understand it
  - Print out a copy
  - Assigned positions every day
  - May enter sessions in OTS
- National Meets – All above &
  - Pre-meet conference call
  - Leadership meeting prior to meet on how to handle situations
  - Daily audibles

# Post Session

- **Wait for MR/DR to release the deck**
  - **Dismiss your S&T and most of all, Thank them**
- Ensure all radios are returned
- Any feedback from MR?
- MR may designate you in OTS as Administrator to enter all of the Officials' sessions



# Resources

- CJ Manual on website will help get you started  
Good resource to explain how to conduct lead/lag
- Excel workbook to create relay take offs
- Excel workbook to record sessions and print out deck assignments



# Final Thoughts

- The more you work as a CJ, the easier it becomes!
- Don't be shy to work as a CJ at our Championship meets
- Ask to be evaluated at Championship meets, you will learn even more!
- We are all here to help you succeed!



Most Of All Thank You For All You Do For Our Sport!

