

Virginia Swimming Chief Judge Clinic

Version: April 11, 2024



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

- * Chief Judge clinic or CJ briefing
- * Certified as a S&T Judge
- * 16 or more sessions at S&T
- * No test



Why Do We Have CJs?

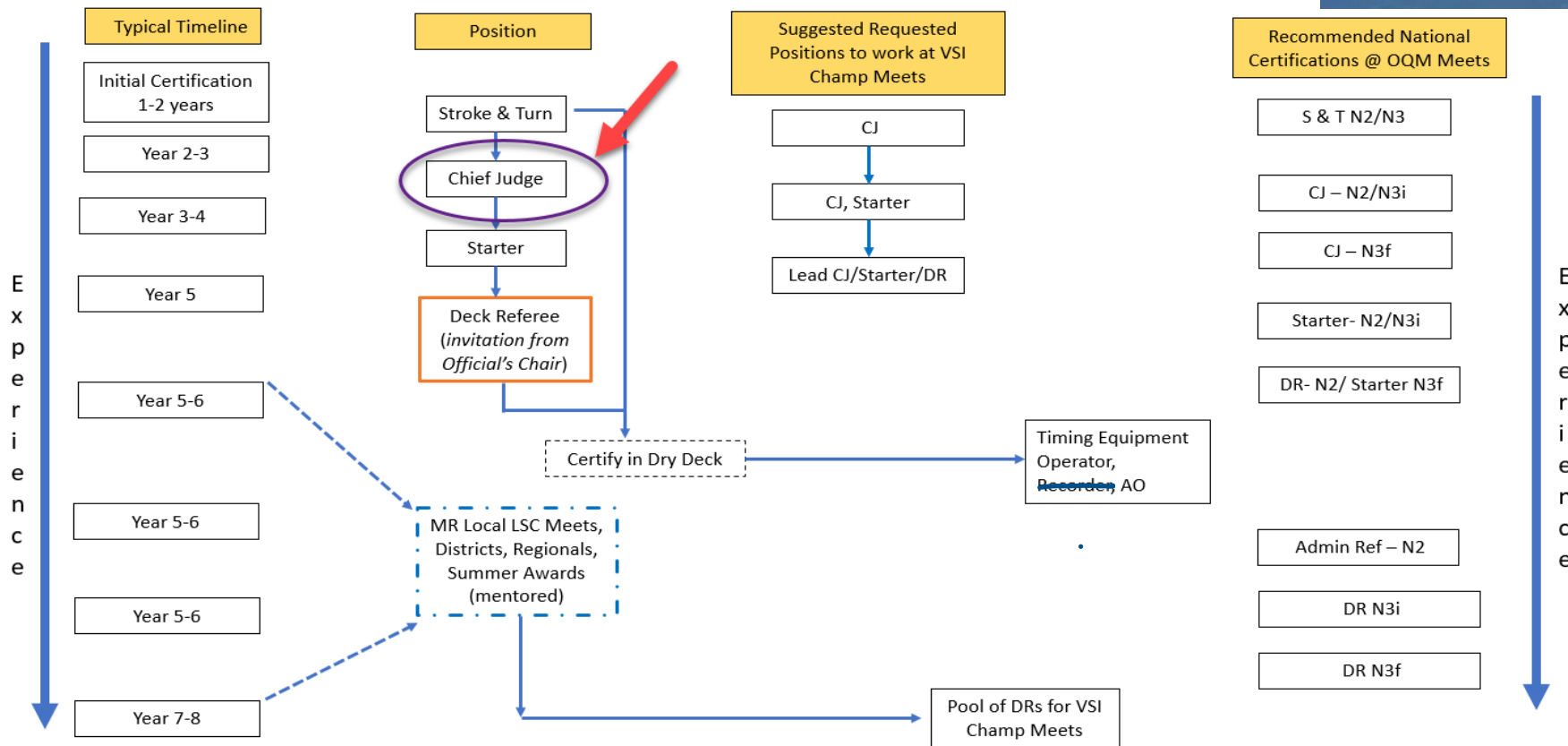
- * Key component with running a smooth swim meet
- * Responsible to MR
- * Assist the DR(s)
- * S&T Mentor
- * Provides a deeper understanding of the interactions among deck referees, stroke and turn judges, administrative officials, and coaches
- * Training path to deck leadership positions



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

Meet Name:				Location:			
OFFICIALS ASSIGNMENTS:							
		___ PRELIMS		___ TIMED FINALS		___ FINALS	
						___ TIME TRIALS	
Day/Date:				Session No:		Team:	
Meet Referee:			Head Starter:				
Deck Referees:			Starters:				
Team Lead Chief Judge:							
Assistant Chief Judges							
S/L 1		S/L 8		T/L 1		T/L 8	
Stroke Judges							
S/L 1		S/L 8		T/L 1		T/L 8	
TURN JUDGES							
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			
Additional Notes							

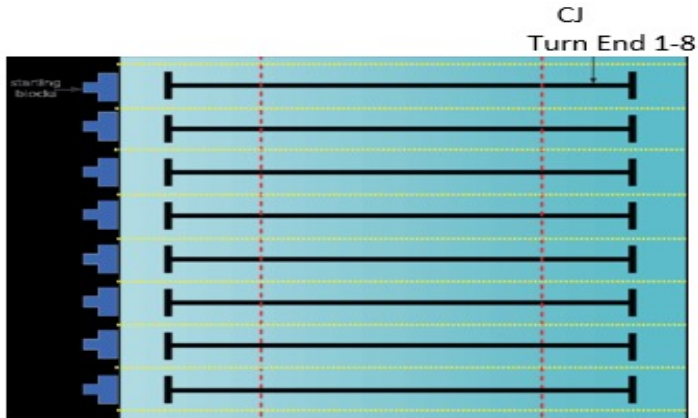


CJ Tasks During Session

- * 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

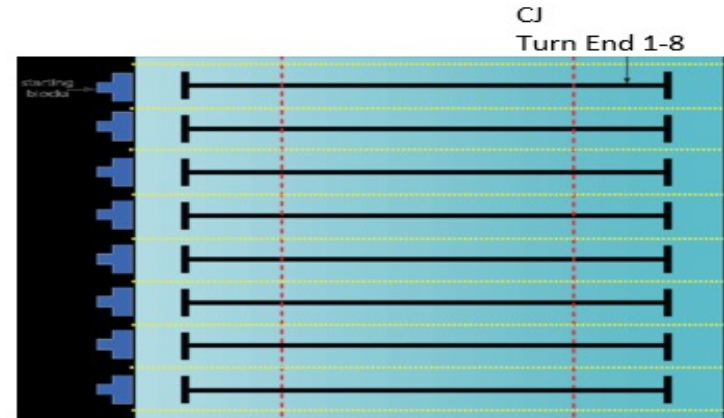
CJ Positioning Examples

With 1 CJ



Starting Area-

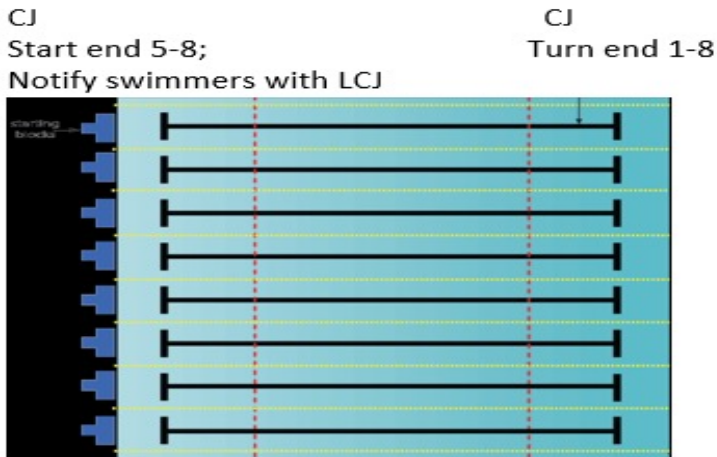
With 2 CJ



Starting Area-CJ

start end 1-8; notify swimmers with LCJ

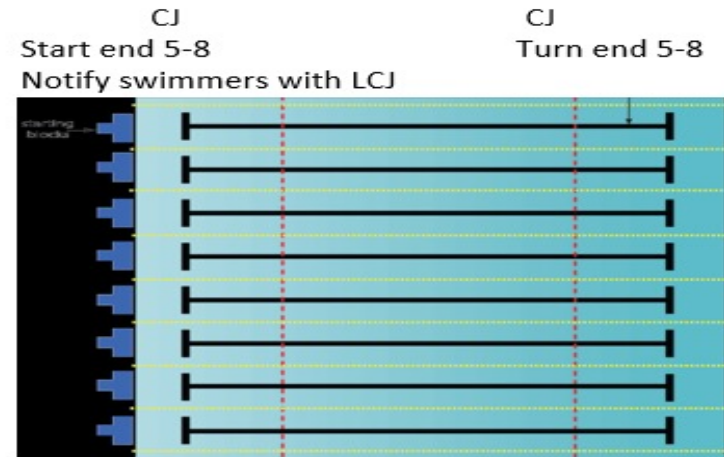
With 3 CJ



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

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!

