

All too often, referees want to give more status to a disqualification slip than it deserves. The disqualification occurs when the Deck Referee accepts the call. The slip is merely to provide notice and to enable the disqualification to be tracked. Personally, when a call is made that the head was not up, I immediately think in terms of a start or turn. To me, two strokes under implies a violation in the middle of the pool where a swimmer violates the requirement that the head must surface during each stroke cycle. Again, that is just my immediate way of thinking about the information given to me. Both are correct, but it is important that the official making the call and the Deck Referee communicate clearly on which violation it is.

This information was supplied by Dan McAllen, Rules and Regulations Chair in an email that also contained other information not pertaining to USA Swimming Rules and Regulations. The excerpt above is Dan's reply to where should "the heads not up" infraction be marked on the DQ slip.