

VIRGINIA SWIMMING MEET SAFETY PROCEDURES

The following procedures have been established to ensure safe meet conduct.

Safety is an important factor for our program. Anyone seeing an unsafe condition or activity around the meet venue should intervene or summon available meet and/or facility personnel to immediately stop it. The unsafe conduct should also be reported to the Meet Director and the Meet Referee.

These procedures **SHALL** be followed at all meets. The Referee has the authority to remove a swimmer/coach/club/parent from the meet for failure to comply with these safety procedures.

GENERAL SAFETY GUIDELINES

1. The Meet Director and Meet Referee are responsible for venue safety inspection (see Virginia Swimming Safety page for checklist) and resolution of issues prior to the beginning of the meet.
2. Hazards in locker rooms, on the deck, or in areas used by coaches, swimmers, spectators, or officials shall be removed or clearly marked.
3. Assignment of Marshals shall be the responsibility of the host club/Meet Director. A minimum of two Marshals must be present and on duty at all times. These Marshals shall be at least 18 years old. Lifeguards required by colleges and recreation centers may **NOT** be used in place of Marshals. Marshals shall wear distinctive, bright-colored, identifying shirts/vests (preferably, USA Swimming orange Marshal vests) at all times while on duty.
4. Some areas of the venue may be off limits for the swimmers, parents, and coaches. These areas shall be clearly marked, and such boundaries shall be enforced by the Marshals.
5. Where feasible the Announcer should announce periodic safety reminders throughout the meet (see Virginia Swimming Safety page for examples).
6. Running on the deck is not permitted during the meet or during warm-ups.
7. Horseplay is not permitted anywhere in the venue during the meet or during warm-ups.
8. Shaving is not permitted anywhere in the venue (including locker rooms). Swimmer noncompliance will result in dismissal from the meet.
9. **USE** of cameras or camera cell phones is prohibited in locker rooms.
10. Warm-up procedures shall be enforced for any breaks scheduled during the competition.
11. A swimmer, coach, or parent may be removed from the deck for interfering with a Marshal in the performance of his/her duties.
12. Any accident/incident, no matter how seemingly insignificant, which occurs at the meet must be reported to the LSC Safety Chair and to USA Swimming using the USA Swimming Report of Occurrence Form (see Virginia Swimming Safety page). The Meet Director/Meet Referee is responsible for completing and submitting the form.