

Virginia Swimming Championship Meet Deck Protocol

General Guidelines:

- Consistently observe your entire area of jurisdiction with a proportionate amount of time spent observing empty lanes, if any. Your attention should be focused on the swimmers within your jurisdiction and not on signing DQ slips, talking to the Chief Judge, or any other matter that draws your attention away from observing the swim.
- Maintain a clean look (hands free, leave heat sheets and pens in chair or out-of-sight). Do not carry unnecessary items on deck. Sit up straight, feet on deck.
- When working as a turn/finish judge, go to the edge of the pool when the swimmer is approaching your jurisdiction and return to your chair when the swimmer leaves your jurisdiction. If more than one lane is assigned, approach the pool edge as the first swimmer enters your jurisdiction and sit when the last one leaves (in some situations, it is possible that the swimmers will become spread out such that it is not practical for you to sit, however, you should step back from the edge of the pool if no swimmers are within your jurisdiction).
- When working as a side judge, you should walk the length of the pool unless the spacing of the swimmers within your jurisdiction precludes you from doing so. Usually, there are two judges doing lead-lag with wall-to-wall jurisdiction. Start at the flag/15M mark and walk to the 15M mark/wall to observe the turn, and then return to the 15M mark/wall to observe the finish. Observe half the lanes of the pool on your side.

Freestyle:

- Turn Judges stay seated at the start.
- Turn Judges move forward on turn or finish to edge of pool to observe the touch.
- Turn Judges observe from right side of lane with right foot forward to edge, hands behind back.
- Turn Judges return to chair upon observing feet leave the wall (or upon swimmer leaving your jurisdiction).

Backstroke:

- Turn Judges at start end (lanes 1 & 8) move to corners on Referee's first long whistle.
- Turn Judges move forward on turn or finish to edge of pool to observe with right foot forward to edge, hands behind back.
- Turn Judges observe from position on deck where incoming swimmer's shoulder position can best be seen.
- Turn Judges return to chair upon observing feet leave the wall (or upon swimmer leaving your jurisdiction).

Breaststroke:

- Turn Judges at start end stand to right of chair on Referee's long whistle.
- Turn Judges move forward on start, turn, or finish to edge of pool to observe.
- Turn Judges observe from right side of lane with right foot forward to edge, hands behind back.
- Turn Judges return to chair upon observing completion of the first arm stroke (head up) (or upon swimmer leaving your jurisdiction).

Butterfly:

- Turn Judges at start end stand to right of chair on Referee's long whistle.
- Turn Judges move forward on start, turn, or finish to edge of pool to observe.
- Turn Judges observe from right side of lane with right foot forward to edge, hands behind back.
- Turn Judges return to chair upon observing completion of the first arm stroke (head up) (or upon swimmer leaving your jurisdiction).