



Stroke & Turn Judge Certification Clinic

Stroke & Turn Judge Certification Clinic

- Certification Requirements
- Philosophy of Officiating
- The Rules
 - Video
 - Common Infractions
- Assignment and Jurisdiction of Officials
- Stroke & Turn Judge Procedures
- Test

Handouts and Forms

- Copy of certification requirements
- Training cards
- Forms (DQ slip, relay take-off slip)
- Recommended stroke briefing
- Recommended jurisdiction
- Non-athlete registration form

S&T Judge Certification Requirements (Summary)

- Certified as a Timer
- Attend training clinic
- Pass written test
- Must join USA Swimming/VSI and display registration card while on deck
- Complete six training sessions (not in white & blue) and predominantly at B/C meets
- Satisfactorily work an additional two sessions (with B/C swimmers) with an assigned trainer and make calls (in white & blue)

S&T Judge Certification Requirements Cont'd

- Certified for one-year probationary period
- Upon satisfactory completion of the one year probationary period, re-certified for a one year period (ending in December)
- Must work a minimum of 8 sessions per year to re-certify

Philosophy of Officiating

“All competitive swimming events held under USA Swimming sanction shall be conducted in accordance with the following rules which are designed to provide fair and equitable conditions of competition and promote uniformity in the sport so that no swimmer shall obtain unfair advantage over another.”

Preamble to the USA-S Technical Rules

Fair and Equitable

- Judging should be consistent among different officials at a meet
- Judging should be consistent at different meets
- All of the rules are enforced, we don't individually choose to enforce some rules and ignore others

Fair and Equitable Cont'd

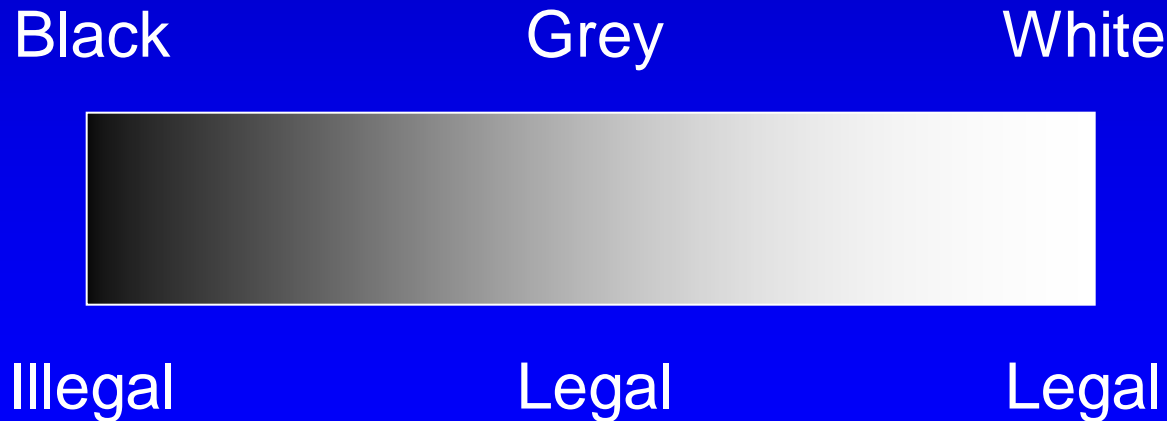
- The rules are enforced across all age groups and levels of ability
- Officials should be neutral in their enforcement of the rules; don't favor one team over another, don't favor one swimmer over another

Mental Traps

- Advantage vs. disadvantage
- The “twice theory”
- “We don’t disqualify 8 & unders”
- “Don’t ask me to judge my child”
- Don’t infer (Call what you see, not what you don’t see)

Rules of Thumb

- The benefit of the doubt *ALWAYS* goes to the swimmer
 - No loss of yardage, foul shots, penalty box



Rules of Thumb Cont'd

- Ugly ain't (necessarily) illegal
- Know the rules; review the rules before meets
- Experience, experience, experience

Officiating Swimming Video

- Clear and consistent knowledge of the rules
- Clarify proper interpretation of the rules as they pertain to the most common disqualification calls made (in *italics* in following slides)
- Following slides give representative, but not comprehensive, examples of rules violations

USA Swimming Video



Butterfly Rules

101.3 BUTTERFLY

.1 Start — The forward start shall be used.

.2 Stroke — After the start and after each turn, the swimmer's shoulders must be at or past the vertical toward the breast. The swimmer is permitted one or more leg kicks, but only one arm pull under water, which must bring the swimmer to the surface. It shall be permissible for a swimmer to be completely submerged for a distance of not more than 15 meters (16.4 yards) after the start and after each turn. By that point, the head must have broken the surface. The swimmer must remain on the surface until the next turn or finish. From the beginning of the first arm pull, the body shall be kept on the breast. Both arms must be brought forward over the water and pulled back simultaneously.

.3 Kick — All up and down movements of the legs and feet must be simultaneous. The position of the legs or the feet need not be on the same level, but they shall not alternate in relation to each other. A scissors or breaststroke kicking movement is not permitted.

.4 Turns — At each turn the body shall be on the breast. The touch shall be made with both hands simultaneously at, above, or below the water surface. Once a touch has been made, the swimmer may turn in any manner desired. The shoulders must be at or past the vertical toward the breast when the swimmer leaves the wall.

.5 Finish — At the finish, the body shall be on the breast and the touch shall be made with both hands simultaneously at, above, or below the water surface.

Butterfly Infractions

- Not at or past vertical towards the breast after the start and after each turn
- *Head not up at 15 meters*
- More than 1 underwater pull
- Non-simultaneous pull or arm recovery
 - Need not be symmetrical
- Arms not recovered over the surface of the water
 - The arm is anything above the wrist and below the shoulder
 - Looking for any part of the arm to break the water surface

Butterfly Infractions Cont'd

- Upward or downward movements of the legs not simultaneous
- Legs or feet alternate in relationship to each other
 - Legs and feet do not have to be on the same level
- A scissors or breaststroke kicking movement
- Not on the breast during swim
- One hand or non-simultaneous touch at turns or finish

Backstroke Rules

101.4 BACKSTROKE

.1 Start — The swimmers shall line up in the water facing the starting end, with both hands placed on the gutter or on the starting grips. Standing in or on the gutter, placing the toes above the lip of the gutter, or bending the toes over the lip of the gutter, before or after the start, is prohibited.

.2 Stroke — The swimmer shall push off on his back and continue swimming on the back throughout the race. Some part of the swimmer must break the surface of the water throughout the race, except it is permissible for the swimmer to be completely submerged during the turn, at the finish and for a distance of not more than 15 meters (16.4 yards) after the start and after each turn. By that point, the head must have broken the surface of the water.

.3 Turns — Upon completion of each length, some part of the swimmer must touch the wall. During the turn the shoulders may be turned past the vertical toward the breast after which a continuous single arm pull or a continuous simultaneous double arm pull may be used to execute the turn. The swimmer must have returned to a position on the back upon leaving the wall.

.4 Finish — Upon the finish of the race, the swimmer must touch the wall while on the back.

Backstroke Infractions

- Not on the back throughout race
- *Head not up at 15 meters*
- *Non-continuous turning motion*
- Failing to touch the wall at the turn
- Shoulders not past vertical toward the back prior to leaving the wall
- Toes curling over the gutter after the starting signal (before the starting signal is the Starter's responsibility)

Backstroke Infractions Cont'd

- A poorly executed turn in which the swimmer turns too close to the wall and who's hand(s) contact the wall rather than continuing through the flipping motion is legal as long it was a continuous turn up to the point at which contact with the wall was made.

Backstroke Infractions Cont'd

Judging an underwater finish:

- If the swimmer completely submerges prior to the Turn Judge having to shift his/her attention to the touch at the wall, this would be a DQ.
- Once the Turn Judge shifts his/her attention to watching the touch at the finish, it is then legal for the swimmer to be fully submerged.

Breaststroke Rules

101.2 BREASTSTROKE

.1 **Start** — The forward start shall be used.

.2 **Stroke** — From the beginning of the first arm stroke after the start and after each turn, the body shall be kept on the breast. It is not permitted to roll onto the back at any time. Throughout the race the stroke cycle must be one arm stroke and one leg kick in that order. All movements of the arms shall be simultaneous and in the same horizontal plane without alternating movement. The hands shall be pushed forward together from the breast on, under, or over the water. The elbows shall be under water except for the final stroke before the turn, during the turn and for the final stroke at the finish. The hands shall be brought back on or under the surface of the water. The hands shall not be brought back beyond the hip line, except during the first stroke after the start and each turn. During each complete cycle, some part of the swimmer's head shall break the surface of the water. After the start and after each turn, the swimmer may take one arm stroke completely back to the legs. The head must break the surface of the water before the hands turn inward at the widest part of the second stroke.

Breaststroke Rules Cont'd

.3 Kick — After the start and each turn, a single downward butterfly kick followed by a breaststroke kick is permitted while wholly submerged. Following which, all movements of the legs shall be simultaneous and in the same horizontal plane without alternating movement. The feet must be turned outwards during the propulsive part of the kick. A scissors, flutter or downward butterfly kick is not permitted except as provided herein. Breaking the surface of the water with the feet is allowed unless followed by a downward butterfly kick.

.4 Turns and Finish — At each turn and at the finish of the race, the touch shall be made with both hands simultaneously at, above, or below the water level. The head may be submerged after the last arm pull prior to the touch, provided it breaks the surface of the water at some point during the last complete or incomplete cycle preceding the touch.

Breaststroke Infractions

- Cycle must start with a pull, starting with a kick is illegal
- Hands brought beyond the hip line, except for the first stroke after the start and after each turn
- Head does not break the surface during each complete or incomplete cycle
- *Arms not pulling in the horizontal plane, including the first pull following each turn*
- Non-simultaneous pull
- Elbows not remaining in contact with the water during the recovery (forward) portion of the stroke except for the last stroke before the turns and finish (does not apply to the backwards pull)

Breaststroke Infractions Cont'd

- One hand or non-simultaneous touch at turns or finish
- Not past vertical towards the breast from the beginning of the first arm pull after the start and after each turn
- Feet not turned outward during the propulsive phase of the kick
- Non-simultaneous kick
- A scissors, flutter, or *butterfly kick*

Breaststroke Infractions Cont'd

- Looking for the butterfly kick in breaststroke
 - It is a legal kick if the feet are following the hips as the knees pull them forward.
 - The position of the feet is key to judging the breaststroke kick:
 - If the toes are pointed outward during the propulsive phase of the kick, it is a legal breaststroke kick.
 - If the toes are pointed straight back or inwards, it is a butterfly kick.

Breaststroke Infractions Cont'd

- It is not unusual for a swimmer to have a significant undulating motion which may result in the feet breaking the surface of the water which may result in a “rooster tail” of spray as they begin the recovery phase of their kick. This is not illegal unless accompanied by a downward butterfly kick.
- It is not unusual for strong swimmers to push a wave of water under their bodies during the first pull which results in their legs rising up and down- this is also not illegal.
- Remember, this can sometimes be a difficult call to make and the benefit of the doubt always goes to the swimmer.

Breaststroke Infractions Cont'd

- Rules and Regulations Committee Interpretations
 - Clarified that, in conformance with FINA's intent, the requirement for the elbows to remain under the water on the breaststroke applies only to the recovery (forward) portion of the arm stroke, not to the backwards pull.
 - Agreed that the breaststroke must start with an arm pull to comply with the cycle of "one arm stroke and one leg kick, in that order" as stated in the rule. A swimmer starting with a leg kick first would be disqualified.
 - Reiterated that, under the March 6, 1998 rule changes by FINA, the arms must be in the same horizontal plane during the first pull at the start and after each turn.

Breaststroke

- 2005 Breaststroke rule change:
- [Breaststroke Video](#)

Freestyle Rules

101.5 FREESTYLE

.1 **Start** — The forward start shall be used.

.2 **Stroke** — In an event designated freestyle, the swimmer may swim any style, except that in a medley relay or an individual medley event, freestyle means any style other than butterfly, breaststroke or backstroke. Some part of the swimmer must break the surface of the water throughout the race, except it shall be permissible for the swimmer to be completely submerged during the turn and for a distance of not more than 15 meters (16.4 yards) after the start and each turn. By that point the head must have broken the surface.

.3 **Turns** — Upon completion of each length the swimmer must touch the wall.

.4 **Finish** — The swimmer shall have finished the race when any part of his person touches the wall after completing the prescribed distance.

Freestyle Rules

101.5 FREESTYLE

.1 **Start** — The forward start shall be used.

.2 **Stroke** — In an event designated freestyle, the swimmer may swim any style, except that in a medley relay or an individual medley event, freestyle means any style other than butterfly, breaststroke or backstroke. Some part of the swimmer must break the surface of the water throughout the race, except it shall be permissible for the swimmer to be completely submerged during the turn and for a distance of not more than 15 meters (16.4 yards) after the start and each turn. By that point the head must have broken the surface.

.3 **Turns** — Upon completion of each length the swimmer must touch the wall.

.4 **Finish** — The swimmer shall have finished the race when any part of his person touches the wall after completing the prescribed distance.

Freestyle Infractions

- *Head not up at 15 meters*
- Walking on or pushing off the bottom
- Using the lane line or gutter for propulsion
- Failing to touch the wall at the turn

Individual Medley Rules

101.6 INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY — The swimmer shall swim the prescribed distance in the following order: the first one-fourth, butterfly; the second one-fourth, backstroke; the third one-fourth, breaststroke; and the last one-fourth, freestyle.

.1 Start — The forward start shall be used.

.2 Stroke — The stroke for each one-fourth of the designated distance shall follow the prescribed rules for that stroke.

.3 Turns

A. Intermediate turns within each stroke shall conform to the turn rules for that stroke.

B. The turns when changing from one stroke to another shall conform to the finish rules for the stroke just completed, and shall be as follows:

(1) **Butterfly to backstroke** — The swimmer must touch as described in 101.3.5. Once a legal touch has been made, the swimmer may turn in any manner, but the shoulders must be at or past the vertical toward the back when the swimmer leaves the wall.

(2) **Backstroke to breaststroke** — The swimmer must touch the wall while on the back. Once a legal touch has been made, the swimmer may turn in any manner but the shoulders must be at or past the vertical toward the breast when the swimmer leaves the wall and the prescribed breaststroke form must be attained prior to the first arm stroke.

(3) **Breaststroke to freestyle** — The swimmer must touch as described in 101.2.4. Once a legal touch has been made, the swimmer may turn in any manner.

.4 Finish — The swimmer shall have finished the race when any part of his/her person touches the wall after the prescribed distance.

Individual Medley Infractions

- Strokes not swum in proper order
- Violation of stroke and turn rules for each stroke
- The last $\frac{1}{4}$ of the race must be swum as something other than butterfly, backstroke, or breaststroke

Individual Medley Infractions Cont'd

- Violation of finish rules at the transition between strokes
 - Butterfly to backstroke flip turn is illegal only if you see the hands **not** touch (not the same as not seeing them touch)
 - *Backstroke to breaststroke cross-over turn is illegal only if their lead hand does not contact the wall before their shoulders go past vertical towards the breast as they make the turn*

Relay Rules

101.7 RELAYS

- .1 **Freestyle Relay** — Four swimmers on each team, each to swim one-fourth of the prescribed distance using any desired stroke(s). Freestyle finish rules apply.

- .2 **Medley Relay** — Four swimmers on each team, each to swim one-fourth of the prescribed distance in the following order: first, backstroke; second, breaststroke; third, butterfly; and fourth, freestyle. Rules pertaining to each stroke used shall govern where applicable. At the end of each leg, the finish rule for each stroke applies in each case.

Relay Rules Cont'd

.3 Rules Pertaining to Relay Races

- A. No swimmer shall swim more than one leg in any relay event.
- B. When automatic relay take-off judging is used, each swimmer must touch the touchpad in his/her lane at the end of the course to have finished his/her leg of the relay race.
- C. In relay races a swimmer other than the first swimmer shall not start until his/her teammate has concluded his/her leg.
- D. Any relay team member and his/her relay team shall be disqualified from a race if a team member other than the swimmer designated to swim that leg enters the pool in the area where the race is being conducted before all swimmers of all teams have finished the race. Exception: When an in-the-water start is required or such start is approved by the Referee.
- E. Each relay team member shall leave the water immediately upon finishing his/her leg, except the last member.
- F. In relay races the team of a swimmer whose feet have lost touch with the starting platform (ground or deck) before his/her preceding teammate touches the wall shall be disqualified.
- G. In relay races involving in-the-water starts, the team of a swimmer who has lost touch with the end of the course before his/her preceding teammate touches the wall shall be disqualified, unless the swimmer in default returns to the original starting point at the wall.

Freestyle Relay Infractions

- Violation of freestyle stroke and turn rules
- *Early take-off*

Medley Relay Infractions

- Strokes not swum in proper order
- Violation of stroke and turn rules for each stroke
- The last $\frac{1}{4}$ of the race must be swum as something other than butterfly, backstroke, or breaststroke
- *Early take-off*

Individual Medley and Medley Relay Rules Interpretation

- The Rules and Regulations Committee adopted the following FINA Technical Committee interpretation regarding the freestyle leg of these events:
 - *When a swimmer has traveled a sufficient distance that the official can with certainty judge the competitor is swimming in the style of butterfly, breaststroke or backstroke, then a DQ is appropriate.*

All Strokes

- The Rules and Regulations Committee adopted the following parameters regarding touching the bottom during a turn:
 - *Once a legal touch has been made, the swimmer may turn in any manner desired. Therefore, standing on the bottom after a legal touch has been made and prior to pushing off the wall should be considered part of the turn and no DQ should be called.*

Additional Rules

- A swimmer must start and finish in the same lane.
- Standing on the bottom during a freestyle race shall not disqualify a swimmer, but a swimmer must not leave the pool, or walk, or spring from the bottom. Standing on the bottom during any other stroke shall result in disqualification.
- Obstructing another swimmer by swimming across or otherwise interfering shall disqualify the offender, subject to the discretion of the Referee.

Additional Rules Cont'd

- Any swimmer not entered in a race who enters the pool during ongoing competition shall be barred from their next individual event (excludes dipping goggles/splashing).
- Grasping lane dividers to assist forward motion is not permitted.

Referee

- Has full authority over all officials and shall assign and instruct them
- Shall enforce all applicable rules and shall decide all questions relating to the conduct of the meet
- Can overrule any meet official on a point of rule interpretation, or on a judgment decision pertaining to an action which the Referee has personally observed
- Shall give a decision on any point where the opinions of the judges differ; shall have authority to intercede in a competition at any stage, to ensure that the racing conditions are observed

Chief Judge

- Primarily used at championship meets
- Use allows Stroke & Turn Judges to stay in place
- Will instruct and place Stroke & Turn Judges as directed by the Referee

Placement and Rotation of Officials

- Determined by Referee
- Dependent upon pool configuration
- Dependent upon the number of officials available
- Generally rotate clockwise after a defined number of events

Jurisdiction of Officials Cont'd

- When combined Stroke & Turn Judges only are used:
 - End wall to mid-pool (mid-pool may only be effectively as far as you can see)
- This is used when there is insufficient staffing or the design of the facility precludes walking sides



6 Lane SC Pool

4 Judges

R S

T
u
r
n

E
n
d

X

1			1
2			2
3			3
4			4
5			5
6			6

X

X

S
t
a
r
t

E
n
d

6 Lane SC Pool

6 Judges

				R	S	
T u r n E a n e	X	1			1	
		2			2	X
	X	3			3	
		4			4	X
	X	5			5	
		6			6	X

8 Lane SC Pool

4 Judges

R S

X	U R N	1			1	X	S T A R T
		2			2		
		3			3		
		4			4		
X	E N D	5			5	X	E N D
		6			6		
		7			7		
		8			8		

8 Lane SC Pool

6 Judges

R S

T
u
r
n
E
n
d

	1			1	
X	2			2	X
	3			3	
X	4			4	X
	5			5	
	6			6	
X	7			7	X
	8			8	

S
t
a
r
t
E
n
d

8 Lane SC Pool

8 Judges

		R S		
X	1		1	
	2		2	X
	3		3	
X	4		4	X
	5		5	
X	6		6	X
	7		7	
X	8		8	X

Disqualifications

- Raise a hand overhead on observing a violation of the rules that occurs within your jurisdiction
- Keep your hand up long enough for the Referee/Chief Judge to see it
- If you raise your hand, you don't have to make a call; if you don't raise your hand, you can't make a call

Disqualifications Cont'd

- If you're hesitant in raising your hand, the call was probably too close to make
- The benefit of the doubt goes to the swimmer
- After signaling a DQ, continue to observe all the swimmers in your jurisdiction

Disqualification Reports


- Confirmed name of swimmer
- Event #, Heat #, Event name
- Violation
 - Note: Most, but not all, violations are listed on the DQ slips
- Your printed name
- Referee's signature

Disqualification Reports Cont'd

- Be prepared to answer three questions:
 - What was your jurisdiction?
 - What did you see?
 - Use proper terminology
 - Which rule was violated?
- The Referee ***must*** approve the DQ

How to Fill Out the DQ Slip

DISQUALIFICATION REPORT

 EVENT # _____ HEAT _____ LANE _____
SWIMMER _____

BREASTSTROKE
DURING: START _____ SWIM _____ TURN _____ FINISH _____
10 KICK: ALTERNATING _____ BUTTERFLY _____ SCISSORS _____
11 ARMS: NON-SIMULTANEOUS _____ TWO STROKES UNDER _____
NOT IN SAME HORIZONTAL PLANE _____
12 ELBOWS RECOVERED OVER WATER _____
14 CYCLE: HEAD NOT UP _____ DOUBLE PULLS/KICKS _____
15 TOUCH: ONE HAND _____ NON-SIMULTANEOUS _____
16 NOT TOWARD THE BREAST OFF WALL _____
17 OTHER _____

BUTTERFLY
DURING: START _____ SWIM _____ TURN _____ FINISH _____
20 KICK: ALTERNATING _____ BREAST _____ SCISSORS _____
21 ARMS: NON-SIMULTANEOUS _____ UNDERWATER RECOV. _____
23 TOUCH: ONE HAND _____ NON-SIMULTANEOUS _____
24 NOT TOWARD THE BREAST OFF WALL _____
25 HEAD DID NOT BREAK SURFACE BY 15M _____
26 OTHER _____

BACKSTROKE
DURING: START _____ SWIM _____ TURN _____ FINISH _____
30 TOES OVER LIP OF GUTTER AFTER START _____
31 HEAD DID NOT BREAK SURFACE BY 15M _____
32 NOT ON BACK OFF WALL _____
33 NO TOUCH AT TURN _____
34 PAST VERTICAL AT TURN:
NON-CONTINUOUS TURNING ACTION _____
INDEPENDENT KICKS _____ STROKES _____
35 SHOULDERS PAST VERTICAL _____
36 OTHER _____

INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY
41 STROKES INFRACTION # _____
42 OUT OF SEQUENCE _____

FREESTYLE
50 NO TOUCH TURN # _____
51 HEAD DID NOT BREAK SURFACE BY 15M _____

RELAYS
70 STROKE INFRACTION # _____ SWIMMER # _____
71 EARLY TAKE OFF SWIMMER # _____
72 CHANGED ORDER: SWIMMER _____ STROKE _____

OTHER
60 FALSE START _____
61 DELAY OF MEET _____
62 DID NOT FINISH _____
63 OTHER _____

JUDGE: _____
(print name clearly)

REFEREE: _____
(print name clearly)

NOTIFIED: _____ SWIMMER _____ COACH _____

rev. (05/02)

DESK/REFEREE

How to Fill Out the DQ Slip Cont'd

- The DQ Slip is our primary and official means of articulating disqualifications to the Coach/Swimmer.
- To ensure that the DQ Slip is clear and accurate, and to prevent misunderstanding, confusion, and frustration, we have adopted the following convention / standard for filling it out in a consistent fashion.
- Depending upon the meet protocol being used, you might immediately write the DQ slip, or this action might be delayed until after the call has been accepted by the Chief Judge / Deck Referee. In the latter case, or when you have multiple swimmers with infractions, mark the swim (Event, Heat, and Lane) on your Heat Sheet (or some other paper) and jot down a note describing the infraction. Remember that as long as there are swimmers within your jurisdiction your attention must be focused on the swimmers and not on writing notes or the DQ slip. When ready, the DQ slip should be filled out as follows:

How to Fill Out the DQ Slip Cont'd

1. Enter the Event, Heat, and Lane Number. This critical information identifies the swim in which the infraction occurred. There must be no corrections to this information on the DQ Slip (scratch outs introduce doubt with regards to the identification of the correct swim).
2. Enter the Swimmer's/Relay's Name if you have this information. If not, leave it blank - the Chief Judge, Deck Referee, or Timing Judge will match the Swim with the Swimmer/Relay during processing.
3. Write the Swimmer's Team Abbreviation in the upper right hand corner, above Lane.
4. Circle the Event (Breaststroke, Butterfly, Backstroke, Individual Medley, Freestyle, Relays, Other). Except for "Other", this corresponds to the event being swum (as listed in the Heat Sheet). "Other" is used for non-stroke violations.

How to Fill Out the DQ Slip Cont'd

5. For regular stroke Events, mark with an X, or checkmark, when in the swim the infraction was observed (Start, Swim, Turn, or Finish). This is a very important component in the articulation of the infraction – we need to be able to match the violation with the part of the swim during which it occurred. Generally, we define these parts of the race as:

- Start – From the start of the race until the head breaks the surface.
- Swim – From the head breaking the surface until the beginning of the last full stroke into the turn/finish.
- Turn – From the beginning of the last full stroke into the wall until the head breaks the surface.
- Finish – From the beginning of the last full stroke into the wall to the touch at the end of the prescribed distance.

How to Fill Out the DQ Slip Cont'd

5. For regular stroke Events, mark with an X, or checkmark, when in the swim the infraction was observed (Start, Swim, Turn, or Finish). This is a very important component in the articulation of the infraction – we need to be able to match the violation with the part of the swim during which it occurred. Generally, we define these parts of the race as:

- Start – From the start of the race until the head breaks the surface.
- Swim – From the head breaking the surface until the beginning of the last full stroke into the turn/finish.
- Turn – From the beginning of the last full stroke into the wall until the head breaks the surface.
- Finish – From the beginning of the last full stroke into the wall to the touch at the end of the prescribed distance.

How to Fill Out the DQ Slip Cont'd

6. If the event is longer than two lengths, write the number of the turn/length above your X, or checkmark. Remember, it's the Swimmer's turn, not yours and odd-numbered turns are on the turn end; even-numbered turns are on the start end.

7. Mark the infraction with an X, or checkmark. If the infraction is not listed, write it in next to "Other" for that stroke (e.g., hands past the hips in Breaststroke). Use the correct terminology (from the rulebook). There's no need to circle the number.

8. Print your Last Name next to the Judge. Add First Name, if needed for clarification (when 2 or more Judges with the same Last Name are working in that session). Please make sure your name is legible – the Chief Judge, Deck Referee, and Timing Judge must be able to read it.

9. The Chief Judge, if one is used, should initial next to the Judge's Name.

10. The Deck Referee should print his/her Last Name next to Referee and mark an X, or checkmark, next to Coach.

11. Please refrain from making any other marks or writing any other information to explain your call on the DQ slip. If you make a mistake, tear it up and start over.

How to Fill Out the DQ Slip Cont'd

- Individual Medley – Judge the IM as four separate segments, each its own “race”. Each “race” has all four components (Start, Swim, Turn, and Finish), except in the 100 IM, which has no Turns.
 - Circle the Event (Individual Medley).
 - Mark when in the swim the infraction occurred under the stroke in which it was observed. Remember, transitions are judged as Finishes, then Starts, so they are marked as such, depending on the part of the “race” in which the infraction was observed. Intermediate turns are judged as turns, and marked the same.
 - Mark the infraction(s) under the appropriate stroke(s) (there’s no need to circle it/them), and write the number of the line(s) next to line 41 ‘Strokes Infraction #’ under Individual Medley.
- Relays – Mark Relay stroke infractions just like those for the individual events and write the number of the line(s) next to line 70 ‘Strokes Infraction #’ under Relays and enter the Swimmer number(s) who committed it/them.

How to Fill Out the DQ Slip Cont'd

- Backstroke Turn violations (Past Vertical at the Turn)

Once a Swimmer rotates past vertical towards the breast (if he/she chooses to do so), there are a variety of things he/she might do that would constitute a non-continuous turning action. To properly and consistently articulate the infraction, the following convention should be used for the most common infractions:

- If the Swimmer rotates past vertical, completes the arm pull (or delays taking the arm pull), and does nothing while making up distance to the wall prior to initiating the turn, mark Non-Continuous Turning Action.
- If the Swimmer rotates past vertical, has what would otherwise be a continuous turning action, but misses the wall and sculls back to make the touch, mark Non-Continuous Turning Action.


How to Fill Out the DQ Slip Cont'd

- If the Swimmer rotates past vertical, completes the arm pull (or delays taking the arm pull), and kicks to make up distance to the wall prior to initiating the turn, mark Non-Continuous Turning Action.
- If the Swimmer rotates past vertical, completes the arm pull, and takes one or more additional arm strokes to make up distance to the wall prior to initiating the turn, mark Independent Strokes.
- If the Swimmer commits more than one of these violations, mark each of them in whatever combination the Swimmer commits them. One Hand and Non-Simultaneous Touches – Mark “L only” or “R only” for One Hand Touch violations and “L-R” or “R-L” for Non-Simultaneous Touch violations next to lines 15 or 23.

How to Fill Out the DQ Slip Cont'd

- While our goal is to have all DQ slips filled out in a standard and consistent manner, failure to do so does NOT constitute automatic grounds for not approving or overturning an otherwise valid disqualification. Referees should continue to use their best judgment and common sense when processing a disqualification report.

How to Fill Out the DQ Slip Cont'd

 **DISQUALIFICATION REPORT**

EVENT # 3 HEAT 4 LANE 4
SWIMMER T Hunt MHS

BREASTSTROKE
DURING: START _____ SWIM _____ TURN _____ FINISH _____
10 KICK: ALTERNATING _____ BUTTERFLY _____ SCISSORS _____
11 ARMS: NON-SIMULTANEOUS _____ TWO STROKES UNDER _____
NOT IN SAME HORIZONTAL PLANE _____
12 ELBOWS RECOVERED OVER WATER _____
14 CYCLE: HEAD NOT UP _____ DOUBLE PULLS/KICKS _____
15 TOUCH: ONE HAND _____ NON-SIMULTANEOUS _____
16 NOT TOWARD THE BREAST OFF WALL _____
17 OTHER _____

BUTTERFLY
DURING: START _____ SWIM _____ TURN _____ FINISH _____
20 KICK: ALTERNATING _____ BREAST _____ SCISSORS _____
21 ARMS: NON-SIMULTANEOUS _____ UNDERWATER RECOV. _____
23 TOUCH: ONE HAND _____ NON-SIMULTANEOUS _____
24 NOT TOWARD THE BREAST OFF WALL _____
25 HEAD DID NOT BREAK SURFACE BY 15M _____
26 OTHER _____

BACKSTROKE
DURING: START SWIM _____ TURN _____ FINISH _____
30 TOES OVER LIP OF GUTTER AFTER START _____
31 HEAD DID NOT BREAK SURFACE BY 15M
32 NOT ON BACK OFF WALL _____
33 NO TOUCH AT TURN _____
34 PAST VERTICAL AT TURN: _____
NON-CONTINUOUS TURNING ACTION _____
INDEPENDENT KICKS _____ STROKES _____
35 SHOULDERS PAST VERTICAL _____
36 OTHER _____

INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY
41 STROKES INFRACTION # _____
42 OUT OF SEQUENCE _____

FREESTYLE
50 NO TOUCH TURN # _____
51 HEAD DID NOT BREAK SURFACE BY 15M _____

RELAYS
70 STROKE INFRACTION # _____ SWIMMER # _____
71 EARLY TAKE OFF SWIMMER # _____
72 CHANGED ORDER: SWIMMER _____ STROKE _____

OTHER
60 FALSE START _____
61 DELAY OF MEET _____
62 DID NOT FINISH _____
63 OTHER _____

JUDGE: J. Frye
(print name clearly)
REFEREE: W Hunt
(print name clearly)

NOTIFIED: _____ SWIMMER _____ COACH _____

rev. (05/02) **DESK/REFEREE**

Relay Takeoff Judging

- Dual confirmation is always used
- Referee or Chief Judge will assign positions
- When the toes of the outgoing swimmer leave the blocks, look down to see if the incoming swimmer has touched
- If you observe an early takeoff, mark accordingly the swimmer and lane number, do not raise your hand

Relay Takeoff Judging Cont'd

USA Swimming
Relay Take Off Judge
EVENT# _____ HEAT# _____
(Circle one: SIDE or LANE)
Swimmer Number

Lane 1	2	3	4
Lane 2	2	3	4
Lane 3	2	3	4
Lane 4	2	3	4
Lane 5	2	3	4
Lane 6	2	3	4
Lane 7	2	3	4
Lane 8	2	3	4
Lane 9	2	3	4
Lane 10	2	3	4

Signature

**ALWAYS MARK ALL
RELAY TAKE-OFFS**

X = Early Take-Off

O = Legal Take-Off

Officials Attire

- The VSI Officials Uniform consists of:
- White Collared Shirt (tucked in)
- Navy Blue Pants, Shorts, or Skirt
- White Socks
- White Shoes



Officials Attire Cont'd

- *The following dress code has been developed so that all officials can dress in a neat and consistent manner and thus convey a professional appearance. The attire is worn by wet-deck and dry-deck officials alike.*
- *Attire for non-championship (timed finals) and prelims in championship level meets:*
 - *Shirt:* The shirt worn shall be plain white, with a collar, and long or short sleeve. Female officials may wear sleeveless collared shirts. Logos may appear on the shirt, however, the logo shall be restricted to the front of the shirt, and the sleeve area. The logos may not contain, or represent the following: alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, VSI member team names or logos, or suggestive/offensive messages. A Meet Shirt provided by USA Swimming, or Virginia Swimming is acceptable. The shirt shall be tucked in to the pants, shorts, or skirts, at all times while on deck.

Officials Attire Cont'd

- *Shorts/Pants/Skirts:* These items shall be navy blue in color. Cutoffs of any type are not allowed. The length of the shorts, and skirts, shall be in keeping with the standards of acceptable attire for the sport of swimming. Jeans are not appropriate attire for officials on the deck.
- *Socks:* Socks, if worn, should be plain white. Manufacturer's logos should be subdued.
- *Footwear:* Athletic shoes are preferred. If they are worn, they should be as white as possible, with little or no color and avoiding to the extent possible bold and brightly colored logos and stripes. Sandals are also acceptable; however it is recommended that any sandals worn should have a heel strap to assist in keeping the sandal securely on the foot.

Officials Attire Cont'd

- *Attire for finals sessions in championship level meets:*
 - *Shirt:* Powder blue, short sleeve, oxford dress shirt. Additional provisions indicated above for shirts also apply.
 - *Pants/Skirts:* Navy blue pants (not shorts) or skirts. Jeans are not appropriate attire.
 - *Socks and Footwear:* As described above.
 - *Deviations:* Meet Referees at championship meets may establish meet-specific or session-specific dress codes that deviate from the above if he or she deems appropriate. For example, blue polo shirts might be chosen for all of the finals sessions, or Hawaiian shirts might be chosen for a particular evening.

Certification Requirements

Refer to Current Certification Guidelines for Details

- Certified as a Timer (includes passing the timer test)
- Attend training clinic
- Pass written test
- Must join USA Swimming and display registration card while on deck
- Complete a minimum of five training sessions at meets with predominantly B/C swimming
- Satisfactorily work an additional three sessions (mostly with B/C swimmers) with an assigned trainer and make calls (in white & blue)
- Recommendation of Referees at last sessions
- District Chair has final approval authority and will issue a certification card
- Initial certification is at the LSC level; higher levels of certification are N1, N2, and N3

S&T Judge Re-certification Requirements

- Work a minimum of six sessions per year
- Complete any continuing education requirements

Training Opportunities

- In general, all training sessions must be performed at VSI/USA Swimming sanctioned meets. Approval to train at non-VSI LSC meets requires prior approval of the apprentice's District Officials Chair, or the LSC Officials Chair
- To sign up for training contact your team Official's Chair

Training Opportunities Cont'd

- LSC Championship Meets (Senior Championship, Age Group Championship and similar meets) may only be used to complete Administrative Referee training under supervision of the assigned Administrative Referee.
- District/Regional Championship Meets (District Champs, Regional Champs, Summer Awards) may be used for limited training of apprentices subject to the discretion of the meet referee as follows:
 - Dry deck apprentices must have completed at least four (4) training sessions with positive ratings, including the familiarization sessions at other administrative positions. Final sessions and certification may occur if all requirements are met.

Training Opportunities Cont'd

- Stroke & Turn apprentice training is not allowed except under unusual circumstances which must be approved by the LSC Officials Chair in consultation with the District Chair. Final (“white and blue”) sessions may not be accomplished, nor may final certification.
- Starter apprentices must have completed at least five (5) training sessions with positive ratings. Final sessions and certification may occur if all other requirements are met.
- Referee apprentices must have completed at least four (4) sessions and have the positive recommendation of their District Officials Chair. Referees may complete the administrative referee session.
- Other championship-format meets run by individual host clubs provide additional opportunities for specialized training in the administrative aspects of trials and finals as well as for all other types and forms of training, including initial sessions.

Judging Swimmers with Physical Disabilities

- Judge, in accordance with USA Swimming rules, any part of the body that is used
- Do not judge a part of the body that cannot be used
- Base your judgment on the actual rule, not the swimmer's technique

Talking with the Swimmer

In VSI, we have moved away from talking with the swimmers for DQ notification in all meets except the LSC Championships, but if you are at a meet in which it is done, these are some general guidelines:

- Inform the swimmer of the violation, don't coach
- Don't touch the athlete
- Age-group swimmers
 - Get down to eye level
 - Good, bad, good

Disputes Over Calls By Coaches / Parents

- Parents with questions should contact their Coach, who in turn may contact the Meet Referee.
- Coaches with questions should contact a Referee.

Remember!

- The swimmer always receives the benefit of the doubt.
- Call what you see, not what you don't see.

Thank you!