

AZ LSC RADIO PROTOCOL FOR STROKE & TURN APPRENTICES AND VISITING OFFICIALS

In Arizona Swimming sanctioned meets, unless the Meet Referee dictates otherwise, Stroke & Turn Judges report “calls” directly to Deck Referees via 2-way radios. At meets that use Chief Judges, only Chief Judges use 2-way radios to relay calls. The normal equipment is a pair of rechargeable multi-channel/multi-privacy code GMRS/FRS radios, a charging module and a headset equipped with a microphone and a PTT (Push-To-Talk) button.

A. BEFORE YOU GO TO A MEET (if you have your own 2-way radio equipment):

- 1) Get to know your radios and your headset. Read the instructions and carry a copy with you.
- 2) **Make sure your headset and any applicable attachments are compatible with your radios.**
- 3) Fully charge the batteries in both your radios. (Learn proper maintenance of your equipment, too.)
- 4) Plan to bring **both** the pair of radios **and the charging module** to meets longer than 1 day/session.

B. PRIOR TO THE START OF A MEET SESSION:

- 1) During the stroke briefing the Meet Referee will usually inform all officials if the meet will use radios – and if so, which officials will use them and what channel+privacy code the meet or a pool section will use.
- 2) When putting on the headset, position its microphone at a proper distance from your mouth. (Too short a distance will garble your speech; too long a distance may damper or mute it.)
- 3) If your headset’s mike is separate from its earpiece, secure the mike on your shirt lapel such that you can easily access it and press its PTT button without having to fumble or look away from the field.
- 4) On radios so equipped, **disable the VOX feature** and enable the “roger beep” on each.
- 5) In testing your radio and headset, follow steps C3 (first part only) and C4 below. Make sure you can clearly receive and others can clearly hear your transmits. Resolve any trouble right away.

C. TO CALL IN AN OBSERVED VIOLATION ON A RACE (non-Chief Judge meets):

- 1) Raise hand as required in USA Swimming Rule 102.22.1. (IMPORTANT: Keep hand raised until the Deck Referee recognizes you.)
- 2) Be sure the radio channel is clear with no current exchanges.
- 3) Press and **firmly hold** in the PTT button on your radio or mike (whichever applies) and wait at least **one second** before you start speaking. Say: **“This is (your name) on the (pool side / pool end of your present post), (range of lane numbers in your present jurisdiction).”**
- 4) Wait one second after you finish speaking, and then release the PTT button.
- 5) Wait for the Deck Referee to acknowledge you (via a reply instructing you either to proceed or to stand by)—after which you can lower your raised hand.
- 6) When directed to speak, again press your PTT button, wait one second, and say: **“Lane (lane number of swimmer committing violation), (violation in rule book terminology).”** Follow with describing violation.

D. ADDITIONAL POINTS:

- 1) If serving as a Chief Judge, follow the USA Swimming Radio Protocol and Chief Judge Protocol.
- 2) **Avoid unnecessary chats, long discussions, extensive descriptions or “walking on” other transmits or current exchanges.** (Golden 2-Way Radio Rule: “Talk less; listen more.”)
- 3) When speaking into your mike, use as much of an “indoor voice” as possible.
- 4) Periodically check your radio and headset throughout a session to be sure both are working properly and that your headset’s earpiece assembly and mike are still in place. Also, be ready to replace any part of your equipment if it proves unreliable or you find that your transmits/receipts are spotty or unclear.
- 5) If working two or more sessions in one day, consider changing to the other radio in your pair for the later/last session.
- 6) The Meet Referee **may** prescribe different script templates and protocols for S&T Judges to use when reporting calls. **Be ready to adjust and follow accordingly.**