

The AZ Official Times

A NEWSLETTER FOR ARIZONA SWIM OFFICIALS



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News Flash!!!



Current Events: No Swimming until end of April

From the Officials Chair

Who thought this is where we would be. I hope all of you are taking care of yourself and your families - washing your hands and use social distancing.

From USA Swimming we have cancelled all meets till the end of April and the Olympic Trials. As an LSC, our General Chair has (1) We are currently exploring options for the HOD Meeting but for now it is postponed. Meets are cancelled until the end of April, (2) Heather and Carla are working remotely most of the time. The preferable method of communication is through email to office@azswimming.org --- Carla or registration@azswimming.org --- Heather. The phones are being forward at this time to Heather's cell phone. (3) Athletes, please **email** and copy another adult. (4) AZSI will continue to be in a position to get things moving quickly just as soon as the go ahead is received.

Check: <https://www.usaswimming.org/utility/landing-pages/coronavirus> for updated information from USA Swimming.

Now a good time to take those test for certification this year. We are planning for the remainder of the year, selecting LSC Meet Referees, planning for an Officials Picnic in August, and selecting team leads for officials.

I don't have much more to add - Inventory your white shirts, Practice raising your hand, say Take Your Mark, take care of your families and yourself and we will see ya soon.

Tom Oliver

AZ Swimming Officials Chair

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Meet Juries

With respect to the selection of juries, the Meet Referee will appoint the members of the juries. In performing this duty, I have sought out members who have been on the meet deck and who have the respect of their peers. The weight of the potential decision could be quite heavy, especially if you are deciding where a potential Olympian Trialist can compete.

Eligibility Protest:

1. Composition: As a minimum, three persons in attendance at the meet, consisting of a swimmer, a coach and an official. I normally try to select a person who is going to be at the meet the whole time.
2. When: Prior to the start of the meet, because they may need to consider protests pertaining to the eligibility of any swimmer to compete or to represent an organization.
3. Process.
 - a. Form and Fee. All protests made prior to or during the meet shall be submitted in writing to the Eligibility Jury.
 - b. Hearing. Protests shall be heard by the jury and, if possible, decisions rendered before the start of events on the day in which the protested swimmer competes, but not later than the last night of the meet. Both the party lodging the protest and the party or parties charged shall be given the opportunity. To be heard. Whether they decide to avail themselves of this opportunity is up to them.
 - c. Right to Compete if No immediate decision. Until the Eligibility Jury renders a decision, the swimmer may compete under protest. An announcement to this effect shall be made prior to the

race. The results of any race conducted under protest shall not be announced, nor prizes awarded, nor points scored until the jury has determined if and how their decision may affect the final scoring or awards. So you are at a meet using these rules and a protest is lodged against a swimmer. No immediate decision is reached and the swimmer competes in preliminaries and qualifies for finals. What do you do?

Nothing. Until the Protest is decided, the swimmer is able to compete. It does show the importance of having the jury promptly hear the matter and make a decision. Also, how do you announce that the race is under protest. Is it made before that event or the heat in the event. Is it made by the announcer over the sound system or the starter before the start of the first heat. What is meant by the word race, heat or event? The glossary may provide some insight. It defines Event as follows: "EVENT – any race or series of races in a given stroke and/or distance. For competitive limits, one event is inclusive of preliminary heat(s) plus its related final(s), or one timed final, or one time trial." The Rule is quite on this issue as to the type of announcement. So race seems to mean heat. Thus, I don't see any reason to shout it from the roof tops and would likely have the starter make a simple announcement while the heat in the water is finishing without identifying the swimmer who is swimming under protest.

d. Appeal. The decision of the jury may be appealed by either party to the Board of Review. Protests submitted after the last day of the meet shall be submitted directly to the Board of Review and not to the jury. The key to any eligibility protest is promptness. It also means you want to select members who will be at the meet the entire time and who have the maturity and experience to make a potentially difficult decision.

Technical Protests.

The technical jury cannot adjudicate judgment decisions by deck officials, which can only be considered by the Referee under 102.11.

1. Composition. The Meet referee shall appoint a Technical Jury, which is to be composed of at least one swimmer, at least one coach, and at least one, but not more than three other persons. So unlike the Eligibility jury, the technical jury can have 3-5 members and at least one is a swimmer and another is a coach. Officials are not mentioned, but they also are not excluded. It also does not say the other members even need to be a coach, swimmer or official or a USA Member for that matter. I guess it could be a mom or dad in the stands, but the time honored practice suggests that this jury is normally made up of three persons: a swimmer, a coach and an official.

2. When: Again, similar to the Eligibility Jury, this jury is to be appointed prior to the start of the meet.

3. Process: The protest must be in writing (even a napkin will do) and must involve a technical rule, except disqualifications due to judgment decisions by the deck officials. The protest must be given the Meet Referee within thirty (30) minutes of the protested act or occurrence.

4. Decision. The Meet Referee makes the initial decision.

5. Appeals. These protests may be appealed to the Technical Jury, whose decision must be made the day of the protest and shall be final. There is no appeal above the technical jury.

Some of the things that may fall under this section could include protest related to the facilities, the race course, results (judgment decisions regarding times or timing equipment is not covered by 102.23.1), score, points awarded, interpretation of the rules, etc.

How does a jury perform its duties? The Meet Referee should facilitate the process.

1. Find a quiet spot, preferably off the deck
2. Allow the protester to present their case.
3. If there's an opposing view, allow them to present their side.

4. If they need interpretation of the rules, ask the meet or deck referee for assistance.
5. Deliberate
6. Let all concerned know the Jury's decision and the effect it has on the situation.
7. Ask the Jury not to discuss their deliberations publicly.

Hopefully, you will never have a protest while on the deck but if you do, then you now have a head start on what to do.

Concussion Protocol Training (CPT)

The results of CPT will appear on cards and in OTS Jan 15. Reminder that the CPT will be updated to "met" or "not met". Once you take the CPT you must submit the certificate of completion to the registrar (Heather) for it to be added to the official's card and member record. It is not an annual requirement by USA Swimming or Arizona. Follow the states requirements where you will be officiating.

2020 Officials Workshops

1. We ARRE Mentors, Dallas, April 3-5. N3 evaluators (CJ and above) - This meeting has been cancelled a short version will conducted by ZOOM 4 April and the full meeting will be this fall.
2. Zone Workshops, Chicago, May 1-3. Geared toward newer N2 mentors/evaluators -
3. Open water officials workshop - April 22-26 - Ft Myers Beach/**Cancelled**
4. Referee Workshop - Oct 16-18, location TBD

National Meet Officiating Applications

1. Futures
2. Speedo Summer Champ (Aug 4-8 in Indy)

LSC OFFICIALS PICNIC

WE ARE PLANNING A PICNIC FOR ALL OFFICIALS and SIGINFICANT OTHERS. We hope to take some time in mid-August to get together with our significant others to celebrate being an Official without a meet.

Phoenix Swim Club has offered us their pool on the 15 August to get together, eat a little bit, drink a little bit, and have some fun. Mark your calendar and let's see how the year play out.

You Make the Call

→ During the swim portion of a breaststroke heat, the S&T official with jurisdiction signals a DQ. When queried, the S&T indicates that the elbows of the swimmer did not remain submerged during the backwards pull. Should the swimmer be disqualified?

→ At the 175 yard turn of the 200 yard butterfly, a swimmer, realizing how tired he is, legally touches the wall with two hands, stops, stands on the bottom, and pushes off the wall on the breast a few seconds later. Should he be disqualified?

(Please see Answers on page 7)



LSC Curmudgeon

At the risk of solidifying my role as the LSC curmudgeon, there are a number of things creeping into briefings and our deck procedures that concern me. I've been hearing these things at various meets in recent months. I realize that most will consider these things as inconsequential and trivial. But if CJs are concerned with which tiles the S&Ts' toes are touching, we should be equally concerned with what the CJs are saying during briefings, especially at our championship meets.

The first is the instruction to S&Ts that, in the event of a DQ their hands should be raised for "3-5 seconds." Where did this come from? The only thing I can find in the rulebook or in USA Swimming's training materials is from "The Professional Stroke and Turn Official" document: "Raise hand promptly to signal a possible disqualification if an infraction is observed (unless utilizing FINA protocols). Keep the hand raised until it is acknowledged by a Chief Judge or Referee." Sometimes that's less than 3 seconds, sometimes more than 5 seconds. It's not a matter of time, it's a matter of accuracy and efficiency.

Another thing that keeps popping-up is the instruction "If you're not sure (about a DQ) and you have a question, raise your hand and have a conversation with the CJ." If you're not sure of the rules, should you be officiating at this (or any) meet? And if there's a doubt about

what you've seen, don't we all know where the benefit goes? It seems to me this notion trivializes the disqualification procedure. Article 102.22.1 says that the judge, "... upon observing an infraction, shall immediately raise one hand overhead." This makes it clear to coaches and officials that a raised hand is the signal that a possible rules violation has occurred—not a sign that the judge wants to have a conference. Certainly a judge can rescind a call. Certainly a judge can describe an infraction and the CJ can help clarify precisely what rule (if any) was violated. But the raised hand should not be used to request a consultation.

I have also heard that, during the Freestyle in medley swimming, the swimmer must be on the breast before making "a propulsive action." No, the rulebook clearly states that "the swimmer must return to the breast before any kick or stroke." The word "propulsion" is not mentioned. As it's been said many times, when the swimmer pushes off the wall, he/she gets propulsion—which is perfectly legal while on the back.

One thing I wish would be clarified with our CJs is that everything we do on deck is done for the benefit of the athletes and for the efficient operation of the meet. Then maybe we wouldn't hear things like, "Be on deck by X so we can radio the referee," or "The first thing we'll ask you is 'Which lane' because we're using radio protocol." We are in position early out of respect for the athletes and so the session can start on time. We ask "Which lane?" to help ensure that we have identified the correct swimmer. It has nothing to do with the radios.

One last thing I've heard at several meets (including Senior Champs) occurs during backstroke. When there is movement or confusion after "Take your mark," I've heard the starter say, "Relax." The rulebook clearly specifies that the appropriate command is "Stand," just as it is for a forward start. The "Professional Starter" document says, "If it is necessary to stand the field after the TYM instruction, for both forward and back starts, say, 'Stand please.'" It goes on to say, "Use of the 'Relax please Ladies/Gentlemen' instruction means it will be a prolonged period before the starting sequence will begin. The 'Relax' instruction should not be used in place of a 'Stand Please' instruction for backstroke starts."

Yes, we all misspeak and make mistakes while delivering the briefing. But these things are occurring too often in my experience, so I don't think they're random errors. More likely, someone thought these were good ideas and added them to the briefing, then others copied them. Or maybe they're being taught in our clinics. Shouldn't we do things "by the book" and stick with meet procedures and best practices, especially at a meet where our officials are being mentored by national evaluators? I know these are small things that likely don't affect the competition one way or the other. But it's the small things that make the difference between Good Enough and Great. Hopefully you agree.


You make the Call (answer)

Breaststroke call - No. The interpretation of Article 101.2 dated August 2015, declares that in June, 1995, the USA-S Rules & Regulations Committee clarified that in conformance with FINA's intent, the requirement for the elbows to remain under water on the breaststroke applies only to the recovery (forward) portion of the arm stroke, not to the backwards pull.

Butterfly call -No. The rule states, "Once a touch has been made, the swimmer may turn in any manner desired. The shoulders must be at or past vertical toward the breast when the swimmer leaves the wall." Nothing that the swimmer did violated the rule.

Officials Quick Links

LINKS TO POPULAR OFFICIAL'S PAGES

 Official's National Links		Official's LSC Links	
National	Link	LSC	Link
How to Become an Official	https://www.usaswimming.org/articles-landing-page/2017/02/12/how-to-become-an-official	Non-Athlete Renewals	https://www.azswimming.org/non-athlete-renewals-login/
Officials Tracking System (OTS)	https://www.usaswimming.org/utility/landing-pages/officials/officials-tracking	Calendar of Events	https://www.azswimming.org/events/
Officials Online Testing	https://www.usaswimming.org/utility/landing-pages/officials/officials-online-testing	AZ Officials Clinics	https://www.azswimming.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Officials-Clinic-Schedule-as-of-6.14.2018.2018.pdf
National Championship Meet Officiating Applications	https://www.usaswimming.org/utility/landing-pages/officials/national-meet-officiating-applications	Meet Management Forms	https://www.azswimming.org/document-library/#ffs-tabbed-11
National Certification and Evaluation	https://www.usaswimming.org/utility/landing-pages/officials/national-certification-and-evaluation	Officials Training Log	https://www.azswimming.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Officials-Training-Log-Rev-3-12-2018-1.pdf
Officials Training Videos	https://www.usaswimming.org/officials/officials-training-videos	AZ Swimming Radio Protocols	https://www.azswimming.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/AZ-Swimming-Radio-Protocols-Final-06042017-2.pdf

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