



Virginia Beach Swim League
Chesapeake-Norfolk-Virginia Beach

Philosophy of a Referee

The Referee shall have full authority over all officials and shall assign and instruct them; shall enforce all applicable rules and shall decide the all questions relating to the actual conduct of the meet, the final settlement of which is not otherwise assigned by the said rules”

*“Rank does not confer privilege or give power. It imposes responsibility”
– Peter Drucker*

A swim meet reflects the professionalism of the referee, his/her knowledge, experience, preparation, leadership, his/her willingness to accept responsibility and their ability to make everyone work as a team.



Virginia Beach Swim League
Chesapeake-Norfolk-Virginia Beach

Philosophy of a Referee

- Attitude – Where do you stand?
 - Disposition and temperament – *Calm or fly off the handle easily?*
 - Perspective – *Do you look at issue fairly? Do you keep all swimmers in mind- not just the current issue at hand?*
 - Demeanor – *Are your respectful interfacing with coaches and other officials?*
 - Approach- *Is your intent to always put the swimmers first? Or does your ego get in the way?*
- *The Referee – The person whose attitude has the most to do with how a swim meet runs. Ensures the rules are applied equitably and fairly while setting the standard for officiating.*



Referee Training

- Prepping for start of the meet: Introductions to the main players:
 - Head Coaches – Questions should be directed to you
 - » Explain protest rules, expected weather and any other oddities of the pool. Don't forget to wish them good luck!
 - Team reps – Warm ups, No changes to meet unless scratches or adds
 - » COC set up for 25M/YD events
 - » Agreement with starts
 - Announcer – Brief on what to say and when to speak
 - » Go over whistle commands,
 - » Event announced or Starter?
 - » Warm up times
 - » Announcement of timer & S&T briefing
 - » National anthem
 - Chief timer – Are they conducting the timers brief?
 - » Do timers go to turn end for 25's?
 - Dry deck- discuss how to arrive at an official time
 - » Type of timing system in use?
 - » Adjusting for that timing system.
 - » Questions come to you.



Referee Training

- Day of the meet (continued)
 - Starter
 - » Review whistle commands
 - » Keep you out of trouble and keep the meet flowing
- Other odds and ends
 - ✓ S&T area(s) have enough room
 - ✓ Depth of water at starts
 - ✓ Back stroke flags in the right place & lane lines tight
 - ✓ Final heat sheets for DR, Starter, COC & S&T
 - ✓ Water for timers and officials
 - ✓ Food for officials
 - ✓ Runners
 - ✓ Any safety issues, lifeguard(s) on duty
- Best advice – Be proactive not reactive



Virginia Beach Swim League

Chesapeake-Norfolk-Virginia Beach

Referee & The Rules

- Volunteer briefing
 - Introduction of Ref, Starter, chief timer
 - Meet overview to timers, S&T, timeline, ½ time and most of all Thank them
 - Dismiss chief timer and team for brief
 - Conduct a stroke briefing
 - ❖ For 2nd-5th meet any questions or have they seen anything in previous meets they would like to discuss
 - ❖ Review how to fill out a slip and your expectations
 - ❖ **Benefit of the doubt goes to the swimmer**
 - ❖ Let them know you might come over to have them explain a call.
 - ❖ Full authority (Can overrule any decision)
 - ❖ S&T not sure, raise your hand.
 - ❖ Discuss deck assignments & jurisdictions to include relay starts, rotations, second half coverage, etc.
 - ❖ Other questions?
- Verify Ref, Starter, S&T all have final heat sheets



Virginia Beach Swim League

Chesapeake-Norfolk-Virginia Beach

Referee Duties

- Prior to start of meet and during;
 - Verify all timers, S&T are in position
 - Verify all swimmers (each event, heat) in place
 - Ref and starter determine “pace” of meet
 - Missing swimmer, hail and ask head coach
 - ❖ Delay cannot be longer than one minute
 - Learn to observe S&T- not the swimmers
 - Verify DQ slips, ask questions
 - All “inquiries” come to you
 - “Technically” cannot delay meet more than one minute
- Some “interesting” rules
 - Cannot swim 50 if swam 25
 - Cannot swim same stroke (in two age groups) except when combined in a relay and individual event
 - Two relays, three individual events
 - One suit (use “reason”)
 - Can only combine “Female/Male like events” No longer required to keep an open lane between swimmers
 - Cannot initiate a backstroke turn prior to the backstroke flags
- After the meet
 - Go around the deck and thank all of those who helped you, it goes along way!



Virginia Beach Swim League

Chesapeake-Norfolk-Virginia Beach

Starter

- Owns start once Ref blows whistle and holds arm out
- Charged with fair and equitable start for all swimmers
- Verifies all swimmers present
- (Optional – can also be charged to the announcer)- Announces event, heat
- Patience, Patience, Patience
 - The swimmers will tell you when they are ready to swim
 - Can use additional commands such as “Swimmers step up/step in the water:
 - Take your mark
 - Stand command
- Can initiate a false start
 - Dual confirmation
 - Imagine a pane of glass resting on the heads of the swimmers
 - Relax swimmers or recall, discuss what he/she saw with DR
- Mark empty lanes each heat
 - Sweeps if possible
- Backstroke starts
 - Place your feet
 - Stand