

AROUND THE DECK

POTOMAC VALLEY SWIMMING OFFICIALS

2015

MARCH

NEWSLETTER



FROM THE CHAIRMAN



DISQUALIFICATION REPORT



EVENT # _____ HEAT _____ LANE _____
SWIMMER _____ TEAM _____

BUTTERFLY START _____ SWIM _____ TURN _____ FINISH _____
KICK: ALTERNATING (1A) _____ BREAST (1B) _____ SCISSORS (1C) _____
ARMS: NON-SIMULTANEOUS (1E) _____ UNDERWATER RECOVERY (1F) _____
TOUCH: ONE HAND (1J) _____ NOT SEPARATED (1K) _____
NON-SIMULTANEOUS (1L) _____ NO TOUCH (1M) _____
NOT TOWARD THE BREAST OFF WALL (1N) _____
HEAD DID NOT BREAK SURFACE BY 15m (1P) _____ RE-SUBMERGED (1R) _____
OTHER (1T): _____

BACKSTROKE START _____ SWIM _____ TURN _____ FINISH _____
NO TOUCH AT TURN (2A) # _____
PAST VERTICAL AT TURN: _____
DELAY INITIATING ARM PULL (2B) _____ DELAY INITIATING TURN (2C) _____
MULTIPLE STROKES (2d) _____
TOES OVER LIP OF GUTTER AFTER THE START (2e) _____
HEAD DID NOT BREAK SURFACE BY 15m (2f) _____ RE-SUBMERGED (2g) _____
NOT ON BACK OFF WALL (2h) _____
SHOULDERS PAST VERTICAL TOWARDS THE BREAST (2L) _____
OTHER (2T): _____

BREASTSTROKE START _____ SWIM _____ TURN _____ FINISH _____
KICK: ALTERNATING (3A) _____ BUTTERFLY (3B) _____ SCISSORS (3C) _____
ARMS: PAST HIGHLINE (3D) _____ NON-SIMULTANEOUS (3E) _____
TWO STROKES UNDER (3F) _____ NOT IN SAME HORIZONTAL PLANE (3G) _____
ELBOWS RECOVERED OVER WATER (3H) _____
TOUCH: ONE HAND (3J) _____ NOT SEPARATED (3K) _____
NON-SIMULTANEOUS (3L) _____ NO TOUCH (3M) _____
NOT TOWARD THE BREAST OFF WALL (3N) _____
CYCLE: KICK BEFORE PULL (3P) _____ HEAD NOT UP (3R) _____
DOUBLE PULLS/KICKS (3S) _____
OTHER (3T): _____

FREESTYLE
NO TOUCH AT TURN (4A) # _____
HEAD DID NOT BREAK SURFACE BY 15m (4B) _____ RE-SUBMERGED (4C) _____

INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY
STROKE INFRACTION(S) (5A) # _____
OUT OF SEQUENCE (5B) _____

RELAYS
STROKE INFRACTION: (6A-D) # _____ SWIMMER # _____
EARLY TAKE OFF SWIMMER (6F-H) # _____
CHANGED ORDER (6L): SWIMMER _____ STROKE _____
OTHER (6T): _____

MISCELLANEOUS
FALSE START (7A) _____ DECLARED FALSE START (7B) _____
DID NOT FINISH (7C) _____ DELAY OF MEET (7D) _____
OTHER (7T): _____

JUDGE: _____
(print name clearly)

REFEREE: _____
(print name clearly)

NOTIFIED: _____ SWIMMER _____ COACH _____

rev. (5/14)

New Disqualification Slips

You may have seen one of the new USA Swimming DQ slips at a recent meet. They were introduced late last year. In addition to being brought up to the latest version of the rules, they also sport a new look. Two differences you will notice are the order the strokes are listed on the slip and the numbers (DQ codes) next to each violation.

The strokes are now listed in Individual Medley order. Since there are still some of the older slips around, please be very careful in writing the slip. If you are "signing" a slip written by a chief judge, please verify that it is correct before printing your name on it. The deck referee and then the administrative referee will also verify that what was called over the radio is what is marked on the slip.

For the administrative officials, the numbers on the DQ slips now correspond to the DQ codes in Hy-Tek Meet Manager 5. Make sure that the MM is set up to use the Dec 2014 DQ codes.

End of Season Officials Party

The PVS Officials Committee is putting together an end of season social for our officials. A date has not yet been set, but it will probably be sometime in April. Details, when they are available, will be sent out to the mailing list and posted on the website.

Come mingle with your fellow officials and their guests. Find out what your friends look like when they are not wearing white polos and navy pants.

Championship Season

I hope to see you at one of the championship meets in March. For those working four or more sessions, we have a great new shirt this year.

Tim Husson
OfficialsChair@pvs swim.org

LEAD LAG STROKE METHODOLOGY

By Joel Black



At swim meets conducted in a fifty meter venue we may hear the remark, “The stroke judges are using “Lead/Lag” coverage.” What is this, and how does it work? “Lead/Lag” is a method of coordinating the actions of two stroke judges on the same side of a fifty meter pool, in an effort to obtain consistent observation of all competitors in their jurisdiction during a race. Typically, prior to a race which involves the 15-meter mark, one judge is positioned on the lane 1 side of the pool at the 15-meter mark. Let’s call him or her judge “A”. A second judge is positioned on the same side of the pool between the 15-meter mark and the start end of the pool. Let’s call him or her judge “B”. There are also two stroke judges in the same positions on the lane 8 side of the pool.

Once the race has started and the swimmers are in the water, judge “B” observes the initial elements of the swim for conformity with the rules and within the jurisdiction instructed by the referee. As the swimmers pass, judge “B” turns and follows walking slightly behind the field toward the 15-meter mark. As the swimmers approach the 15-meter mark judge “B” begins to slow his/her walk. Judge “A” is in position to observe that all swimmers have conformed to the rules of the swim concerning the mark and as they pass, turns and follows them down the course toward the turn end walking ahead (Lead) of judge “B”(Lag). As the swimmers and judges approach the turn end of the pool, judge “B” stops at the turn end 15-meter mark, while judge “A” continues the observation into the turn.

Judge “A” observes all swimmers through the turn and the initial action of the second length toward the 15-meter mark. As the swimmers pass the 15-meter mark of the turn end, judge “B” falls in slightly behind the swimmers and assumes the “Lead” ahead of judge “A” who now becomes “Lag.” This type of coordinated action continues until the race is over. At the end of the race the “Lag” judge has followed the trailing swimmers up to the position of the “Lead” judge and the race finishes.

Frequently in the 200 meter races and the 400 meter Individual Medley, the swimmers will separate to a considerable extent. This separation is also noted with younger and inexperienced swimmers in the 50 and 100 meter distances. When swimmer separation occurs, the stroke judges will also separate from each other in order to maintain consistently balanced observation of the field. When this occurs we must remember to continue scanning all lanes, even the empty ones, so that we do not narrow our focus upon only one or two swimmers. Slight modifications are also made for breaststroke events when the 15-meter mark is not a consideration (both judges continue down the pool to observe the turns), and freestyle events when judges do not walk along the side of the pool.

With experience, “Lead/Lag” becomes a comfortable method of officiating for two officials. The real “fun” begins when a television camera and dolly on a track with a three or four person crew shares one of the sides of the pool!! Coordination of movements between all parties is imperative. However, this discussion must be saved for another time.

EDITOR’S COMMENTS: While this is a good overall article about using lead/lag, it does give the impression that we only walk stroke in long course. This is not the case. In Potomac Valley Swimming we encourage the use of lead/lag during short and long course. If you are not walking the sides using lead/lag you will certainly still cover stroke. It should be noted that using lead/lag has been the standard practice at national meets for a very long time.

YOU MAKE THE CALL



Situation: During the 1000-yard freestyle the turn judge, having been given the jurisdiction to sound the warning signal, rings the bell over the leader in Lane #4 at 900 yards. The leader and the swimmer in second place, Lane #5, continue beyond 950 yards and complete the race. The coach of the swimmer in Lane #4 files a written protest stating that his swimmer visibly increased his pace to a sprint at the sound of the warning bell. Realizing that he was not done and having nothing left, he was only able to finish third instead of second, causing his team to lose the meet team championship.

Question: What decision should be made with regard to the protest?



The Stroke Judge

Stroke judges walk on the sides of the pool and observe the swimmers. Depending on staffing, you may see one judge or two judges on each side of the pool. With one stroke judge on each side, he/she typically starts close to the 15-meter mark during backstroke, butterfly and freestyle to observe where the swimmer surfaces. Since breaststroke has no 15m rule, the judge starts just past the backstroke flags. As always, specific procedures may be altered by the Meet Referee. The strokes are best judged by walking abreast of or slightly behind the swimmers. If the field starts to spread out, the judge should try to maintain a position where he/she can equitably observe all swimmers in the jurisdiction. Great care must be taken to ensure that the inside lanes are observed and judged equally to the outside lanes which are closer and usually easier to see.

Lead/lag judging uses four stroke judges, two judges walking on each side of the pool. When there are sufficient judges, this method provides more consistent observation of all swimmers. In a typical wall-to-wall jurisdiction, the lead judge normally starts at the 15m mark while the lag judge is positioned between the 15m mark and the start end. As the heat begins, the lag judge watches the initial strokes and kicks while the lead judge observes that the swimmers conform to the 15m rule (except in breaststroke). Once the swimmers have all passed the 15m mark, both judges follow them down the course, observing strokes and kicks. As the swimmers separate, the two judges likewise separate to maintain balanced observation, typically with lead judge focusing primarily on the lead swimmers in the jurisdiction while the lag judge observes the lag swimmers—typically two and two (assuming an eight-lane pool), but depending on how the swimmers separate it could be three and one. As the swimmers approach the turn end of the pool, the lag judge stops at the turn end's 15m mark while the lead judge continues the observation into the turn and the initial actions of the second leg of the race. As the swimmers head back toward the start end, the lag judge becomes lead and the lead judge becomes lag. This coordination continues until the race finishes. In any heat where there are just one or two swimmers in the jurisdiction, only one official will walk on that side and judge the heat.

Safety is always a priority when walking stroke. Typically there are swimmers and coaches along the side of the pool, and we necessarily share the space with them. A polite reminder or two is usually all it takes to clear the path for the stroke judge, and the Chief Judge can assist with this. Be aware of obstructions, slippery areas, and other peculiarities.

The configuration of many PVS short course pools precludes the use of stroke judges. But for long course and for those short course pools that can accommodate it, the use of stroke judges helps to ensure fair and equitable judging of our athletes.



WHAT IS A FALSE START?

By USA Swimming



The rules state... *“When all swimmers are stationary, the starter shall give the starting signal” (101.1.2.c) and “Any swimmer starting before the starting signal is given shall be disqualified if the Referee independently observes and confirms the Starter’s observation” (101.1.3A).*

So what constitutes a false start? These scenarios should help you paint the picture.

FALSE START SCENARIO #1

Swimmer leaves the set or stationary position prior to the starting signal. The starting signal is then given. The race proceeds and, assuming the Starter observed the early start and the Deck Referee independently observes and confirms the Starter’s observation, the offending swimmer is disqualified at the conclusion of the race. Rule 101.1.3B applies. This is a false start.

FALSE START SCENARIO #2

Swimmer leaves the set or stationary position prior to the starting signal. The swimmer upon realizing the early starting motion attempts to catch himself/herself. Starter says absolutely nothing, and the swimmer fails to halt the forward motion and goes into the pool. Rule 101.1.3A applies. This is a false start.

FALSE START SCENARIO #3

Exactly the same facts as #2 above, but this time the Starter says “stand please” after the swimmer leaves the set or stationary position. The seven other swimmers stand or step down from the blocks. The offending swimmer struggles, but once again is unable to halt the forward motion and falls into the pool. Unlike scenario #2 above, here the starter said “stand please”, but that does not change the false start result. The rule is clear that the “stand” command is for the benefit of the other swimmers on the starting blocks. When the stand command is issued, the athletes have the option of standing or stepping off the blocks. The offending swimmer did neither. He fell into the pool just like the swimmer in scenario #2. Rule 101.1.3A applies. This is a false start.

FALSE START SCENARIO #4

Exactly the same facts as scenarios #2 and #3 above. However, this time when the command “stand please” is issued, the offending swimmer struggles, but is able to stand or step off the blocks. Rule 101.1.3A applies. This is NOT a false start. Why? Because the swimmer remained on the blocks or deck like everyone else in the heat, and no starting signal ever sounded.

FALSE START SCENARIO #5

Exactly the same facts as scenarios #2 and #3 above. However, when the Starter gives the “stand please” command a swimmer(s) other than the offending swimmer instantly bolts from the blocks and enters the water. Rule 101.1.3D applies. The swimmer(s) clearly started in reaction to the “stand” command. This is NOT a false start.

FALSE START SCENARIO #6

The swimmer, upon hearing the command “take your mark” starts down to take a set or stationary position. The swimmer loses his/her balance before coming set and falls into the pool. Rule 101.1.2C applies. The swimmer should be given the opportunity to come to his/her set or stationary position prior to the start. A loss of balance prevented that, and clearly this swimmer never engaged in any starting action. This is NOT a false start.



Jack's Corner

Food for Thought from Jack Neill



It's All About the Image

These days I've been thinking about the image we project as officials. Certainly to some folks on deck we're simply known as someone's Mom or Dad. But what about the other teams, or the majority of people in the stands, or the timers, or the staff of the pool? All of these folks are observing our behavior and appearance, and forming theories about our competence, character, and commitment. How do they see us? How do we want them to see us?

I would say: we want them to view us as friendly confident professional officials, focused on the athletes, well-versed in the rules, consistent in the application of the rules, and committed to safe, fair, and equitable competition.

Recently I've adopted NFL officials as my role models in projecting the image of a professional official. You may disagree with their calls, but you must admit that NFL officials take their image very seriously. Yes, they make mistakes, but they know the rulebook inside and out (Did you know they take a written rules test every week of the season?). They do an exhaustive review of the rules prior to every game. When the ball is in play, their concentration is total. If there is a call, they are all business and resolve the penalty without showing any emotion. Unlike some baseball umpires, when calls are questioned NFL officials never argue but instead treat the questioners with respect. They wouldn't think of cheering for a team or a player. Their attire is indeed uniform and impeccable from head to foot; you never see one of them with their shirt hanging out. I only wish I was in the same kind of physical condition they're in (and many of them are older than me!).

Our professionalism as swimming officials is critical to the integrity of the sport. Be mindful of the image we project and aim high.

YOU MAKE THE CALL RESOLUTION



Recommended Resolution: The protest should be disallowed. Although a warning signal is required, USA Swimming Rules and Regulations also state that it is the responsibility of the swimmer to complete the prescribed distance.

Applicable Rules: 101.1.4, 102.5.6E

UPCOMING MEET SCHEDULE



MARCH

Date	Meet	Host	Location
5-8	PVS Short Course Championships	NCAP	GMU
5-8	PVS SC Junior Championships	NCAP	GMU
7-8	Mini Championships	NCAP	Claude Moore

12-15	PVS 14&U Junior Olympic Championships	MACH	Univ. of MD
19-22	Speedo Championship Series Eastern Zone Northern Sectional Meet	SYCH	<i>Ithaca, NY</i>
19-22	Speedo Championship Series Eastern Zone Southern Sectional Meet	VA Swimming	<i>Christiansburg, VA</i>
20-22	March Madness	YORK	Oak Marr
21-22	MAKO Spring Invitational	MAKO	GMU
21-22	Mini Championships	RMSC	Olney
27-29	RMSC Spring Finale	RMSC	Germantown
27-29	Spring Championships	MSSC	Fairland
26-28	Eastern Zone SC Championships	<i>Fairport Swimming</i>	<i>Webster, NY</i>
26-29	Speedo Championship Series Eastern Zone Spring LC Meet	<i>Star Swimming</i>	<i>Buffalo, NY</i>

APRIL

Date	Meet	Host	Location
11-12	FISH Spring Fever LC Invitational	FISH	Fairland
15-18	Arena Pro Swim Series (LCM)		<i>Mesa, AZ</i>
18	10&U Spring Penguin Meet	PAC	Fairland
24-26	Machine LC Classic	MACH	Lee District
25-26	Spring Sprints	SDS	South Run
26	Spring Championship Invitational	ERSC	PGCC

BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT GOES TO THE SWIMMER

Call what you see and see what you call

