

SAIL Referee Clinic

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Introduction

As a Referee, your responsibilities are many and varied, but you have the full authority to carry them out. Your principal function is to see that a meet is properly conducted by enforcing the rules and assuring the swimmers of fair competitive, *standardized* conditions. In order to do an intelligent and conscientious job, you have to know and understand USS and SAIL rules. You are the judge, jury and arbitrator of all problems and protests that arise during a swim meet. A thorough knowledge of the rules and a completely impartial attitude will insure that your decisions are right.

There will be situations that arise for which no rule applies, or more than one rule may apply. Under these unusual circumstances, you must rule according to your best judgment.

You should conduct a coaches meeting prior to the start of dual or tri-meets, and let the coaches know who you are and what standards of conduct and fairness will be expected. This is an excellent opportunity to start the meet off in a positive manner. Tell the coaches and/or his SAIL Representatives that they will have the opportunity to question a decision or to offer a contrary viewpoint or an interpretation of rules during the meet, but insist that it be done in a respectful manner only to the Referee. If your decision seems to be in error, swallow your pride and reverse it. Your overriding objective is to be fair and equitable to all swimmers.

Rules Review

These guidelines should be followed as a minimum:

SAIL Clinics on Starter, Stroke & Turn, Timer, Clerk of Course, and Records

United States Swimming Rules & Regulations:

102.12 - Officials

102.13 (excluding .5 and .6) – Referee

102.14 - Starter

102.15 (excluding .2) – Judges

Rules Interpretations

As taken from USA Swimming website:

GENERAL:

September 16, 1999: Adopted the following regarding the use of "full body suits" in competition:

- Until FINA determines otherwise, use of the full body suit, designed and marketed for competition, is permissible in USA swimming events. Use of suits of neoprene or other buoyant material, such as wet suits, is not permissible.

ALL STROKES:

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June 5, 1999: 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.

BACKSTROKE:

June 1, 1997: Adopted the following parameters regarding disqualifications for being completely submerged prior to the touch at the finish:

- The turn judge should, when possible, be given jurisdiction and should watch the swimmer approaching the wall. If the swimmer completely submerges prior to the turn judge having to shift his attention to the touch at the wall, this would be a disqualification. Once the turn judge must watch for the touch, this DQ would be too close to call.

May 30, 1998: Reviewed question as to whether, on backstroke starts with flat walls or full touch pads, it is illegal for the athlete to bring the feet above the water surface after the start signal has been given. Since the rule pertaining to "after the start", Section 101.3.2, refers only to "standing in or on the gutter or curling the toes over the lip of the gutter", it was agreed this would not be illegal when there is no gutter.

September 21, 2005 (relating to 2005 FINA rule change): The official interpretation for the change to the backstroke (101.3.1) is that the toes are no longer required to be under the surface of the water at the start. However, the toes are still not allowed to be above the lip of the gutter or curled over the lip of the gutter. The change was actually made so that when full face pads are used (pads that extend above the gutter) there is no requirement to have the toes under the water. From a practical standpoint there is no change when using touch pads that actually hang on the pool gutter.

Note: SAIL interpretation of this rule change is that toes will still be required below the surface of the water throughout the season as gutters are used for C&C meet.

BREASTSTROKE:

June 3, 1995: 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.

June 1, 1997: 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.

May 30, 1998: 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.

September 21, 2005 (relating to 2005 FINA rule change): The official interpretation for the changes to the breaststroke (101.1) is that during, or at the end of the arm pull-down of the first stroke after the start and after each turn, a single downward butterfly kick is allowed, but not required, followed by a breaststroke kick. During the pull-down, if a downward butterfly is taken, it must be followed by a breaststroke kick. The downward butterfly kick is not permissible prior to the arm pull-down. In addition, there is now a requirement for all movements of the legs to be "in the same horizontal plane and without alternating movement". This was previously not included in our rules.

February 22, 2006 (relating to the 2005 FINA rule change):

1. A swimmer who chooses to take a downward butterfly kick after the start or any turn, as provided in Article 101.1.3, does **not** need to be wholly submerged.
2. The breaststroke kick has three basic requirements: all movements of the legs shall be simultaneous and in the same horizontal plan without alternating movement; the feet must be turned outward during the propulsive part of the kick; and, a scissors, flutter or "downward" butterfly kick is not permitted except as provided in the first paragraph of Article 101.1.3. Breaking the surface of the water with the feet is allowed at any time as long as it is not followed by a "downward" butterfly kick (except as provided in the first

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paragraph of Article 101.1.3). There is no prohibition against an upward butterfly-type kicking action or motion at any time and this should not be cause for a disqualification.

BUTTERFLY:

May 30, 1998: In view of the March 6, 1998 rule changes by FINA, agreed that the shoulders need not be parallel with the water surface after the last pull into the wall at the turns and finishes.

INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY & MEDLEY RELAY:

June 1, 1997: 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 that the competitor is swimming in the style of butterfly, breaststroke or backstroke, then a DQ is appropriate.

SAIL Rule Exceptions, Clarifications & Interpretations - 2008

These exceptions, clarifications and interpretations are made from the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations. Reference to the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations is provided.

Butterfly (101.2.2)

In USA Swimming, the arms must be brought forward over the water. In SAIL, both arms must break the surface of the water while being brought forward. The arm is defined from the shoulder to the wrist.

Age Group Competition (102.1.2)

Unlike USA Swimming, SAIL recognizes an 8 and under age group.

Relays (102.4)

No swimmer may swim more than one medley relay and one freestyle relay in any meet.

Relays must consist of at least three swimmers in the designated age group and no more than one swimmer may be "aged up" from the immediate prior age group.

Under no circumstances may:

1. a relay consist of more than one swimmer from another age group;
2. a swimmer "age down" for a relay (or any other reason);
3. a swimmer swim in more than one medley relay and one freestyle relay in any meet;
4. a swimmer "age up" more than one age group;
5. a swimmer "age up" if the team has enough swimmers in the age group to form a relay.

The names of the four relay participants must be listed on the relay card. The order in which the participants will swim in the relay must be clearly designated.

Scoring (102.7.3)

Dual/Tri meets are not scored.

Division meets are scored as follows:

12 places – 13,11,10,9,8,7,6,5,4,3,2,1 Relay scores are not doubled.

For next seasons division determination, all division results are combined and scored 60 places with a value of 60 through 1.

Water Depth (103.2)

Applicable except for racing starts shall be a water depth of 3.5 ft. It is recommended that teaching racing starts should conform to the stated rule.

Disqualifications (102.10)

It is customary during the first dual/tri meet of the season for the stroke judges to be lenient on the children in the 8 and under age group.

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Event Card

The event card has been modified from the previous seasons. All stroke infractions can be noted on the backside of the card. If disqualification occurs, these actions need to be taken after confirming the disqualification with the judge or starter/recall starter.

- a. Place a red "X" across the entry card front.
- b. Note the disqualification on the backside of the card with an "X" placed next to the infraction. For medley relay or individual medley, mark an "X" by stroke infraction and an "X" by the actual stroke infraction.
- c. Mark multiple disqualification for the swimmer, not just the first.
- d. The judge's name and referee's initials needs to appear on the bottom of the entry card.
- e. The swimmers time needs to be recorded on the front if the disqualification is later over turned.

Timing Determination

To determine the official time

- a. If the 3 times are all different, the official time is the median or middle time
- b. If 2 of the 3 times are the same, that is the official time
- c. If only two times are recorded, average those two times to get the official time. Always round DOWN (drop the thousandth 5)
- d. If one of the three times is 0.3 seconds or greater off of the lowest or the highest of the other times, drop the errant time and average the other 2 times. If the time on that particular watch continues to be off by 0.3, the referee should be informed to replace the watch. In addition, the head timer and referee should be advise to watch the individual to determine if there is another cause for the watch time being errant.

Weather Concerns

Prior to the meet start, the referee needs to confer with the host pool lifeguard and discuss the responsibilities for stopping and starting the meet based on inclement weather. If there is no host pool lifeguard, the referee has complete responsibility for stopping the meet. To restart the meet, the host pool lifeguard (if on-duty), SAIL representatives from both teams, the coaches and the referee shall agree.

Attached is information regarding Lightning Safety for Pool and Guide to Lightning Safety.

It is better to be safe than have an accident!

Finish Time

Per the SAIL Handbook, the decision to stop the meet at 10:00 PM is held jointly with the SAIL representatives. As a referee, you need to be sure that the venue is safe including clerk of course, the pool, the area behind the blocks, the turn end, etc. Ask the question, can all areas of competition be clearly seen.

Diving in the Pool

Feet first entry shall be used except for actual starts during competition, and during designated portions of warm-up. For the backstroke, feet first entry shall be used.

Important Information

1. Have a current copy of the USS Rule Book, SAIL Handbook, and SAIL By-laws available on the deck.
2. Be sure that all competitive equipment is adequate, safe, and properly positioned.

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3. Make a spot check of the entry cards and entry sheets to be sure that the order of events follows SAIL rules.
4. Coaching of swimmers from the time they report to the starting area shall not be permitted. Please have a thorough understanding with your SAIL Representatives and coaches as to what will be permitted. Do not allow anyone to interfere with the proper operation of the meet.
5. No coaches or parents are allowed in the Clerk of Course area during the meet, except under abnormal circumstances and only with the referee's permission.
6. Review the current stroke standards and jurisdictions with you Stroke and Turn Judges prior to the meet. Answer any questions they may have.
7. Make sure that a time check is run to verify that the timers are competent, watches are working properly, and the proper number of timers is present.
8. If, in your judgment, there is an indication that a meet cannot be conducted or completed in a satisfactory manner in fairness to all competitors, then assume the authority and responsibility to call off the meet or postpone it.
9. It is your responsibility to replace officials that are not properly performing the task that they have been assigned.
10. You may take disciplinary action against any swimmer who acts in an unsportsmanlike manner.
11. Do not permit smoking, illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages on deck or in any other place where the swimmers, officials, or spectators might be.
12. You should make specific assignments to your stroke & turn judges (or other officials if necessary) to observe and make rulings on all relay starts and take-offs. Use dual, independent, written confirmation and *no* infraction hand signal.
13. The referee should take an active, visible role in the meets. You should be around poolside near the starter or recall starter to personally observe the performance of the assigned officials. At the beginning of the meet you should remind the recall starter that he/she is designated assistant referee for the purpose of dual confirmation of false starts, foot faults on backstroke starts, and (if necessary) relay takeoffs. The referee should be away from the action only when he/she must solve a problem in records, clerk of course, or some other area that may affect the conduct of the meet and during those times should appoint the r as acting referee.
14. The referee shall signal the starter that all officials are in position, that the course is clear, and that the competition can begin, before each race. Normally this signal is given by using a whistle and an extended arm. This signal will also alert other participants and spectators that a race is about to begin and that they should remain quiet until after the start.
15. The referee 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 also disqualify a swimmer(s) for any violation of the rules that the referee personally observes.
16. When confirming a disqualification with an official, the referee should ask the following three questions:
 - Where was the swimmer when the action was observed?
 - What was the observed action?
 - What rule did the action violate?

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17. The referee will allow no harassment of any official by coaches, parents, spectators, or other officials. The referee will take whatever action is required to take care of the situation. All questions of officials shall come through the Referee.
18. Novice referees should “deck certify” with an experienced referee for at least two dual/tri meets during the season before undertaking the referee position on their own.
19. Minimum number of officials needed for a dual/tri meet: (6 lane pool)
- | <u>HOST TEAM</u> | <u>VISITING TEAM</u> | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Referee | Assistant Referee | |
| Starter | Deck Referee | |
| S & T Judges (3) | S & T Judges (3) | Minimum 2 per team |
| Chief Timer | Alternate Timer | |
| Clerk of Course | Asst. Clerk of Course | |
| Runners (2) | | |
| Head Lane Timers (3) | Head Lane Timers (3) | |
| Lane Timers (6) | Lane Timers (6) | |
| Head of Records | | |
| Computer operator | | |
| Records personnel (1) | Records personnel (1) | |
| Ribbon writers | Ribbon writers | |
| Additional runners as needed | | |

20. Additional items to be addressed at the meet are:
- Make sure they all have small USS Rule Book from Stroke & Turn clinic.
 - Conduct a short stroke briefing with the judges and assign jurisdiction.
 - Cover written, dual, independent confirmation on relay takeoffs and false starts. On relay takeoffs, judges should write something for every swimmer.
 - If there is consistently 0.25-0.3 seconds difference in times, check watches and timers.
 - Rotate officials every 10 events, or with each new stroke.

What to Wear

Wear white (or light khaki) shorts and shirt. **Do not wear any item that has your team's logo or name.**

Meet Information Sheet

The attached sheets may be helpful to laminate and have with you for each meet.

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True or False

- ___ 1. The meet Referee may suspend or penalize any swimmer who acts in an un-sportsmanlike manner in the swimming venue.
- ___ 2. The Referee may not overrule a stroke & turn judge on a matter of rule interpretation
- ___ 3. The Referee should allow the stroke & turn judges to decide among themselves as to what jurisdiction each will have.
- ___ 4. The equipment used during a swim meet (starting blocks, lane lines, etc.) should be checked by the referee prior to the start of the meet.

Multiple Choice (circle all correct choices)

- 5. The deck referee may be designated an Assistant Referee for the purpose of:
 - a. ruling on false starts
 - b. judging feet during backstroke start
 - c. judging strokes and turns within the backstroke flags
 - d. judging relay takeoffs
- 6. If a referee observes an official not performing their duties, the referee should:
 - a. ignore it
 - b. re-assign the official
 - c. re-assign the official only if he or she is on the same team as the Referee
 - d. make a note to have your SAIL representative bring it up at the next meeting
- 7. Before the meet begins, the referee should:
 - a. review responsibilities and jurisdiction with stroke & turn judges
 - b. meet the coaches and discuss any unusual details of the meet
 - c. run a watch check with the starter and the timers
 - d. inspect the venue to insure safe setting for the meet.

Discussion

- 8. When is it OK for the referee to be away from the action (not observing the swimming activities)?
- 9. What is the proper course of action if a referee observes an official being harassed in the performance of their duties by a parent or a coach?
- 10. What should a Referee do if they notice timers not watching the strobe at the start?

Name: _____
Pool: _____
Phone #: _____ e-mail: _____
Years Of Referee Experience: _____