



Officiating Etiquette And Philosophy

- Deck Officials must never “warn” swimmers. A violation either occurred or it didn’t. A warning constitutes coaching and Officials are present to officiate — not coach.
- Deck Officials must exercise great care to ensure that not even a perception of bias is exhibited, e.g., cheering for a swimmer in the water, delight over a disqualification.
- In all cases it is prudent to remember the Meet Referee is the final authority on deck and if one is unable to provide complete support, including gracious acceptance when overruled, do not officiate.
- Deck Officials must *never* engage in cell phone conversations while performing their duties on deck.
- Deck Officials must never enter into any but the briefest discussion with coaches concerning violations, disqualifications, judgment calls, or rule interpretations.
- Always answer *polite* inquiries in a brief and professional manner. One answer should be sufficient.
- Coaches should be referred to the Meet Referee, and must never be permitted to become hostile, arrogant, or abusive to Deck Officials. Such incidents must be promptly referred to the Referee and the MWS Officials Chair must be notified in writing after the meet has been concluded.
- Parents or other spectators must never be allowed on deck to interfere with or question calls and/or decisions of officials.
- It is the responsibility of all Deck Officials to keep the Official deck clear of coaches, spectators, and swimmers. If problems are encountered, consult the Meet Referee for assistance.
- There is no dishonor or disgrace in the withdrawal of a disqualification. If you have second thoughts, discuss it with a senior Deck Official.
- Arrive *well* before the start of the meet, appropriately dressed and ready to officiate.
- Report to the Meet Referee to receive assignments, remain on deck, and fulfill your duties to the best of your ability.
- *Never*, under any circumstances leave the deck without notifying the Meet Referee or Chief Judge.
- The ultimate goal of your officiating mission is “to provide safe, fair, and equitable conditions of competition so that no swimmer shall obtain an unfair advantage over another”, rather than to catch violators of the rules.
- Certified Officials should be prepared to assist with the education of trainee Officials. Typically this involves "walking the deck" with the trainee Official, explaining one's observations relative to rule violations to the trainee, and informally testing the trainee's knowledge of the rules and their observational skills. Report all observations about the trainee's ability to officiate to the Meet Referee.