

## **GUIDELINES TO SWIM OFFICIATING**

### **A Teaching Guide for DuPage Swim and Dive Conference Officials Judges and Starter/Referees**

These guidelines are not meant to be all-inclusive; rather, the most important points of officiating are described to provide comprehensive training for new officials. Officials should also review the DuPage Swim and Dive Conference (DSDC) By-laws, especially specific Conference Meet regulations, and the USS Rulebook for complete rules and regulations. Only applicable portions will be used in classes for the certification of Judges, Starters and Referees, and re-certification classes for each.

According to the DSDC By-laws, the current US Swimming Rulebook will govern all swimming rules not covered in the rules of the DuPage Swim Conference. The word EVENT indicates number, age group, and stroke being swum.

#### **PURPOSE OF DSDC**

- ❖ To promote a competitive swimming and diving program for children residing within the member districts.
- ❖ To promote participation for the maximum number of interested people.
- ❖ To provide and promote an atmosphere in which the participants can learn good sportsmanship and develop good attitudes with an emphasis on participation as opposed to winning at any cost.

#### **PURPOSE OF OFFICIATING**

- ❖ To ensure fair competition among all swimmers by following the rules for competitive swimming, and by treating each swimmer equally under those rules. For the conference to be fair to all swimmers, all officials must judge by the same criteria.

#### **COMPETENCE IN STROKE AND TURN JUDGING**

- ❖ Act within the governing rules of our sport.
- ❖ Act in the spirit of good sportsmanship.
- ❖ Observe the highest standards of our sport. Our standard of conduct is implicit in the Rules and Regulations, which state that USS officials are "...to provide fair and equitable conditions of competition and promote uniformity in the sport so that no swimmer shall obtain an unfair advantage over another."
- ❖ Have respect for all those who work within USS to make swimming a great experience for young people. USS officialdom is an all-volunteer corps, which demonstrates a high professional commitment.
- ❖ Build a healthy environment for competition.
- ❖ Know and review the rules, including the Conference By-laws. Don't be afraid to review them just before a meet or just before each stroke change. It is not a sign of inexperience; on the contrary, sometimes the more experienced you are, the more you have to review the rules to be sure you have the current rule in mind just as it is written. You need to make sure you are not relying on what has become your own interpretation over the years!

- ❖ Review stroke mechanics – ‘visualize’.
- ❖ Be consistent among ourselves locally and nationally.
- ❖ Be impartial, be honest.
- ❖ Put forth a maximum effort before, during, and after a meet.
- ❖ Dress properly – “look sharp, be sharp”. Look and act in a professional manner. White shirt and white shorts or pants is requested. Blue shorts are acceptable. Display your certification.
- ❖ Be PROACTIVE rather than REACTIVE. Prepare yourself for many of the situations that one will face as an official.
- ❖ Use common sense.

Number of officials required for dual meets:

The home team must provide the following officials (with current certification if possible):

- Referee/Starter – 2
  - Judges – 3 (1 each Finish, Stroke, Turn)
  - Scorekeeper – 2 (1 Head Scorekeeper and 1 Recorder)
  - Timers – 1 per lane with watches (2 Timers is preferred)
  - Alternate Timer – 1
- The home team must also provide the following workers:
- Clerk of Course – 1
  - Ribbon Writer – 1
  - Runner – 1
  - Announcer – 1
  - Adult Control Monitor – 1

The visiting team must provide the following officials (with current certification if possible):

- Judges – 3 (1 each Finish, Stroke, Turn)
  - Scorekeeper – 1 (1 Recorders)
  - Timers – 1 per lane with watches
- The visiting team must also provide the following workers:
- Ribbon Writer – 1
  - Adult Control Monitor – 1

- ❖ Both Starter and Referee must have current class S or R ISI rating or DSDC Referee/Starter rating or High School League equivalent.
- ❖ Uncertified trainees may perform the duties of meet officials when they are under the direct supervision of a certified official.

#### SCORING DUAL MEETS

Place is determined by the decision of the Finish Judges if they agree on all places. If the Finish Judges disagree on anything, disregard all.

Individual Events:

- 1st Place: 5 Points
- 2nd Place: 3 Points

3rd Place: 1 Point

Relay Events:

1st Place: 7 Points

When swimming unopposed (no competition from the other team):

1st Place: 5 Points

No second or third place points will be awarded; however, ribbons will be awarded,

Unopposed Relay:

4 Points

- ❖ When a team sweeps first, second, and third places in an individual event, the point for third place will be awarded to the fourth place swimmer on the opposing team. If all opposing swimmers are disqualified, the third place point will not be awarded. Ribbons are awarded according to the actual finisher.
- ❖ Ties will be scored by adding the points together and dividing by 2. For example, if two swimmers tie for second place, the head scorekeeper should add second and third place points together ( $3 + 1 = 4$ ) and divide by two ( $4 \div 2 = 2$ ). 2 points are awarded to both swimmers.
- ❖ At Conference Meets, places and scoring are determined solely on timed finals. The Referee and Starter should write place picks for each heat. At the discretion of the Referee, those picks may take precedence in the case of a dispute.

**ARTICLE 101 (2017 USA Swimming Rules and Regulations)**  
**INDIVIDUAL STROKES AND RELAYS**

**101.1 STARTS**

101.1 STARTS

.2 The Start

a.

**.1 Equipment**

- ❖ A loudspeaker start system conforming to 103.18, with or without an underwater recall device, and an electronic strobe signal visible to all manual timers for forward and backstroke starts, shall be the preferred starting device.

**.2 The Start**

- a. (Protocol for DSDC meets. If the referee or starter is announcing the swim events, the referee shall announce the event, skipping the short series of whistles and proceed with one long whistle for swimmer to take and maintain positions). If the meet has a separate announcer calling the swim events, at the commencement of each heat, the Referee shall signal to the swimmers by a short series of whistles to remove all clothing except for swimwear, the announcer will announce the event followed by a long whistle indicating that they should take and maintain their positions on the starting

platform, the deck, or in the water. In backstroke and medley relay events, at the Referee's first long whistle, the swimmers shall immediately enter the water and at the second long whistle shall return without undue delay to the starting position.

- b. When the swimmers and officials are ready, the Referee shall signal with an outstretched arm to the Starter that the swimmers are under the Starter's control.
- c. On the Starter's command "take your mark", the swimmers shall immediately assume their starting position, in the forward start, with at least one foot at the front of the starting platform or the deck. Swimmers starting in the water must have at least one hand in contact with the wall or starting platform. When all swimmers are stationary, the Starter shall give the starting signal.
- d. When a swimmer does not respond promptly to the command "take your mark," the Starter shall immediately release all swimmers with the command "stand up" upon which the swimmers may stand up or step off the blocks.
- e. A swimmer shall not be disqualified for an illegal starting position at the start if the race is permitted to proceed. Enforcement of the correct starting position is the responsibility of the Starter.

### **.3 False Starts**

- a. Per DSDC, swimmers must have two false starts charged to them in an event to be disqualified.
- b. Any swimmer starting before the starting signal is given shall be charged with a false start if the Referee independently observes and confirms the Starter's observation that a violation occurred. Swimmers remaining on the starting blocks shall be relieved from their starting positions with the "stand up" command and may step off the blocks.
- c. If the starting signal has been given before the false start is declared, per DSDC on first violation, the race shall be recalled. If the starting signal has been given before the false start is declared, per USA Swimming Rules on second violation by the same swimmer or swimmers, the race shall NOT be recalled. If the Referee independently observes and confirms the Starter's observation that a violation occurred, the swimmer or swimmers who have false started for a second time shall be disqualified upon completion of the race.
- d. If the recall signal is activated inadvertently, no swimmer shall be charged with a false start and the Starter shall restart the race upon signal by the Referee.
- e. A swimmer who would otherwise be charged with a false start may be relieved of the charge if the false start was caused by the swimmer's reaction to the "stand up" command.
- f. Declared false start: swimmers reporting to the Referee prior to the start of their race and declaring their intent not to compete will be disqualified except as noted in 207.11.6D(1).

### **PROCEDURES:**

- When a swimmer does not respond promptly to the command "Take your mark" or false starts before the starting signal is given, the Starter shall immediately release all swimmers with the command, "Stand up", upon which the swimmers may stand up or step off the blocks. Any swimmer who enters the water or backstroker who leaves the starting area shall be charged with a false start, except that a swimmer who would otherwise be charged with the false start may be relieved of the charge if the false start was caused by the swimmer's reaction to the command.
- All swimmers leaving their marks before the starting signal is given shall be charged with a false start, except that a swimmer who has false started because of the action or movement of another competitor may be relieved of the responsibility for the false start and a false start may be charged only to the offender.

- In Backstroke or Medley Relay events, a false start may be charged to any swimmer who fails to maintain his/her feet and/or hands in a legal position after the first warning.
- The Starter can charge a swimmer with a false start if the Referee has observed the violation and confirms that the violation has occurred.
- The Starter shall indicate the swimmer or swimmers, if any, who are charged with a false start. If no false start is charged after a recall of swimmers, this should be indicated as well.
- A swimmer shall not be disqualified for an illegal starting position at the start or charged with a false start if the race is permitted to proceed without recall. Enforcement of the correct starting position is the responsibility of the Starter, who may impose the appropriate penalty for violation before the starting signal is given.
- Any swimmer, who delays the start by entering water or by willfully or deliberately disobeying a Starter's command, or for any other misconduct taking place at the start, can be disqualified from the event by the Starter, with the concurrence of the Referee.
- A swimmer who fails to appear at the starting platform ready to swim in time for the initial start of his/her heat shall be disqualified by the Referee.

**.4 Warning Signal** — With the exception of relays, in events 500 yards or longer, the Starter or a designee shall sound a warning signal over the water at the finish end of the lane of the leading swimmer when that swimmer has two lengths plus five yards or five meters to swim. As an alternative, a bell warning signal may be given over each lane by a lane judge or timer for that lane.

#### **.5 Deliberate Delay or Misconduct**

- a. The Starter shall report a swimmer to the Referee for delaying the start, for willfully disobeying an order or for any other misconduct taking place at the start, but only the Referee may disqualify a swimmer for such delay, willful disobedience or misconduct.
- b. The Referee shall disqualify a swimmer who fails to appear at the starting platform ready to swim in time for the initial start of his/her heat.
- c. Such disqualification shall not be charged as a false start.

### **SPECIFIC STROKE GUIDELINES**

#### **101.2 BREASTSTROKE**

##### **.1 Start**

- ❖ The forward start shall be used.

##### **.2 Stroke**

- ❖ After the start and after each turn when the swimmer leaves the wall, the body shall be kept on the breast. It is not permitted to roll onto the back at any time except at the turn after the touch of the wall where it is permissible to turn in any manner as long as the body is on the breast when leaving the wall. Throughout the race the stroke cycle must be one arm stroke and one leg kick in that order.
- ❖ All movements of the arms shall be simultaneous and in the same horizontal plane without alternating movement.
- ❖ The hands shall be pushed forward together from the breast on, under, or over the water.

- ❖ The elbows shall be under water except for the final stroke before the turn, during the turn and for the final stroke at the finish. The hands shall be brought back on or under the surface of the water. The hands shall not be brought back beyond the hip line, except during the first stroke after the start and each turn.
- ❖ During each complete cycle, some part of the swimmer's head shall break the surface of the water. After the start and after each turn, the swimmer may take one arm stroke completely back to the legs. The head must break the surface of the water before the hands turn inward at the widest part of the second stroke.

### **.3 Kick**

- ❖ After the start and each turn, at any time prior to the first breaststroke kick a single butterfly kick is permitted. Following which, all movements of the legs shall be simultaneous and in the same horizontal plane without alternating movement.
- ❖ The feet must be turned outwards during the propulsive part of the kick. Scissors, alternating movements or downward butterfly kicks are not permitted except as provided herein.
- ❖ Breaking the surface of the water with the feet is allowed unless followed by a downward butterfly kick.

### **.4 Turns and Finish**

- ❖ At each turn and at the finish of the race, the touch shall be made with both hands separated and simultaneously at, above, or below the water level. At the last stroke before the turn and at the finish an arm stroke not followed by a leg kick is permitted.
- ❖ The head may be submerged after the last arm pull prior to the touch, provided it breaks the surface of the water at some point during the last complete or incomplete cycle preceding the touch.

## **101.3 BUTTERFLY**

### **.1 Start**

- ❖ The forward start shall be used.

### **.2 Stroke**

- ❖ After the start and after each turn, the swimmer's shoulders must be at or past the vertical toward the breast. The swimmer is permitted one or more leg kicks, but only one arm pull under water, which must bring the swimmer to the surface. It shall be permissible for a swimmer to be completely submerged for a distance of not more than 15 meters (16.4 yards) after the start and after each turn. By that point, the head must have broken the surface.
- ❖ The swimmer must remain on the surface until the next turn or finish. From the beginning of the first arm pull, the body shall be kept on the breast except at the turn after the touch of the wall where it is permissible to turn in any manner as long as the body is on the breast when leaving the wall. Both arms must be brought forward simultaneously over the water and pulled back simultaneously under the water throughout the race.

### **.3 Kick**

- ❖ All up and down movements of the legs and feet must be simultaneous. The position of the legs or the feet need not be on the same level, but they shall not alternate in relation to each other. A scissors or breaststroke kicking movement is not permitted.

#### **.4 Turns**

- ❖ At each turn the body shall be on the breast. The touch shall be made with both hands separated and simultaneously at, above, or below the water surface. Once a touch has been made, the swimmer may turn in any manner desired. The shoulders must be at or past the vertical toward the breast when the swimmer leaves the wall.

#### **.5 Finish**

- ❖ At the finish, the body shall be on the breast and the touch shall be made with both hands separated and simultaneously at, above, or below the water surface.

### **101.4 BACKSTROKE**

#### **.1 Start**

- ❖ The swimmers shall line up in the water facing the starting end, with both hands placed on the gutter or on the starting grips. Standing in or on the gutter, placing the toes above the lip of the gutter, or bending the toes over the lip of the gutter, before or after the start, is prohibited. When using a backstroke ledge at the start, the toes of both feet must be in contact with the end wall or face of the touchpad. Bending the toes over the top of the touchpad is prohibited.

#### **.2 Stroke**

- ❖ The swimmer shall push off on his back and continue swimming on the back throughout the race. Some part of the swimmer must break the surface of the water throughout the race, except it is permissible for the swimmer to be completely submerged during the turn and for a distance of not more than 15 meters (16.4 yards) after the start and after each turn. By that point, the head must have broken the surface of the water.

#### **.3 Turns**

- ❖ Upon completion of each length, some part of the swimmer must touch the wall.
- ❖ During the turn the shoulders may be turned past the vertical toward the breast after which an immediate continuous single arm pull or immediate continuous simultaneous double arm pull may be used to initiate the turn. The swimmer must have returned to a position on the back upon leaving the wall.

#### **.4 Finish**

- ❖ Upon the finish of the race, the swimmer must touch the wall while on the back.

### **101.5 FREESTYLE**

#### **.1 Start**

- ❖ The forward start shall be used.

## .2 Stroke

- ❖ In an event designated freestyle, the swimmer may swim any style, except that in a medley relay or an individual medley event, freestyle means any style other than butterfly, breaststroke or backstroke. Some part of the swimmer must break the surface of the water throughout the race, except it shall be permissible for the swimmer to be completely submerged during the turn and for a distance of not more than 15 meters (16.4 yards) after the start and each turn. By that point the head must have broken the surface.

## .3 Turns

- ❖ Upon completion of each length the swimmer must touch the wall.

## .4 Finish

- ❖ The swimmer shall have finished the race when any part of his person touches the wall after completing the prescribed distance.

## 101.6 INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY

The swimmer shall swim the prescribed distance in the following order: the first one-fourth, butterfly; the second one-fourth, backstroke; the third one-fourth, breaststroke; and the last one-fourth, freestyle.

### .1 Start

- ❖ The forward start shall be used.

### .2 Stroke

- ❖ The stroke for each one-fourth of the designated distance shall follow the prescribed rules for that stroke.

### .3 Turns

- ❖ Intermediate turns within each stroke shall conform to the turn rules for that stroke.
- ❖ The turns when changing from one stroke to another shall conform to the finish rules for the stroke just completed, and shall be as follows:

(1) **Butterfly to Backstroke** — The swimmer must touch as described in 101.3.5. Once a legal touch has been made, the swimmer may turn in any manner, but the shoulders must be at or past the vertical toward the back when the swimmer leaves the wall.

(2) **Backstroke to Breaststroke** — The swimmer must touch the wall while on the back. Once a legal touch has been made, the swimmer may turn in any manner but the shoulders must be at or past the vertical toward the breast when the swimmer leaves the wall and the prescribed breaststroke form must be attained prior to the first arm stroke.

(3) **Breaststroke to Freestyle** — The swimmer must touch as described in 101.2.4. Once a legal touch has been made, the swimmer may turn in any manner.

### .4 Finish

- ❖ The swimmer shall have finished the race when any part of his/her person touches the wall after the prescribed distance.



## **101.7 RELAYS**

### **.1 Freestyle Relay**

- ❖ Four swimmers on each team, each to swim one-fourth of the prescribed distance using any desired stroke(s). Freestyle finish rules apply.

### **.2 Medley Relay**

- ❖ Four swimmers on each team, each to swim one-fourth of the prescribed distance in the following order: first, backstroke; second, breaststroke; third, butterfly; and fourth, freestyle. Rules pertaining to each stroke used shall govern where applicable. At the end of each leg, the finish rule for each stroke applies in each case.

### **.3 Mixed Gender Relays**

- ❖ Must consist of two (2) males and two (2) females.

### **.4 Rules Pertaining to Relay Races**

- No swimmer shall swim more than one leg in any relay event.
- When automatic relay take-off judging is used, each swimmer must touch the touchplate or pad in his/her lane at the end of the course to have finished his/her leg of the relay race.
- In relay races a swimmer other than the first swimmer shall not start until his/her teammate has concluded his/her leg.
- Any relay team member and his/her relay team shall be disqualified from a race if a team member other than the swimmer designated to swim that leg enters the pool in the area where the race is being conducted before all swimmers of all teams have finished the race. Exception: When an in-the-water start is required or such start is approved by the Referee.
- Each relay team member shall leave the water immediately upon finishing his/her leg, except the last member.
- In relay races the team of a swimmer whose feet have lost touch with the starting platform (ground or deck) before his/her preceding teammate touches the wall shall be disqualified.
- In relay races involving in-the-water starts, the team of a swimmer who has lost touch with the end of the course before his/her preceding teammate touches the wall shall be disqualified, unless the swimmer in default returns to the original starting point at the wall.

## **102.4 SCRATCH PROCEDURES**

- ❖ Each swimmer shall become informed of the meet starting time and shall report to the proper meet authorities promptly upon call. Meet announcements and advance information shall specify check-in and scratch procedures for individual and relay events and penalties for violation of those procedures.

## **102.7 POSTPONEMENTS AND CHANGES IN PROGRAM**

.1 The order of events, as stated in the meet announcement, shall not be changed. The announced arrangement of heats in any event shall not be added to or altered, except by the authority of the Referee, to the extent of consolidating the heats.

.2 At the Meet Referee's discretion, events may be combined by age, gender, distance, and/or stroke provided there is at least one empty lane between such combined events. The Referee may waive the empty lane requirement with the concurrence of the coaches of the affected swimmers.

.3 The entry provisions and starting time of any event, meet or portion thereof shall stand as stated in the meet announcement (except as permitted under .4 below) and may not be changed to an earlier time or date unless written notice of such change is delivered to all affected swimmers or their coaches. If mailed, such notice must be postmarked no later than the entry deadline date stated on the meet announcement, and if lack of time prohibits mail notification, all affected swimmers or their coaches must voluntarily agree in writing that they have been notified and are in accord with such change. Any affected swimmer or his or her coach may file a written protest with the Referee prior to running of the event or meet if they do not agree to such change in time or date.

#### **.4 Postponement or Cancellation**

- a. If, prior to its commencement, unusual or severe weather or other conditions preclude the possibility of safely and effectively conducting a meet or an event, the meet committee may cancel or postpone it.
- b. Should a meet or event have actually commenced, and in the judgment of the Referee cannot safely and effectively continue because of weather conditions, or for some other compelling reason, the Referee, in his/her sole discretion, may suspend the meet or event until conditions warrant continuance. If circumstances do not warrant continuance, the Referee may cancel the meet or event, or postpone it to a future date or time, with the approval of the meet committee.
- c. A decision to cancel or postpone shall be final.
- d. Should an event have actually commenced but is terminated prior to an official finish, and is postponed to another time or date, it shall then be conducted between the swimmers who were officially competing in the event at the time of the termination.
- e. Incomplete events will not be awarded or scored; however, times achieved in accordance with 102.24 up to the point of cancellation shall be considered official.

### **102.8 SWIMWEAR**

#### **.1 Design**

- a. A Swimwear shall include only a swimsuit, cap, and goggles. It is not permissible to wear more than two (2) caps. Armbands or leg bands shall not be regarded as parts of the swimsuit and are not allowed.
- b. In swimming competitions, the swimmer must wear only one swimsuit in one or two pieces, except as provided in 205.10.1. All swimsuits shall be made from textile materials. For men, the swimsuit shall not extend above the navel nor below the knees, and for women, shall not cover the neck, extend past the shoulder, nor extend below the knee.
  1. Exemptions to the foregoing restriction may be granted to a swimmer, on a case by case basis, by the DSDC. Exemptions will be granted only for conflicts due to the swimmer's verified religious beliefs, verified medical conditions or other reasons deemed appropriate by the DSDC.
  2. No exemption to this restriction will be granted for a swimsuit that will give the swimmer a competitive advantage.

- c. Swimsuits worn for competition must be non-transparent and conform to the current concept of the appropriate.
- d. No swimmer is permitted to wear or use any device, substance or swimsuit to help his/her speed, pace, buoyancy or endurance during a race (such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, power bands, adhesive substances, etc.). Goggles may be worn, and rubdown oil applied if not considered excessive by the Referee. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the Referee.
- e. The Referee shall have authority to bar offenders from the competition until they comply with the rule.

## **102.11 REFEREE**

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

.2 Has the authority to disqualify a swimmer(s) for any violation of the rules that the Referee personally observes and, except for false starts, shall at the same time raise one hand overhead. If the Referee does not make such a signal there shall be no disqualification.

.3 Shall signal the Starter before each race that all officials are in position that the course is clear, and that the competition can begin.

.4 Shall assign marshals with specific instructions.

.5 Shall give a decision on any point where the opinions of the judges differ; and shall have authority to intercede in a competition at any stage, to ensure that the appropriate racing conditions are observed.

.6 – N/A DSDC

.7 Shall make an immediate investigation when an apparent malfunction of the automatic or semi-automatic timing equipment has occurred, to determine whether the swimmer finished in accordance with the rules and/or if there was an actual equipment malfunction.

.8 May prohibit the use of any device that disrupts or interferes with the meet, such as a laser pointing device or artificial noisemaker.

.9 May modify any rule for a competitive swimmer who has a disability. Any such modification shall be in accordance with Article 105 of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations, shall affect only the current meet, and shall not set a precedent.

.10 Shall establish the necessary administrative and officiating procedures to conform to Part One of the rules and local conditions when the meet sanction allows conducting the events by starting them from the alternate ends of a 50-meter course.

.11 Refer to 102.23 concerning protests.

## 102.12 STARTER

### .1 Preparation

- ❖ The Starter shall stand on the side of the pool within approximately five meters of the starting end of the pool and, upon signal from the Referee, shall assume control of the swimmers until a fair start has been achieved.

### .2 Optional Instructions

- ❖ The Starter may:
  - Announce the event.
  - Advise the heat when a swimmer will be attempting to achieve a time at an initial distance.
  - For backstroke starts, give the command, "Place your feet."

### Procedures:

- Give the swimmers a fair chance without hurrying.
- Direct the swimmers to step onto the starting block or platform and remain there. After instructing the swimmers to "Take your mark", the swimmers must immediately respond by assuming their starting position with at least one foot at the front of the block. Sufficient time should follow the command, but no swimmer shall be in motion immediately before the starting signal is given.

## 102.13 JUDGES

- ❖ Shall have jurisdiction over the swimmers immediately after the race has begun.

### .1 Chief — N/A DSDC

### .2 Place Judge (Finish Judge)

- ❖ One or two place judges shall be positioned on the side of the course near the finish and shall judge the order of finish of all swimmers. If two place judges are used, they shall independently record the order of finish of all swimmers. A place judge shall record a tie if a place distinction cannot be made. Judging results shall be used only in accordance with 102.24.5C in determining the order of finish.

### .3 Stroke Judge

- ❖ Shall operate on both sides of the pool, preferably walking slightly behind the swimmers during all strokes except freestyle, during which events they may leave poolside, at the Referee's discretion; shall ensure that the rules relating to the style of swimming designated for the event are being observed; and shall report any violations to the Referee on signed slips detailing the event, the heat number, the lane number and the infraction.

### .4 Turn Judge

- ❖ Shall operate on both ends of the pool; shall ensure that after the start and when turning or finishing, the swimmer complies with the rules applicable to the stroke used; and shall report any violations to the Referee on signed slips detailing the event, the heat number, lane number and infraction observed.

## **.5 Jurisdiction of Stroke and Turn Judges**

- ❖ Before the competition begins, the Referee shall determine the respective areas of stroke and turn responsibility and jurisdiction, which may include joint, concurrent, and coordinated responsibility and jurisdiction. The Referee shall insure that all swimmers shall have fair, equitable, and uniform conditions of judging.

## **.6 Relay Take-Off Judges**

- a. Relay take-off judges shall be assigned by the Referee and shall stand so that they can clearly see both the feet of the departing swimmer(s) as they leave the starting platform and the touch of the incoming swimmer(s), and shall judge whether the swimmer is in contact with the platform when the incoming swimmer touches the end of the pool.
- b. If dual relay take-off judging is used, the lane and side take-off judges shall independently report infractions in writing without the use of the infraction hand signal. A relay will be disqualified only if the lane take-off judge has reported an infraction and the assigned side take-off judge has confirmed the same infraction.
- c. When automatic relay exchange judging equipment is in use, the system printout will provide the information to judge relay exchanges. Integrated back-up timing cameras may be reviewed by the Referee to confirm the automatic system's results. When backup timing cameras are not available, the Referee will determine the confirmation process.

## **102.22 DISQUALIFICATIONS**

.1 A disqualification can be made only by the official within whose jurisdiction the infraction has been committed. Except for the Relay Take-off Judges when dual confirmation relay take-off judging, as provided in 102.13.6B, is used, the Referee, Stroke, Turn, or Relay Take-off Judge upon observing an infraction, shall immediately raise one hand overhead. If the official does not do so, there shall be no.

.2 N/A DSDC

.3 Any swimmer who acts in an unsportsmanlike or unsafe manner within the swimming venue may be considered for appropriate action or penalty by the Referee.

.4 A swimmer must start and finish the race in the same lane.

.5 Standing on the bottom during a freestyle race shall not disqualify a swimmer, but a swimmer must not leave the pool, or walk, or spring from the bottom. Standing on the bottom during any other stroke shall result in disqualification.

.6 Obstructing or otherwise interfering with another swimmer shall disqualify the offender, subject to the discretion of the Referee.

.7 Any swimmer not entered in a race who enters the pool or course in the area in which said race is being conducted before all swimmers therein have completed the race shall be barred from the next individual event in which that swimmer is entered on that day or the next meet day, whichever is first.

.8 Dipping goggles in the water or splashing water on the swimmer's face or body prior to an event shall not be considered as entering the pool unless the Referee finds that such action is interfering with the competition.

.9 Should a foul endanger the chance of success of a swimmer(s), the Referee may allow the affected swimmer(s) to reswim the event. In case of collusion to foul another swimmer, the Referee may, at his/her discretion, disqualify the swimmer for whose aid the foul was committed, as well as the swimmer committing the foul.

.10 Grasping lane dividers to assist forward motion is not permitted.

.11 For relay disqualifications, refer to 101.7.4.

.12 The time and/or place of any swimmer or relay team disqualified either during or following an event shall not be recorded in the results of that event. If awards have been made prior to the decision to disqualify they shall be returned and made to the proper recipient(s) and if points have been scored by those disqualified the event shall be rescored.

.13 Time and/or place officially recorded for a swimmer shall not be nullified for violations occurring subsequent to such performance.

.14 Video replay footage from cameras – NOT APPROVED by DSDC

## **102.23 PROTESTS**

.1 Protests against the judgment decisions of starters, stroke, turn, place and relay take-off judges can only be considered by the Referee and the Referee's decision shall be final.

.2 For consideration of all other protests lodged at the meet, the Referee may appoint a meet jury. The jury shall consist of not fewer than three (3) and not more than five (5) persons, at least one of whom shall be a coach and one an athlete.

.3 Protests made prior to the race contesting the eligibility of a swimmer to compete or to represent an organization shall be made to the Referee in writing. If a protest is not resolved, the Referee or the meet jury shall allow the swimmer to compete under protest and it shall be so announced before the race.

.4 All other competition-related protests, including protests concerning eligibility and representation, must be made to the Referee and submitted in writing within thirty (30) minutes after the race in which the alleged infraction occurred.

.5 Except as provided in 102.23.1, the Referee's or the meet jury's ruling may be appealed as follows:

- a. Protests concerning interpretation of the rules in Part One and Part Seven of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations shall be submitted in writing within ten (10) days to the current President of the DuPage Swim and Dive Conference. The President shall issue a ruling within five (5) days from the date of the receipt of such protest. This ruling shall be final and binding on all parties.

- b. All other protests, together with the Referee's or the jury's written decision, shall be submitted to the Board of the DuPage Swim and Dive Conference for review in accordance with Part Four of the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations.

.6 The official results of any protested race shall not be announced, the affected awards shall not be given, and points scored shall not be allocated until the protest is resolved or is withdrawn in writing.

### **103.7 WATER AND AIR TEMPERATURE**

.1 Water temperature between 25 to 28 degrees Celsius (77 to 82.4 degrees Fahrenheit) shall be maintained for competition.

.2 Air temperature within 8 feet above deck level in indoor facilities shall be not lower than 76 degrees Fahrenheit, with relative humidity maintained at about 60% and air velocity at about 25 feet per minute.

### **103.9 OTHER DECK EQUIPMENT**

.1 Use of portable lifeguard chair stands and other deck fixtures is recommended and they should be removed from the competition area to allow free passage and unobstructed view for competitors and officials along all sides of the course.

.2 1 meter diving boards which overhang the racing course shall be hinged out of the way or removed during competition.

### **103.13 DRONES**

- ❖ Operation of a drone, or any other flying apparatus, is prohibited over the venue (pools, athlete/coach areas, spectator areas and open-ceiling locker rooms) any time athletes, coaches, officials and/or spectators are present.
- ❖ Exceptions may be granted with prior written approval by the Meet Director.

## **ARTICLE 105 - GUIDELINES FOR OFFICIATING SWIMMERS WITH A DISABILITY**

### **105.1 GENERAL**

#### **.1 Authority**

- ❖ The USA Swimming Rules & Regulations grant the Referee the authority to modify the rules for the swimmer with a disability. Disability is defined as a permanent physical or cognitive disability that substantially limits one or more major life activities. This section contains guidelines and suggestions for making such modifications.

#### **.2 Responsibilities**

**A Swimmer** — The swimmer (or the swimmer's coach) is responsible for notifying the Referee, prior to the competition, of any disability of the swimmer and of the requested modification. The swimmer/coach shall provide any assistant(s) or equipment (tappers, deck mats, etc.) if required.

**B Referee** — The Referee's responsibilities include:

- (1) Determining if the requested modifications are appropriate and can be met.
- (2) Instructing the Starter and Stroke & Turn officials as to the accommodations to be made for that swimmer.

### **.3 Modifications**

- ❖ Aids to buoyancy or speed are not allowed (See 102.8.1E). Some of the modifications which the Referee may make to accommodate the swimmer with a disability are:
  - A. A change in starting position.
  - B. Reassignment of lanes within a heat, e.g., exchanging Lanes 2 and 7.
  - C. Allowing the swimmer to have a personal assistant(s). A personal assistant is not required to be a member of USA Swimming unless acting in a coaching capacity.
  - D. Other allowable modifications are further described in this section under the type of disability.

### **105.2 BLIND AND VISION LOSS**

**.1 Start** — With an audible starting system, no modification is usually required for a swimmer who is blind or has vision loss. A swimmer may, however, require assistance getting to and on the block. Should the swimmer feel insecure starting from the block or deck, an in-the water start is allowed.

**.2 Turns and Finishes** — A swimmer who is blind or has vision loss is permitted to have personal assistants (“tappers” who use poles with soft-tipped ends to tap the swimmer as notification of turns and the finish). Sound devices shall not be used. It is the swimmer’s responsibility to provide the tapper(s), who shall be positioned within the confines of the swimmer’s lane at the ends of the pool.

**.3 Relay Take-Offs** — A physical touch may be required to signal the relay swimmer when his/her teammate has touched the wall. The specific method may be tailored to the swimmer’s preference so long as it does not aid the swimmer’s take-off or interfere with the timing.

**105.3 DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING** – See USA Swimming Rulebook for guidelines and illustrations.