



Virginia Beach Swim League
Chesapeake-Norfolk-Virginia Beach

Welcome to VBSL Officiating

REFEREE & STARTER
CLINIC 2022

Please sign in at the back



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Philosophy of a Referee

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.

- **Attitude:**
 - Disposition and temperament – Are you calm or do you easily get upset?
 - Perspective – *Do you look at issue fairly? Remember to keep all swimmers in mind- not just the current issue at hand. Setting a precedent*
 - Demeanor – *Are you respectful interfacing with coaches and other officials?*
 - Approach- *Is your intent to always put the swimmers first?*



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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 times. No changes to meet unless scratches or adds
 - COC set up for 25M/YD events
 - Agreement on starts & water depth
 - Announcer – Brief on what to say and when to speak
 - Go over whistle commands,
 - Will the announcer state the events or Starter?
 - Manage warm-up times
 - Announcements for 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
 - What is the timing system in use?
 - Adjusting for that timing system.
 - If they have questions about a time, they come to you.



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Referee Training

- Day of the meet (continued)
 - Starter
 - » Review the 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



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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.
 - ❖ Referee has full authority (Can overrule any stroke infractions), if you do you explain why the S&T – Training moment
 - ❖ Advise the S&T if they are 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 with empty lanes printed.



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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” should come to you
- Some highlights on rules
 - Cannot swim 50 if swam 25 in the same stroke
 - Maximum Events -Two relays, three individual events
 - One suit (allowed to cover for modesty)
 - 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
 - Wearing a watch or jewelry is not illegal in VBSL, unless visually observed using the watch as a pace device
 - A Coach cannot instruct a S&T to make a call on a swimmer
 - Score is final if meet is cancelled after E38
- After the meet
 - Go around the deck and thank all of those who helped you, it goes along way!



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Starter

- Can also be charged as the announcer- Announce event & heat as written on heat sheet, yard or meter, not plural; Butterfly not fly; Individual Medley not IM
- Verifies all swimmers present
- Owns start once Ref hands them the race by outstretching their arm
- Charged with fair and equitable start for all swimmers
- Practice -Patience, Patience, Patience prior to your take your mark command
 - The swimmers will tell you when they are ready to swim
 - Can use additional commands such as “Swimmers step up/step in the water:
 - Use of the Stand command
- Can initiate a false start
 - Dual confirmation
 - Imagine a pane of glass resting on the heads of the swimmers, stationary is not motionless
 - Relax swimmers or recall, discuss what he/she saw with DR
 - 1st false start is a warning and DR discussion with the swimmer,
 - If the same swimmer false starts in the same heat has a 2nd time, they are disqualified
- Mark empty lanes each heat
 - Sweeps/order of finish- if possible
- Backstroke starts
 - Place your feet
 - Stand/relax commands