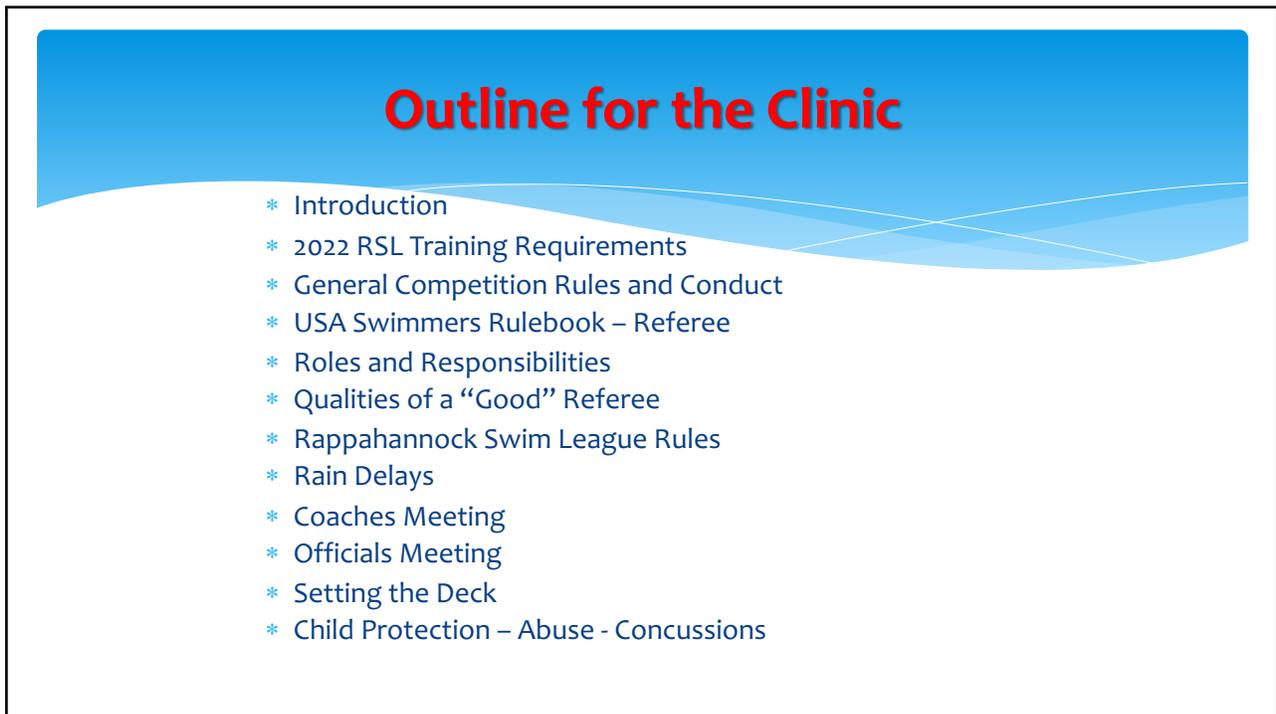




1



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## Introduction

"When I am right, no one remembers. When I am wrong, no one forgets."  
Doug Harvey

The role of Referee is not to be taken lightly.

It can be very difficult at times but also very rewarding.

To coin a phrase 'the buck stops here'.

As Referee you have responsibility for all matters relating to the competition. You must not shirk that responsibility as the athletes are depending on you to uphold the rules of the sport in a fair and equitable manner

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## 2022 RSL Training Requirements

### Referee

**NEW Trainee:** MUST attend an in-person training session AND the Referee Meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup>

If attended the Zoom training in 2021, MUST attend the June 11<sup>th</sup> Referee Meeting

While not required, it is HIGHLY SUGGESTED that Referees shadow an experienced Referee for at least ½ of a meet and/or fill the Administrative Referee position.

If you are interested in having a mentor come to your pool for an in-person training session, please complete the following form: [2022 RSL In-Person Mentor Request](#)

If you CANNOT attend the June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, you MUST send either an administrative Referee or experienced stroke and turn official in your place. Each team MUST have representation at this meeting.

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## General Competition Rules and Conduct

- \* Rappahannock Swim League Rules - Current
- \* Current USA Swimming Rules and Regulations Apply
  - \* Except for Backstroke Turns – Which we follow the National Federation of High School Associations (NFHS) Rules

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## USA Swimming Rulebook

### 102.11 Referee

- \* Shall have full authority over all officials and shall assign and inspect 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 override any meet official on a point of rule interpretation, or on a judgement decision pertaining to an action which the Referee has personally observed.
- \* 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.

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## Roles and Responsibilities

- \* Meet/Deck Referee - RSL
- \* Top Official at the Meet – Team Leader
- \* Overall Responsibility for the **SAFE** Conduct of the Meet
- \* Supervises and Directs – Wet Deck & Dry Deck
- \* Conduct Officials & Coaches Meetings
- \* Makes final decisions regarding interpretation/application of the rules
- \* Controls the Flow of the Meet – Keep the Meet Going – Start on Time
- \* Approve DQs – Distribute to the Coaches
- \* Runs the Entire Meet
- \* Your decisions need to be based on the rules

### **ENSURES SAFETY AT ALL TIMES**

Ensures Fair and Equitable (Impartial) Competition  
FOR ALL SWIMMERS

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## Qualities of a “Good” Referee

- |                 |                           |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| * Calm          | * Confident               |
| * Alert         | * Team Player             |
| * Delegator     | * Professional            |
| * Knowledgeable | * Proactive               |
| * Communicator  | * Interpersonally Skilled |
| * Experienced   | * Fair & Impartial!       |

Be Large and In Charge - Good Attitude

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## Qualities of a “Good” Referee

- Have a current copy of the USA Swimming Rule Book and the RSL Rules with you.
- Arrive to the pool early!
- **Check Pool Equipment before the Meet**  
Starting Device – Loudspeakers – Starting Blocks – Lane Markings – Backstroke Flags - DQ Slips – Relay Takeoff Slips – Referee’s Whistle
- Know who and where the RSL Representatives are before the meet
- Dress to be Easily found – NO White over Blue for USA Officials
- One swimmer turns up at the blocks for heat – Check Lane Timers – Check Clerk – Combine/Adjust Heats as best you can on the fly - **Do not let a swimmer compete alone.**
- You can’t control chaos!

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## Rappahannock Swim League Rules

- \* 10.4. Referee.
- \* The Referee shall:
  - \* 10.4.1. Have full authority over all officials and shall assign and instruct them prior and during the meet. The Referee shall have authority to decide any questions relating to the actual conduct of the meet, unless otherwise specified by RSL rules.
  - \* 10.4.1.1. The Referee may appoint another RSL certified Referee to assist in adjudicating disqualifications as an Administrative Referee. However, the Referee retains the final decision on any disqualifications or other actions of the Administrative Referee.

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## RSL Swim League Rules Starting Protocols

- \* 10.4.2. Control the flow of each heat as follows:
  - \* 10.4.2.1. At the commencement of each heat, the Referee shall signal to the swimmers by a series of short whistles to remove all clothing except for swimwear and be ready to swim.
  - \* 10.4.2.2. **Forward Starts**
    - \* 10.4.2.2.1. When the pool is clear and ready for competition with Stroke & Turn Judges in position, the Referee shall signal with a single, long whistle indicating that the swimmers should take and maintain their positions on the starting platform, the deck, or in the water.
  - \* 10.4.2.3. **Backstroke Starts**
    - \* 10.4.2.3.1. When the pool is clear and ready for competition with Stroke & Turn Judges in position, the Referee shall signal with the first of two long whistles indicating that the swimmers should step into the water.
    - \* 10.4.2.3.2. When all swimmers have surfaced, the Referee shall signal with the second of two long whistles indicating that the swimmers should return to the wall and assume their starting positions.
    - \* 10.4.2.4. When the swimmers and officials are ready, the Referee shall signal with an outstretched arm to the Starter that the swimmers are now under the Starter's control until the start has been achieved.
      - \* 10.4.2.4.1. The Referee shall keep the arm outstretched until the start has been achieved.
      - \* 10.4.2.4.2. The Referee shall retract the outstretched arm to abort the start.

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## Rappahannock Swim League Rules

- \* 10.4.3. Determine the final decision on any point where the opinions of any other official differ.
- \* 10.4.4. Sign off on all Disqualification slips (DQ) ensuring each is properly filled out as described in section 10.6.3. If in the opinion of the Referee, the DQ is not valid for any reason, then the Referee shall overrule the decision of the signatory official.
  - \* 10.4.4.1. In the event the timer sheet has been updated with a name that does not match the official meet program, the Referee will verify the timer sheet and the DQ slip should be rewritten to reflect the change.
    - \* 10.4.4.1.1. The runner will bring any handwritten changes to timer sheets to the referee for review
    - \* 10.4.4.1.2. Referees should note any corrections on their Meet Program
  - \* 10.4.4.2. Ensure the timely delivery of all valid DQs to the Scorekeeper.
  - \* 10.4.4.3. Ensure the timely delivery of each valid DQ to the athlete's coach(es).

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## Rappahannock Swim League Rules

- \* 10.4.5. Prohibit the use of any bell, siren, horn or any other artificial noise making device, if it is interfering with the course of the meet. (Laser Pointers)
- \* 10.4.6. Disqualify any competitor for any personally observed rules violation.
- \* 10.4.7. Have the authority to interpose in a competition at any stage after the start of the meet to ensure competitive racing conditions and rules are observed.
- \* 10.4.8. **Sign the score sheet** at the conclusion of the meet.

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## Rappahannock Swim League Rules

- \* Enforce
  - \* “No Alcohol”
  - \* “No Smoking”
  - \* “No Weapons other than law enforcement Officials”
- \* Communication – Clerk of Course
- \* Keep Control of the Meet
- \* Run on Schedule
- \* Relays – Dual Confirmation **MUST** be used
- \* Act Calmly and Quickly Resolve any Issues

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## Rain Delays/Postponements

### \* 8.6. Rain Delays/ Postponements

- \* 8.6.1. Before the start of the season, each RSL team shall provide a rain date for each of their home meets. These rain dates need to be scheduled in a timely fashion to conform to the requirements of the “seeding party”.
- \* 8.6.2. Prior to the official start of the meet, the RSL representatives for the competing teams may agree to reschedule the meet due to adverse weather conditions.
- \* 8.6.3. By mutual consent of the two RSL representatives a meet may be suspended due to inclement weather once the meet has officially started. If the Representatives cannot agree, the Referee will be the deciding authority. In the event of lightning a **minimum delay of 20 minutes is required** (home team regulations, if longer, will apply). **Each succeeding sighting of lightning requires an additional minimum delay of 20 minutes.** In cooperation with the home pool the referee may determine when the teams can reenter the water and continue the meet.

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## Rain Delays/Postponements

- \* 8.6.4. Once a meet is suspended due to adverse weather conditions, the meet **can be rescheduled once cumulative weather delays exceed one (1) hour**. Such a decision should not be made prior to **7:30pm**. A suspended meet cannot be continued after 10:00pm, unless each Team’s RSL Representative agrees.
- \* 8.6.5. Any rescheduled or resumed meet must take place prior to the “seeding party” deadline.
- \* 8.6.6. If a meet must be **rescheduled** due to inclement weather, the rain date provided by the home team shall be the date utilized for the meet. A **resumed suspended meet** shall continue at the point the meet was suspended.
  - \* 8.6.6.1 Team representatives will determine a mutually agreeable time and method for the exchange of updated data entries files and event planners
  - \* 8.6.6.2 If a compromise cannot be reached, updated entries and event planners will be due at the host pool 90 minutes prior to the start of the rescheduled meet.

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## Rain Delays/Postponements

- \* 8.6.7. If a meet **cannot be completed on either the scheduled date or the rain date**, the RSL Representatives may mutually consent to reschedule the meet on another date. If an agreement cannot be reached for rescheduling a meet, the **home team RSL Representative** shall submit a **written report** to the Board detailing the reasons the meet cannot be completed.
- \* 8.6.8. The results of a meet that cannot be completed under the steps detailed in the above sections shall be scored as follows:
  - \* 8.6.8.1. If 48 events have been completed at the time of the meet's suspension, the meet score as of the last fully completed event will determine the winner.
  - \* 8.6.8.2. If less than 48 events have been completed in a meet that cannot be continued, no winner or loser will be declared. Any completed events will be eligible for use in qualifying for the Championship Meet and for RSL, Inc. league records

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## Coaches Meeting

- \* Introduce Yourself
- \* Does either team want an intermission?
- \* Any swimmers with Disabilities or Special Needs?
- \* Any swimmers starting in the water?
- \* Unsportsmanlike or Unsafe Behavior
- \* Legal Swimsuits & Caps Attire
- \* Warm up Time and Procedures
- \* Whistle Protocol – NO Flyover Starts
- \* Promote Positive Sporting Behavior

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## Officials Meeting

- \* Deck Assignments
- \* Jurisdictions
- \* Disqualification Processing - DQs
- \* Stroke and Turn Briefing
  - \* Rules Discussion & Questions
    - \* Be careful of the 'Rule Du Jour'
- \* No photography behind the blocks
- \* Dual Confirmation for Relays

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## Setting the Deck



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## Child Protection

- \* At all times referees should be aware of their duty of care to athletes and officials in the pool environment.
- \* Abuse can be in the following categories:
  - \* Physical abuse – someone physically harming or injuring a child
  - \* Sexual abuse – forcing or enticing a child, young person or vulnerable adult to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the person is aware of what is happening
  - \* Neglect – failure of care to a child resulting in the serious impairment of the child’s health
  - \* Emotional abuse – no love encouragement or help given to child and/or constantly derided or ridiculed or ignored. Conversely it can occur if a child is over protected
  - \* Bullying – deliberate hurtful behavior repeated over a period of time. It can be verbal, written or physical. Each association has its own method of dealing with Child Protection issues

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## Questions

Have a Great Season!

THANK YOU!

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