

RELAY TAKEOFF JUDGES

Relay Takeoff Judges serve to keep the competition fair and equitable by ensuring that no relay swimmer gains an unfair advantage by taking off before the incoming swimmer touches the wall. Relay takeoffs are normally judged by the Stroke and Turn Judges. However, in the absence of an adequate number of judges, the Referee or Chief Judge may delegate the responsibility for relay takeoffs to another person(s).

All Takeoff Judges must position themselves on the side(s) at the end(s) of the pool so as to have a clear view of the touch of the incoming swimmer(s) and the feet of the departing swimmer(s).

- Judges relay takeoffs (not the start) by the following:
 - Marks the Relay Take-Off Slip with the event number, heat number, and initials.
 - Observes feet of every swimmer leaving platform as incoming swimmer touches end of pool and places an "O" in the appropriate lane and swimmer block on the Relay Take-off Judging Slip if take-off was legal.
 - Does NOT raise hand but places an "X" in the appropriate lane and swimmer block on the Relay Take-off Judging Slip if any swimmer is not in contact with the platform when incoming swimmer touches. (Starting swimmer may be in motion as long as s/he is still in contact with platform.)
 - Upon completion of relay events, compares completed slips with other confirming judge. *It is important to note that a violation did NOT occur unless there is dual confirmation (that is, both Relay Takeoff Judging Slips agree) with the other official having jurisdiction over the lane(s) in which the violation(s) occurred.* Violations called outside of the judge's jurisdiction are not valid.

- If BOTH Relay Takeoff slips agree that a violation occurred
 - Both Relay Takeoff Slips must be completed with event number, heat number, lane number, and initials.
 - One of the Judges must completely make out a USAS DQ Slip indicating under "Relays" which swimmer had an early takeoff.
 - Both Judges must sign the USAS DQ Slip
 - Gives both the completed USAS DQ Slip and Relay Takeoff Judging Slip to Referee for validation.
 - The Relay Takeoff Slip is stapled to the DQ Slip at the table.