



## Stroke & Turn Judge Certification Clinic

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### Agenda

- OSI Officiating Philosophy
- Certification Requirements
- Officials Attire
- Rules
- Judging process
- Assignment and Jurisdiction of Officials
- Resources

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### Handouts

- Stroke and Turn Clinic Guide
- Copy of certification process
- Training record
- Evaluation rubric
- Non-athlete registration form
- USA Swimming stroke rules
- Disqualification slip, relay take-off slip

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## OSI Officiating Philosophy

Fair and equitable conditions of competition are maintained and uniformity in the sport is promoted so that no swimmer has an unfair advantage over another

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## What does that mean?

- Success of every meet depends on the official's integrity, knowledge, concern and regard for the competitive interest of the swimmer
- One set of rules applies to all swimmers
- Swimmers get the benefit of the doubt
- We do not judge style
- Demonstrate impartiality and professionalism on deck

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## Stroke and Turn Certification Requirements

- Attend training clinic
- Join USA Swimming/Oregon Swimming and display registration card while on deck (\$58 fee)
- Satisfactorily complete stages one to four on-deck training sessions at a minimum of seven sessions at a variety of meets
- Send training record to Area Officials Chair
- Pass on-line test
- Must background check through USA Swimming (\$39 fee)
- Must attend USA Swimming online Athlete Protection Training

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## The Officials Team

- Referee
- Starter
- Electronic Timer
- Stroke and Turn Officials
- Meet Director
- Timers

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## OSI Official Uniform

- Plain white collared shirt (tucked in)
- Navy blue pants, shorts, or skirt
- White socks
- White shoes
- OSI credentials



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## Preparing for the Meet

- Prior to the meet communicate with Referee that you wish to continue your training (share position, stage)
- Read up on rules prior to the meet and bring your USA Swimming Rules Book to the meet
- Wear the uniform and display your credentials
- Sign in to officiate
- Attend the officials briefing prior to the meet to receive instructions and assignments
- If provided, pick up a heat sheet at the officials meeting
- Bring a writing implement
- Bring your training log and evaluation rubric for the official you worked with to complete with you and sign

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## Fair and Equitable Judging

- Judging should be consistent among different officials at a meet
- Judging should be consistent at different meets
- All of the rules are enforced, we don't individually choose to enforce some rules and ignore others
- The rules are enforced across all age groups and levels of ability
- Officials demonstrate impartiality in their enforcement of the rules
- Take officiating seriously and work at it. Competitors have a right to expect officials to know the rules and interpret them correctly, fairly, and courteously

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## Rules of Thumb

- The benefit of the doubt ALWAYS goes to the swimmer
- Officials do not judge style, ugly isn't (necessarily) illegal
- No visible cheering for a particular swimmer or team
  - If you are off duty and not showing your official credentials you may cheer for your child
- Know the rules. Review the rules before the meet. Officials must work hard to fully understand the rules and their responsibilities in applying them

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## Mental Traps

- Advantage vs Disadvantage
- The "twice theory"
- We don't disqualify 8 & under swimmers.
- Don't infer - call what you see not what you don't see
- Don't ask me to judge my child

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## Rules

- USA Swimming rules:
  - see handout
  - found online at USA Swimming
  - in USA Swimming handbook which will be sent to you once you are certified
- Review rules before every swim meet
- A stroke and turn briefing is conducted at the officials meeting held before each session
- Refer to your handbook or ask other officials for clarification when you are unsure
- The answers to all questions in the online test can be found in USA Swimming handbook

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## Components of a Stroke

The rules describe the stroke by the following components:

- START – from start of race until head breaks the surface
- SWIM – from head breaking surface until beginning of last stroke into the turn/finish
- TURN – from beginning of last full stroke into the wall until head breaks the surface
- FINISH – from beginning of the last full stroke into the wall to the touch at the end of the prescribed distance  
OR at the time the judge shifts the vision to watch the wall at the touch

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## Freestyle

- Forward start
- At start and turns, head must break surface of water by the 15 meter mark
- Any stroke may be used
- Any kick may be used
- Swimmer must touch the wall at each turn and at the finish, any part of the body may be used

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## Backstroke

- Start in the water with back to the course, feet and toes may not be in or bent over the edge of the gutter
- Swim on back, except for turns. If submerged at the start and turns, head must break the water surface by the 15 meter mark
- Any stroke may be used
- Any kick may be used
- Swimmer must touch the wall at each turn and at the finish, any part of the body may be used. Swimmer may turn to the breast while executing the turn if the turning motion is continuous. Swimmer may be submerged at the finish

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## Breaststroke

- Forward start
- Must swim on the breast; may take one pull and kick while fully submerged; may take one downward butterfly kick with or following the pull and prior to the breaststroke kick; head must break the water surface before hands turn inward at widest part of second stroke
- Arms shall move simultaneously and in same horizontal plane; hands recover under, on or over water from the breast; elbows must be under the water except at touch; head must break the surface during each stroke cycle
- Kick: following single downward butterfly kick, movement shall be simultaneous and in same horizontal plane; feet turned out
- At turn and finish, body must be on the breast; touch must be made by both hands simultaneously

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## Butterfly

- Forward start
- Must swim on the breast; if submerged at start and following turns, head must break surface by 15 meter mark
- One arm pull under water is allowed which must bring the swimmer to the surface; arms must be brought forward over the water and recovered simultaneously
- All up and down movement of the feet and legs must be simultaneous
- At turns and finish, body must be on the breast; the touch must be made with both hands simultaneously

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## Individual Medley

- Forward start
- Butterfly, Backstroke, Breaststroke, Freestyle
- Freestyle is any stroke other than the previous three
- Rules for each stroke apply
- Intermediate turns conform to rules for that stroke
- Transition turns conform to finish rules for that stroke

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## Medley Relay

- Backstroke, Breaststroke, Butterfly, Freestyle
- Freestyle is any stroke other than the previous three
- Rules for each stroke apply
- Intermediate turns conform to rules for that stroke
- Transition turns conform to finish rules for that stroke
- No swimmer shall swim more than one leg
- Each swimmer must leave the pool immediately upon finishing his/her leg, except the last swimmer

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## Infractions: All Strokes

- Did not finish
- Walking on or pushing off the bottom
- Pulling on lane lines
- Not touching the wall at each end
- Interfering with another swimmer
- Not starting and finishing in the same lane
- Unsportsmanlike conduct
- Delay of meet (Referee's jurisdiction)
- False start (Starter and Referee's jurisdiction)

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## Disqualification Slip

- Name of swimmer or team
- Event #, Heat #, Lane #
- Violation – most, but not all, are printed on the slip
- Your printed name and trainer’s initials
- Referee’s signature – the Referee must approve the DQ

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## Disqualification Slip cont’d

### Definitions:

- START – from start of race until head breaks the surface
- SWIM – from head breaking surface until beginning of last stroke into the turn/finish
- TURN – from beginning of last full stroke into the wall until head breaks the surface
- FINISH – from beginning of the last full stroke into the wall to the touch at the end of the prescribed distance OR at the time the judge shifts the vision to watch the wall at the touch

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## Disqualification Slip cont’d

If clarification is needed, be prepared to answer these three questions to Chief Judge or Referee:

- What was your jurisdiction?
- What did you see?
  - Use rule book terminology
  - Keep your hands still
- Which rule was violated?

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## Disqualification Process

- Stroke and Turn Judge observes infraction within his/her jurisdiction and raises hand
- Stroke and Turn Judge, or Chief Judge, completes a Disqualification Slip
- Stroke and Turn Judge, Chief Judge, or designated person ensures DQ slip is quickly transferred to Referee for approval
- Referee approves DQ slip and delivers slip to Electronic Timers who process the information. Note: the Referee has authority to overturn the disqualification
- Referee delivers copy of slip to swimmer's coach
- Final results reflect the swimmer's disqualification

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## Talking with the Swimmer

- OSI has moved away from talking with the swimmer for DQ notification, except as directed by the Referee. The following are guidelines for communicating a DQ to a swimmer:
  - After a swimmer has finished his/her heat and exited the pool, check you have the correct swimmer by asking his/her name
  - Inform the swimmer of the violation, don't coach
  - Don't touch the athlete
  - Age group swimmers: get down to eye-level

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## Relay Take-off Judging

- Referee or Chief Judge assigns positions
- Lane judge stands beside the blocks and looks to side of pool (inside out); side judge stands at edge of pool and looks inward (outside in)
- "Toes to Nose" When the toes of the outgoing swimmer leave the blocks, look down to see if the incoming swimmer has touched
- If you observe an early take-off, mark x on the swimmer # for that lane. Do not raise your hand as dual confirmation is required
- Referee or designee will collect all slips after the event is complete in order to check for dual confirmation of early take-offs

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## Types of Judging

- **Stroke Judge** – also called Walker, walks the sides of the pool, may be two walkers on each side called lead-lag. Also responsible for 15 meter mark for freestyle, backstroke, butterfly, and medley events. Responsible for half the pool (up to 5 lanes). Referee determines jurisdiction for each stroke
- **Turn Judge** – stand at both ends of the pool; responsible for turns and finishes. May be responsible for one or more lanes, most likely 2-3 lanes. Referee determines jurisdiction for each stroke
- **Stroke and Turn Judge** – judge both stroke and turns, jurisdiction is end wall to mid-pool. Often used in short course, when there are insufficient officials, or pool design precludes walkers

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## Position of Turn Judge

- At least one foot at edge of pool
- Hands and papers (heat sheet, DQ slips, etc) behind back or by sides when swimmers are in your jurisdiction
- Look calm and professional
- Step back when no swimmers are in your jurisdiction
- If not directed where to stand by referee, stand where you can see the swimmers in your jurisdiction



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## Continuing Your Stroke and Turn Judge Certification

- Renew membership with OSI and USA Swimming each year
- Take on-line recertification test every two years
- Must work a minimum of 10 sessions over two years to re-certify

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## Resources

- Oregon Swimming, Inc. website: [www.oregonswimming.org](http://www.oregonswimming.org)
  - Officials
  - Training forms
  - List of trainers
- USA Swimming website: [www.usaswimming.org](http://www.usaswimming.org)
  - Official Tracking System
- Officiating Swimming, DVD produced by USA Swimming available for purchase on website

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## If All Else Fails - ASK

- Use all resources available
  - Other officials
  - Referees
  - Area Officials Chair
  - Officials Chair

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# Thank you!

*See you on deck*

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