



General Principles of Officiating

Module 1

Self-Management

NOTES

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Introduction

Technical Officials play an important role in all sports. Without officials giving up their time most sporting competitions would not go ahead.

Officiating can be a challenge at times but if performed in a positive manner it is an interesting, varied and rewarding activity. Officials need to ensure that their approach towards officiating is in line with the aims of the competition and be aware that their approach can influence the participants' experience and enjoyment of competitive swimming.

Expectations of a Technical Official

- Each Technical Official becomes the 'face' of officiating at competitions. It is important that Technical Officials present in a **positive, professional and respectful manner** when dealing with swimmers, coaches and others involved with the competition.
- Technical Officials need to provide leadership and guidance to participants to ensure the competition is conducted safely and fairly. Qualities such as integrity, honesty, trustworthiness and respect are all integral to the role.
- Important expectations of a Technical Officials are how they;
 - behave and relate to others prior to, during and following competition,
 - present themselves as an official, and
 - carry out their role.
- Technical Officials are responsible for their actions and attitude. People expect the Technical Official to be a person they can trust to run the competition.

By fulfilling these expectations a Technical Official will earn the respect of swimmers, coaches, other officials and all involved with the competition.

Personal Requirements

- Proficiency in the sport of swimming.
- Knowledge and understanding of the MSA Swimming Rules.
- Appearance:
 - Wear your uniform when on pool deck.
 - Ensure you have appropriate footwear.
 - Have a neat general appearance.
- Attitude:
 - Be confident.
 - Be positive.
 - Be pleasant but firm in your approach to the swimmers.
 - Display integrity and honesty.
 - Be professional and responsible.
- Timeliness:
 - Be punctual. Arrive at the competition with sufficient time to prepare, attend briefing etc.
 - Assist other officials with tasks to ensure meet starts on time.

- Be available at the end of the competition for debriefing if required.
- Preparation:
 - Keep up to date with the MSA Swimming Rules.
 - Ensure you bring a clipboard, pens, whistle, infraction pads, DQ codes, rules etc.
 - Introduce yourself to other Technical Officials before the meet starts.
- Experience as a competitor can be advantageous but does not guarantee success as an official.

Officiating Tips

- Officials must manage their own behaviour.
- Good officials only make calls on what they are certain they saw.
- Good officials have the courage to do the right thing at the right time.
- Officials do not allow themselves to be distracted, harassed or flustered.
- Officials must be lifelong learners.
- Check yourself in a mirror to see how you look when you are officiating.
- Immediately after an event, pinpoint one error you made. Write it down. Be your own most severe critic.
- Officiating is a "doing" operation.

It is important to remember that the meet you are officiating at is the most important competition that day to the swimmers participating in it.