



Welcome to the first of the weekly training bulletins for the Boys Swimming and Diving season for 2018-19. The bulletins will touch on many different areas. You can expect to see information of officiating techniques, rules, working with coaches and a host of other topics. As you read these weekly updates please feel free to share them with the coaches you contact, the Athletic Directors from the schools with whom you contract, in some instances, certain portions may be appropriate for your team captains. Hopefully, the bulletins will stimulate some discussions and challenge your memory of the "Swimming and Diving" rules book that govern our officiating efforts.

Swimming and Diving officials come from many different backgrounds. Many of you are former competitive swimmers. Your past experiences with your personal coach and your opportunities to compete helped to prepare you for officiating. Some of you were lifeguards and clearly understand the importance of working in a safe pool environment. Many others were certified swimming instructors with various organizations. Regardless of which organization it was, you learned both stroke mechanics and basic teaching fundamentals that will be useful during your officiating career. I also know of more than one parent who after taking his/her children to swimming workouts and swim meets from elementary school age through high school felt they were ready to try officiating. If you have done one or more of these types of activities in your life you already have begun to build the skills, you need to be an official.

### You Can't Officiate What You Can't See

As an official, YOU CAN'T OFFICIATE WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE. Over the coming weeks, we'll spend a lot of time on this theme. Sometimes this is in the most literal sense. Even though meets are traditionally located indoors, sometimes sunlight shining through windows or decorative glass blocks can interfere with the official's sight of all the lanes entirely and may interfere with the competitors' abilities to compete fairly. There may be instances, in order to ensure fairness for all swimmers, that we hold up a heat of some lanes are affected more than others.

Another area where our position isn't the determining factor in our ability to see our responsibilities is when our sightline is interfered with by a passing swimmer. This is an instance where an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Make sure to discuss with your coaches and captains at the pre-meet meeting responsibilities and positions of swimmers and coaches when not participating. Certainly, violations should be corrected immediately. It would be a shame to have the determination of proper timing for entering the pool on a relay incorrectly officiated because your attention and concentration was broken by a passing swimmer when it could have been addressed at a less-impactful moment of the meet.

**Something to Consider:** Team H (host) and Team V (visitor) have a dual meet scheduled for 6:30 pm. Team V has the pool for warm-up at 5:30 pm until meet time. At 6:30 pm Team V hasn't arrived or notified the Team H of a delayed arrival. At 7:00 pm nothing. At 7:30 pm nothing. At 8:00 pm nothing (you still there??) What is the meet's score?

**Ruling:** If you went to 7-2-3.a, you found the answer. If you stayed until 8:00 to make the call, well I hope you enjoyed the conversation because you stayed longer than you needed. In the case above, the referee may declare a forfeit at 7:00 pm. Score is 12-0.