

GRAL Relay Takeoff Dual Confirmation Procedures (6 Lane)

Dual confirmation for all relay takeoffs should be used whenever possible. When performing relay takeoff judging for block or deck starts, the Judge's eyes should be focused on the feet leaving the block or deck, and at the point at which the feet leave the block or deck, the eyes are shifted to the arriving swimmer to make sure a touch has occurred. When performing takeoff judging for in-water starts, the Judge's eyes should be focused on the hand on the wall, and at the point at which the hand leaves the side, the eyes are shifted to make sure the touch has occurred. It is sometimes possible to have both swimmers touching in the field of view, but the concentration and focus should be on the feet or hand leaving the end until they leave. This method provides the appropriate benefit of doubt to be applied to the judgment. If an early takeoff is observed, an X should be placed on the relay takeoff form. If an early takeoff is not observed, the entry is a 0.

During meets 1, 3, and 5 (Freestyle Relays), the Stroke & Turn Judges at the end with the relay exchanges may perform dual confirmation judging.

During meets 2, 4, and 6 (Medley Relays), the Stroke and Turn Judges should concentrate on the swim strokes and touches, so other Judges should be assigned to perform relay takeoff judging when possible.

The Starter should be included in the relay takeoff judging staff always looking in from the starter normal position.

The Referee may be included in the relay takeoff judging staff, always looking in from the outside of lane one or six (opposite the Starter), but should be avoided during medley relay meets.

Judges working the other half of the meet might be available to help with relay takeoff judging.

It is not necessary for the relay takeoff judges to wear the official's blue and white uniform.

Ideally, the relay takeoff judging staff includes four judges at the start end, and because 8 & Under relays have exchanges at both ends, a staff of eight Judges, with four judges at each end.

When four Takeoff Judges are available (eight for 8 & Under relays), one Judge is positioned at the side near lane 1, and observes takeoffs for lanes 1, 2, and 3. One Judge is positioned at the side near lane 6 and observes takeoffs for lanes 6, 5, and 4. The other two Judges are positioned between lanes 3 and 4, one observing takeoffs in lanes 3, 2, and 1, and the other observing takeoffs in lanes 4, 5, and 6.

When only two Takeoff Judges are available (four for 8 & Under relays), one Judge is positioned at the side near lane 1 and observes takeoffs in all six lanes. The other Judge is positioned at the side near lane 6 and observes takeoffs in all six lanes. This method should be used only when absolutely necessary.

In all cases, dual confirmation judges must observe the takeoffs the opposite direction and in no case shall dual confirmation judges observing lanes be positioned in the same area as the other Judge observing the same lanes.

When dual confirmation relay takeoff judging is used, the Judge's hand should NOT be raised when an early takeoff is observed. A Combined event form or individual heat relay takeoff judging forms are used to record the observation for later comparison. If forms are not available, the meet program or heat sheet may be used to record the observations. The two Judges must observe an early takeoff independently.

The Swimmer Always Gets the Benefit of Doubt

GRAL Relay Takeoff Dual Confirmation Procedures (8 Lane)

Dual confirmation for all relay takeoffs should be used whenever possible. When performing relay takeoff judging for block or deck starts, the Judge's eyes should be focused on the feet leaving the block or deck, and at the point at which the feet leave the block or deck, the eyes are shifted to the arriving swimmer to make sure a touch has occurred. When performing takeoff judging for in-water starts, the Judge's eyes should be focused on the hand on the wall, and at the point at which the hand leaves the side, the eyes are shifted to make sure the touch has occurred. It is sometimes possible to have both swimmers touching in the field of view, but the concentration and focus should be on the feet or hand leaving the end until they leave. This method provides the appropriate benefit of doubt to be applied to the judgment. If an early takeoff is observed, an X should be placed on the relay takeoff form. If an early takeoff is not observed, the entry is a 0.

During meets 1, 3, and 5 (Freestyle Relays), the Stroke & Turn Judges at the end with the relay exchanges may perform dual confirmation judging.

During meets 2, 4, and 6 (Medley Relays), the Stroke and Turn Judges should concentrate on the swim strokes and touches, so other Judges should be assigned to perform relay takeoff judging when possible.

The Starter should be included in the relay takeoff judging staff always looking in from the starter normal position.

The Referee may be included in the relay takeoff judging staff, always looking in from the outside of lane one or eight (opposite the Starter) , but should be avoided during medley relay meets.

Judges working the other half of the meet might be available to help with relay takeoff judging.

It is not necessary for the relay takeoff judges to wear the official's blue and white uniform.

Ideally, the relay takeoff judging staff includes four judges at the start end, and because 8 & Under relays have exchanges at both ends, a staff of eight Judges, with four judges at each end.

When four Takeoff Judges are available (eight for 8 & Under relays), one Judge is positioned at the side near lane 1, and observes takeoffs for lanes 1, 2, 3 and 4. One Judge is positioned at the side near lane 8 and observes takeoffs for lanes 8, 7, 6, and 5. The other two Judges are positioned between lanes 3 and 4, one observing takeoffs in lanes 4, 3, 2, and 1, and the other observing takeoffs in lanes 5, 6, 7, and 8.

When only two Takeoff Judges are available (four for 8 & Under relays), one Judge is positioned at the side near lane 1 and observes takeoffs in all eight lanes. The other Judge is positioned at the side near lane 8 and observes takeoffs in all eight lanes. This method should be used only when absolutely necessary.

In all cases, dual confirmation judges must observe the takeoffs the opposite direction and in no case shall dual confirmation judges observing lanes be positioned in the same area as the other Judge observing the same lanes.

When dual confirmation relay takeoff judging is used, the Judge's hand should NOT be raised when an early takeoff is observed. A combined event form or individual heat relay takeoff judging forms are used to record the observation for later comparison. If forms are not available, the meet program or heat sheet may be used to record the observations. The two Judges must observe an early takeoff independently.

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