

# Experienced Referee Training

Updated for the 2021 Season



# Agenda

- Meet Cover Sheet
- Rule Changes
- Communication (Facebook)
- Discussion of Best Practices



The Referee's primary role is to ensure that the meet is contested fairly.



# Qualities of a Good Referee

**Calm** **Confident** **Fair**  
**Experienced** **Knowledgeable**  
**Communicator** **Prepared** **Alert**  
**Delegator** **Proactive**  
**Good Attitude** **Multi-tasker**  
**Professional**



# Information to put on the Meet Cover Sheet

- Division
- Meet # (1 – 6)
- Meet Date
- Meet Start Time
- Time Event 44 begins (don't forget to note this)
- Meet workers & walkers (**this is how people get credit!**)
- Meet Completion Time
- Checkbox for Weather Delay
- Teams competing
- Meet Location
- Pool Measurement (Yards or Meters)



# Noting Workers on the Cover Sheet

- It should be self-explanatory for the most part
- It gets tricky with Strokes & Turns
  - Any walks prior to final walk, the S&T Trainee goes in section 10 or 11
  - For the final “shadowed walk” the S&T judge is actually the judge of record. His/her name goes in section 2 or 6
  - The experienced “shadow” goes in section 10 or 11
  - **Ultimately, GRAL needs to know that it is the trainees final walk and who shadowed him/her**

Certified Official role	Certified Official (1 <sup>st</sup> Half)	Certified Official (2 <sup>nd</sup> Half)
	Name and Team (ie Joe Smith, PC)	
Referee:	1	5
Strokes & Turns #1:		
Strokes & Turns #2:	2	6
Strokes & Turns #3:		
Strokes & Turns #4:		
Starter:	3	7
Head Clerk of Course:	4	8
Meet Director:		
Parent Rep:	Home Team:	Away Team:

  

Walking/Shadowing role (ie Referee, S&T...)	Walking/Shadowing Official (1 <sup>st</sup> Half)	Walking/Shadowing Official (2nd Half)
Name and Team (ie Joe Smith, PC)		
9	10	11



# Reminder of 2019 Rule Changes of Note

- Taping
- Backstroke Turns
- Backstroke Flag marking
- Cell Phone or other pictures behind the blocks
- Swim Shirts (not a rule change, just a clarification)



# Other Reminders

- Strokes and Turns Judges should be placed on the ends for fairness
- How to handle exceptions
  - Coaches should inform you and they will be on the GRAL website Board page (password: leneverett)
  - If there is a strokes and turns exception, do not discuss with the judges, but if they DQ, then you handle the disposal of the card so that judges can focus on judging and not exceptions





# Concussion Training

- This is required for all Coaches, Strokes and Turns Judges, and Referees beginning in 2021
- The classes are highly recommended for all other officials
- There are two links to training on the Officials Web page – either High School or CDC
- You just need to take it once and then report to GRAL with your certificate – [christy@gralva.com](mailto:christy@gralva.com)



# New for COVID: Order of Finish

- You may request that someone take order of finish data for each race (may be assigned to Starter, a non-working Strokes & Turns Judge, or Head Timer)
- This is not a difficult task, but it may take some time to get used to doing it accurately
- Simply write down the lane numbers of the swimmers in the order they finish (e.g. 3 4 1 6 5 2)
- Write it directly onto the program in case the Computer Rep or Head Table Worker needs the information
- It will take practice to get this information down and be able to start the next race in a timely manner.



# Guidelines for Minimum Officials 2021 Only!

- Sharing between teams is encouraged!
- Below says “per half” but you may want to have people run full meets if virtual because they are so much shorter.
- Strokes & Turns - 2 minimum per half
- Starter – 1 per half and can be a S&T judge in a dual role but this is not preferred
- Referee - 1 per half
- Computer Rep – 1 per half plus a helper and data checker if possible
- Table workers – 1 who is certified; if running virtual each team should have a head table worker, otherwise, 1 from the home team and as many other workers as you can find to lighten the load
- Timers – 1 per lane minimum
  - Not 2 per lane as that would force Table Workers to average every time!
  - If 1 per lane, then you **must** have 2 Head Timers (as is usual)
  - If 1 per lane, then you **must** have someone taking Order of Finish data
  - If there is a possibility of a swimmer breaking a record, there needs to be 3 timers – GRAL records with fewer than three times will not be accepted
- Clerk of course – 1 Head and as many helpers as your team feels they require
  - Clerk can use texting system to call swimmers from cars/parking lot to the Clerk of Course
  - If virtual, Clerk does not need to be certified



# If Virtual

- Minimum guidelines are in effect for each pool
- Officials from the other team do not need to be in attendance but if that can be worked out, it is preferred
- Table Workers (only one team needs to be represented) will process the times, but the Computer Rep does not need to enter them at the meet
- Computer Reps will send separate data within 24 hours of meet end and prior to deadline
- S&T Judge number should mirror other team



# GRAL Officials Facebook Group

- GRAL has a Facebook group for officials!
- All GRAL officials, trainees and coaches are invited and encouraged to participate
- Group discussion can include:
  - Questions on rules or rule interpretations
  - Share lessons learned and observations
- Intent is to promote consistency among GRAL officials
- Discussion on FB group does not constitute official guidance on rules
- To join:
  - Search Facebook for the group
  - Answer the questions to join including your position – S&T, Ref, etc.
  - Please share with other officials at your club
  - Non-officials will not be accepted (e.g. parents, club board members, etc.).  
This is just for officials



# Best Practices, Comments, Questions

- We want to hear from you

