

OFFICIALS' APPENDICES: Duties, Procedures & Documents

Appx O1 ROLE OF THE SWIMMING OFFICIAL

Refer to the ACC web site for important information for all officials positions

<https://www.accsport.asn.au/carnivals/swimming/officials-info>

The role of the official is to assist the swimmer. It follows them to ask of himself/herself, "what would be a fair decision for all competitors?"

Officials should not adopt the attitude that they are there to 'catch the competitor out', but must ensure that the competition is fair, and that no one competitor gains any advantage or disadvantage.

If an official is unsure of a decision, he/she should lean towards the competitors way - but to be fair to all competitors, the official should ask for guidance from the Referee of the event.

Officials should not be frightened to ask the Referee, or a senior official for guidance. It is the duty of the Referee to see that the competition is fair. It is better to ask for guidance than to make a wrong decision which results in a protest being entered, (it could be upheld). Officials coming into the sport are not expected to know all the rules, and the only way to learn is to ask guidance from experienced officials, read the Handbook and guidelines supplied as rules do change. (Ask your Physical Education Coordinator for the handbook).

Officials should remember that very often, a competitor is nervous during competition. They should be sure that nothing is said to upset that competitor. This does not mean that an official has to put up with rudeness from the competitor, but should there be any problems, they should be handled in a diplomatic way. It is usually found, that if the official is pleasant to a competitor, the swimmer is pleasant to the official.

If a competitor thanks the official, the official should acknowledge the thanks.

It is important to see that the competitors are not 'hurried', although it is also important to see that the competitor does not take too long to take his place in an event, or to get ready for the start. Let there be no hassles, conduct the competition in a steady manner, endeavour to see the competitor's point of view but at the same time see that rules are followed.

A Good Official is ONE Who:

- is quick to react, is alert and can make a decision quickly.
- uses common sense, is tactful to the competitor and tactful with other officials.
- makes sure that he stands in a position to fairly judge whatever duty is allocated to him.
- has a knowledge of rules, and keeps himself up to date with any changes of rules by always having access to a current handbook (available at [HTTP://WWW.FINA.ORG/RULES/ENGLISH/SWIMMING.PHP](http://www.fina.org/rules/english/swimming.php))
- if he/she is not sure of the interpretation of rules, ask guidance from a referee or senior official.
- goes out of his/her way to understand the swimmer, as very often, shyness can be interpreted as rudeness.
- is prepared to work for the sport and the swimmer in all climatic conditions (wet, fine, cold or hot).