

## PARENT'S GUIDE TO OFFICIATING

This sheet presents a few options open to anyone who has the time, desire and willingness to give of themselves to help the many AAU athletes who are working to fulfill their dreams – finish their first race, get a “BB” time or become a champion.

There are many levels of officiating that require different degrees of involvement and time, one of which is probably right for you. Officials are present at competition to implement the technical rules of swimming and to ensure that the competition is fair and equitable to everyone.

The **Referee** is in charge of the entire swim meet.

The **Clerk of Course** is a position where you have the opportunity to meet the swimmers, coaches and parents. Clerk is responsible for paperwork at the meet prior to the events beginning. Swimmers on your team will “check-in” with you that they are present and ready for warm-ups. **Scratches** will be given to you (intent not to swim) by coaches and you will mark master heat sheet and officials sheets to indicate this. Then you will forward this information to the computer operator. **Relay changes** will be given to you, and you will mark the officials heat sheets to reflect changes and forward information to the computer operator.

**Computer operator(s)** work from the results sheets from the timer's lanes and enter the times. If there are 3 times they use the middle range time. If there are two times they average. Must be able to double-check your own work. Will work with the Meet Management software program. Responsible to print results after each event and ribbon labels in a prompt manner.

**Announcer** is a popular person. They maintain interest throughout the swim meet. They work in coordination with the Referee, Meet Director and Starter. Some of the duties include announcing results of prior events, who is swimming, team affiliations, scratch deadlines and other information which can make for a smooth running swim meet. **Must be swift of tongue with the gift of gab.**

**Meet Marshall:** Safety is number one and this person handles safety enforcement. Controls behaviors in and out of pool, maintains order in the venue during the meet. **NO RUNNING ON DECK.**

**Timers:** Lane timers are where most Parents start out as volunteers. The most important single statistic at a swim meet is the time a swimmer achieves during their race. You will operate a stop watch (after instruction in Timers meeting) and will be responsible for starting watch at the Starter's signal and stopping the watch when any part of the swimmer's body touches the wall. The watch time is then recorded on the timer sheet. **Head Timer** checks that all lanes have timers with watches. They start a watch on every race and act as backup if a timer's watch fails. **Head Timer** is responsible for training all timers during Timers meeting before the meet.

**Stroke and Turn Judge:** This position walks the deck, observing swimmers in their assigned jurisdiction. Swimmers are observed from the time they dive into the water. The **S & T** judges are there to ensure compliance with the rules relating to each stroke. Judges observe the swimmers from the end of the lane(s) to ensure that turns/finishes comply with the rules applicable to each stroke.

**The Starter:** This job ensures that all swimmers receive a fair and equitable start. They work closely with the Referee, assuming responsibility for the race at the Referee's signal. At that time the Starter directs the swimmers to "take their marks" ensuring that no swimmer is in motion prior to the starting signal. They are also responsible for ensuring that the starting equipment is in proper working order prior to the start of the meet.

**Referee:** Do you enjoy decision-making, problem solving, and challenges? The **Referee** has overall authority and responsibility for the competition and ensures compliance with all rules. The Referee resolves all questions relating to the conduct of the swim meet and reviews any disqualification. The referee ensures that all of the officials are in place, timers are ready, and that swimmers are present and ready for the start of their heat. At that time, the race is turned over to the Starter.