



Last Bulletin we focused on the office staff during a swim meet. As an official they perform vital tasks that affect your ability to keep the meet running smoothly. In accessing their individual abilities you should spend a few minutes talking with them prior to the meet. Asking questions like “Is this your first season as (Computer Software Operator, Scorer, Scoreboard Operator)? Have you gotten both teams’ line ups for the meet? Are the Diving Entry Sheets in? How many entries in diving? Have you run a test on the scoreboard? On the timing system? Who will be recording disqualifications? Do you have any questions?”

After the meet has started questions like: Are all the Timers using their back up buttons? Any discrepancies in times? Have you used any back up times? Are all the touch pads working? What is the score through the (200 IM)? Are you ready to start Diving? Should help you determine if things are on track or that a correction is needed. If you have worked with this office staff before and for some reason, they are taking far longer than usual this should alert you to a possible problem and would be a time to investigate. You do not need to have knowledge of the software, the operation of the scoreboard or the interface between the systems. Remember while they are great to have, meets can function and did function for years without computers, scoreboards or system interfaces. These are great supplements that make the event more interesting, but they are not mandatory for a meet to proceed. There are schools today that hand score all

of their meets and operate very successfully without benefit of electronics.

Schools should have the forms available for hand scoring a meet. As an official you should be familiar with how a hand scored meet form is designed and how the results of each event and ultimately the final score of the meet are determined. A wise official usually has a few blank meet forms in his/her bag as many schools have not hand scored a meet in years.

You Can't Officiate What You Can't See

You are the only official at a dual meet. The seating space for the teams are on opposite sides of the pool. As the meet progresses the team members of each team discuss their individual performances with their coaches at pool side. Unfortunately, the team on the starting side of the pool is conducting their reviews right next to the pole for the backstroke flags. They are obstructing your ability to move along the side of the pool and your view of the turn end of the pool. They are also talking through the start of the next event.

After the first occurrence and before the next heat or event speak to the coach privately away from the swimmers. Ask them to move the locations of the review away from the edge of the pool so you can move along the edge and remind them that quiet is required from all during the start of a race.

Something to Consider: It's the 200 Freestyle in an 8-lane pool. The starting block in lane 4 is obviously loose as it rocks back and forth when a swimmer stands on it. It clearly can not be rapidly repaired. What are your options? What part does “prior mutual consent” play in your decision?

Our Last Consideration: Our last question was what rule requires exhibition swimmers to be judgeable when they compete. Rule 1-2-3b provides that exhibition competitors must adhere to all rules regarding event form, starting, judging, timing and conduct.