

COVID Meet Protocol for all CT Swim Officials

Applies to RTC (return to competition) meets to be conducted from August through December, or until further protocol/guideline updates are provided by USA Swimming and the State of Connecticut.

Additional protocol clarifications will be provided in advance of Short Course meets

1. Meet Referee
 - a. All pre-meet communication will be via email or cell phone
 - b. Officials sign-ups and coverage need to be established in advance of the meet. Number of officials on deck will need to be specifically limited based on the size of the pool. See notes under "Officials coverage" below. No walk-on officials will be allowed.
 - c. In-person Stroke briefings need not be conducted – if conducted, ensure that proper spacing and mask protocols are followed. Any official who has a concern about participation in the stroke briefing will be excused from said briefing.
 - d. Sign-in sheets will not be provided. Meet Referee must track attendance on their own for purposes of OTS entry
 - e. Certification status of attending officials needs to be verified online prior to the day of the meet. Use OTS to check status. Communicate any certification issues as soon as they are seen
 - f. Topics for MR discussion with host team in advance of the meet:
 - i. Appropriate spacing for DR and SR
 - ii. Mobile partition for use between DR and SR
 1. This is recommended equipment to be provided by each host club
 - iii. Walking paths around the deck for athletes, coaches, officials, and other volunteers
 - iv. Will PPE be available for officials and volunteers?
 - v. Plan for recruitment/coordination of timers
 - vi. Disqualification notification protocol
 - vii. If meet includes multiple sessions, microphone must be sanitized in between sessions.
 - g. Provisional officials may be utilized if needed; check qualifications in OTS
 - h. Timing:
 - i. Timing requirements follow rule 102.24
 - ii. The number of timers required/allowed will differ based on the venue and the type of timing system that is available. In all cases, effort should be made to use the absolute minimum number of timers necessary. Program Ops will review this during the sanction process.
 - iii. For indoor venues, taking deck capacity and social distancing into account, an automatic timing system with one timer per lane is highly recommended
 - iv. In-person timer briefings will not be conducted
 - i. All events need to be pre-seeded, and timelines posted in advance of the meet
 - j. No deck entries will be allowed
2. Masks
 - a. All officials must provide their own mask
 - b. Stroke & Turn Officials will wear masks at all times
 - c. Admin Officials shall wear masks at all times and follow appropriate distancing guidelines
 - d. Starter and Deck Referee may remove mask while performing certain aspects of their roles (i.e. blowing whistles, announcing starts, etc.), while ensuring that minimum distancing requirements are able to be met. Starter and Deck Referee must wear a mask in case of interaction with an athlete, coach, official, or other volunteer on deck

3. Officials coverage
 - a. Minimum number of officials is 4 (AO, MR/DR, SR, ST). These meets will operate similar to a high school or college meet
 - b. Deck Referee and Starter may be on opposite sides of the pool
 - i. This will require development of hand signals to communicate false starts
 - ii. Recommend that each host team provides a see-through plastic partition for use between the Starter and Deck Referee
 - c. Maximum number of Stroke & Turn officials
 - i. 6 lane pool = 4 (3 lanes per official per side)
 - ii. 8 lane pool = 6 (3-2-3 lane coverage per side)
 - iii. 10 lane pool = 6 (3-4-3 lane coverage per side)
 - d. No walk-on officials will be allowed.
4. Officials assignments
 - a. Rotations will not be utilized
 - b. One Starter will be assigned for the duration of the session
 - i. If meet includes multiple sessions, microphone must be sanitized in between sessions
 - c. Chief Judges will not be used – see Disqualification protocol for more details
5. Disqualification protocol
 - a. DQ slips may be utilized
 - b. If slips are not used, officials must write the infraction on their heat sheet in detail, using the language of the DQ slip
 - c. During a break, officials will report infractions to the Admin table
 - d. Infractions will be recorded in a Disqualification Log
 - i. The Deck Referee will review and initial the Disqualification Log
 - ii. The infraction will not become an official Disqualification until initialed in the Log by the Meet Referee or Deck Referee
 - e. Coaches will not be notified in-person by an official – they must visit the Admin table to learn of any disqualifications, or will be notified by Meet Management
 - f. Radios may be used if they are available through the host team.
 - g. Deck protocol remains the same with regards to jurisdiction, arm raising, etc.
 - h. Reminder: Benefit of the doubt always goes to the swimmer. Since verbal debriefing will not be taking place, the accuracy of each call is of the utmost importance – heat, lane, athlete, infraction, etc.
6. Other
 - a. Breaks will be taken at the discretion of the Meet Referee, for the benefit of the athletes and to allow Meet Management to review results and for the Deck Referee to disposition Disqualifications
 - b. Due to headcount limitations, it is imperative that officials who sign up attend the meet; if plans change, Meet Referee must be notified immediately so alternate coverage can be arranged.
 - c. On-deck training/shadowing is not possible at RTC meets.
 - d. Maintain social distancing and follow COVID-19 protocols on deck to the highest extent possible
 - e. Officials should avoid interacting with athletes, coaches, and volunteers
 - f. Assume that hospitality will not be available and plan accordingly
 - g. These guidelines are subject to change based on updates to local, state, or federal mandates
 - h. Please contact officials@ctswim.org with any questions regarding these guidelines