

RELAY TAKE-OFF JUDGE

Standard Instruction

RELAY TAKE-OFF JUDGE -- ensures that a relay swimmer does not leave the starting platform before the preceding swimmer has touched the end of the pool.

The Referee (or, at the Referee's discretion, the Chief Judge) assigns and instructs Relay Take-off Judges. Before the competition begins, the Referee determines the respective areas for observation position.

Position:

The Referee (or empowered Chief Judge) will assign each relay take off judge their position.

There are many possible positions for **Relay Take-off Judges depending on the Meet Referee preferences, staff availability and facility needs.**

Options include:

A: One official is positioned on each side of the start end looking across the start end of the pool. One next to Starter the other opposite at corners.

B: Same as B but observing half the field with officials in the center of the pool facing out to the corners.

C: One stands immediately beside the starting block (the LANE judge) while the other looks across the lanes from the side of the pool (the SIDE judge).

D: Other options may be selected pending meet needs and facility

Preparation:

Mark your relay take off slips with Event #, Heat #, it is good to cross out any empty lanes and unassigned lanes and sign them.

Observation:

The judges should look 'Toes to Touch' in order to give the benefit of the doubt to the swimmers. In other words, they look for the feet to leave the block first and then immediately look to see if the touch has occurred. The slight lag is to the benefit of the swimmers. Be careful of a 'recoil' as some swimmers hit the wall and immediately release or bounce off. This is usually apparent.

Additionally, since you will be watching numerous lanes it is a good idea to watch the field coming in so you know which lanes are likely to hit first to be ready to observe the take offs.

Once the exchanges are made immediately mark your relay take-off slip without discussion or reviewing the other judges slip. O = Legal, X = Early take off

Reporting Violation:

1. Only the Referee or assigned Relay Take-off Judge can disqualify for an infraction of the relay take-off rule.
2. A Relay Take-off Judge does NOT indicate an observed early take-off with a raised hand. They only fill out the slip.
3. A "double confirmation" on an early relay take-off is required. Relay Take-Off Judges compare slips at the COMPLETION of the FINAL take-off exchange only.
4. The Referee, Chief Judge or designated official must make every reasonable effort to seek out the relay team or their coach and inform them of the reason for the disqualification. Never suggest to a swimmer or coach that a swimmer "came close" to being disqualified; "close" is perfectly legal! (NOTE: Officials should never give advice or talk to swimmers or coaches except to explain a disqualification actually cited.)