



AQUA Swimming Officiating Protocols

50m competitions

22 June 2026

Protocol – 50m Long Course Events



General Directions

- Turn off all electronic devices; do not use your cell phone during your assignment
- When seated, feet on the deck (don't cross your legs), sit up (no slouching), and please tuck in your shirt
- Be sure to have a pen and reading glasses if you will need them to fill out the DQ card
- After march-on, remain standing for the technical official introductions – please applaud
- Please sit on request from the announcer
- National Anthem: Please face the flags
- At the end of the session, please wait for the announcer to end the session and parade off deck in reverse order
- Please be flexible and expect adaptations
- Look out for each other! And, again, smile and enjoy yourselves!

	Inspector of Turns: Start/Finish End (IoT)	Inspector of Turns: Turn End (IoT)	Judge of Strokes: (JoS)
GENERAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Except for asking the side for the lap card, no initiating conversations with swimmers. Respond if a swimmer speaks to you • Make sure you are standing clear from the overhead camera view – stand on the side of the starting platform that has the sticker • Be standing throughout the race, remain seated if no swimmer in your lane • If everything is ok, take one step back after each start, turn and finish (unless reporting an infraction) • Help to clear swimmers out of the water after each heat • Leave clipboard/start list at seat during races 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be standing throughout the race, remain seated if no swimmer in your lane • After judging, if everything is ok, take one step back after each turn (unless reporting an infraction) • Leave clipboard/start list at seat during races 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the swimmers - also observe turns and finishes to assist Inspectors of Turns • Leave clipboard/start list at seat during races <p><u>Depending on pool setup:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referee's side: Walk behind LED wall • Opposite Referee's side: Walk behind track cam rail • JoS are challenged by the quick pace of the races. They should observe swimmers but at the same time be in a position to return to their respective 15m marks in order to judge the 15m - see below
HEATS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stand on short whistles • Move forward on the long whistle to behind start end bulkhead • After start signal, step onto start end bulkhead (if required – depending on pool) to observe swimmer until after first arm stroke, step back if all clear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stand on short whistles • Step forward on long whistle to edge of turn end bulkhead • After start signal, step onto back of turn end bulkhead (if there is a bulkhead) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stand on short whistles • Go to position on long whistle depending on the race: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BACKSTROKE, BUTTERFLY & FREESTYLE lag JoS at 7m and lead JoS at 15m • BREASTSTROKE at 5m and 7m
SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stand when Lane 5 swimmer is announced • Judges will begin walking out to get into position behind athlete chairs when Lane 4 swimmer is announced. Coordinate walk-on with other IoT (s) to reach position at same time • Move forward on long whistle as above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stand when Lane 5 swimmer is announced • Judges will begin walking out to get into position when Lane 4 swimmer is announced. Coordinate walk-on with opposite side to reach position at same time • Move forward on long whistle as above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stand when Lane 5 swimmer is announced • Judges will walk into position when Lane 4 swimmer is announced and position themselves according to strokes as set forward above

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	Inspector of Turns: Start/Finish End (IoT)	Inspector of Turns: Turn End (IoT)	Judge of Strokes: (JoS)
FREESTYLE			
50m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When lead swimmer reaches the inbound 15m mark on return, all IoTs step forward together to judge finish from last arm stroke in until touch If all clear, step back when swimmer touches at finish When all swimmers have finished, return to chair on signal from CIT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act as Start End IoT for start of 50m events Step forward to observe swimmer until completion of the first arm stroke If all clear, step back when swimmer leaves jurisdiction When all swimmers have finished, return to chair on signal from CIT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For start of race, one JoS at 7m and the other at 15m. Lag to walk to 15m during race JoS do not walk during freestyle races. Observe swimmers until all swimmers have finished their race. No need to go to other 15m mark Signal to Referee at end of race if all clear and return to chairs
BUTTERFLY, BACKSTROKE, BREASTSTROKE			
50m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When lead swimmer reaches the inbound 15m mark on return, all IoTs step forward together to judge finish from last arm stroke in until touch If all clear, step back when swimmer touches at finish When all swimmers have finished, return to chair on signal from CIT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BACKSTROKE: Install backstroke ledge and put on position O. During finals sessions, install ledge on signal from CIT BACKSTROKE: Step to edge of pool on second long whistle to observe proper toe position. Step back and look up to confirm all is clear. If toe position is not correct, instruct swimmer of proper position After start, step to edge of pool and observe until completion of the first arm stroke BREASTSTROKE: Observe until second arm stroke If all clear, step back when swimmer leaves jurisdiction BACKSTROKE: Put ledge on position O. After final heat etc. remove the ledge from starting block When all swimmers have finished, return to chair on signal from CIT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BUTTERFLY and BACKSTROKE: For start of race, one JoS at 7m and the other at 15m After last swimmer has surfaced after start both JoS follow and observe swimmers until finish; traditional lead/lag pattern, observing strokes and finishes BREASTSTROKE: Lead JoS to about 7m and lag JoS at 5m for start of race following swimmers in lead/lag pattern until finish Signal to Referee at end of race if all clear and return to chairs
If you observe an infraction, please refer to INFRACTION REPORTING section below			

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	Inspector of Turns: Start/Finish end (IoT)	Inspector of Turns: Turn end (IoT)	Judge of Strokes (JoS)
FREESTYLE			
100/ 200m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When lead swimmer reaches the inbound 15m mark on return, all IoTs step forward together to observe last arm stroke in before the turn until completion of the first arm stroke after the turn or last stroke until finish If all clear, step back when swimmer leaves jurisdiction or at finish When all swimmers have finished, return to chair on signal from CIT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When lead swimmer reaches the inbound 15m mark, all IoTs step forward together to judge turns from the last arm stroke before the turn until completion of the first arm stroke after the turn If all clear, step back when swimmer leaves jurisdiction When all swimmers have finished, return to chair on signal from CIT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For start of race, one JoS at 7m and the other at 15m After last swimmer has surfaced after start, lead JoS goes to 15m mark from turn end, lag JoS goes to start 15m mark; lead JoS comes back to join lag JoS when last swimmer passes 15m on return of last length JoS do not walk during freestyle races but are positioned at each 15m mark while observing swimmers throughout the race Signal to Referee at end of race if all clear and return to chairs
400/ 800/ 1500m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask swimmer which side to place lap card, EXCEPT FOR FINALS Indicate side to IoT-Turn Record laps using count sheet Ring bell at 300/700/1400m turn (5m before and after) (or blow whistle if no bell) Step forward when swimmer in your lane is at the 15m mark on return. No need for all IoTs to step forward when lead swimmer reaches 15m Other procedures same as other Freestyle events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledge IoT-Start end's direction by placing lap card on the indicated side. Count down from 7/15/29, holding card on deck angled down or on a pole in the water as swimmer approaches, flipping the number when the swimmer passes about the 10m mark Hold lap card in hand so number is visible to CIT Other procedures same as other Freestyle events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above
BUTTERFLY, BACKSTROKE, BREASTSTROKE and INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY			
100/ 200/ 400m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BACKSTROKE: Install backstroke ledge and put on position O. During finals sessions, install ledge on signal from CIT BACKSTROKE: Step to edge of pool on second long whistle to observe proper toe position. Step back and look up to confirm all is clear. If toe position is not correct, instruct swimmer of proper toe position. After start, step to edge of pool and observe until first stroke BACKSTROKE: Remove ledge from water BREASTSTROKE: Observe until second arm stroke 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When lead swimmer reaches the inbound 15m mark, all IoTs step forward together to judge turns from the last stroke before the turn until completion of the first arm stroke after the turn BREASTSTROKE: Observe until second arm stroke If all clear, step back when swimmer leaves jurisdiction When all swimmers have finished, return to chair on signal from CIT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BUTTERFLY and BACKSTROKE: For start of race, lag JoS at 7m and the lead JoS at 15m – JoS 1 at 7m JoS 2 at 15m After last swimmer has surfaced after start, lead JoS follows fastest swimmers to end of pool and returns after last swimmer has turned, lag JoS follows lag swimmers and remains on return 15m mark – recommence walking once all swimmers have surfaced after the turn. If there is a large distance between the fastest and slowest swimmers, the lag JoS

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	Inspector of Turns: Start/Finish end (IoT)	Inspector of Turns: Turn end (IoT)	Judge of Strokes (JoS)
100/ 200/ 400m (cont'd)	<p>(Cont'd on next page)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When lead swimmer reaches the inbound 15m mark on return, all IoTs step forward together to observe last stroke in before the turn until first stroke after the turn, or last stroke until finish. If all clear, step back when swimmer touches at finish When all swimmers have finished, return to chair on signal from CIT 		<p>can observe the 15m mark for the lag swimmers, so the lead JoS can continue following the lead swimmers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BREASTSTROKE: Lead JoS to about 7m and lag JoS at 5m for start of the race Both JoS observe and follow swimmers until finish; traditional lead/lag pattern, observing strokes, turns and finishes Signal to Referee at end of race if all clear and return to seats
RELAY EVENTS			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judge correct touch of swimmer according to stroke Exchanges will be judged by overhead cameras/AOE Be aware of arm swings. Stand as close to edge of lane as possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judge correct touch of swimmer according to stroke 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BACKSTROKE, BUTTERFLY, FREESTYLE: Ensure you are positioned to judge 15m on exchanges BREASTSTROKE: Lag JoS does not stop at 15m but continues to observe start of Breaststroke swimmers

BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT GOES TO THE SWIMMER. CALL WHAT YOU SEE AND SEE WHAT YOU CALL.

Backstroke Ledges

- IoT at start-end are also responsible for installation and removal of the backstroke ledges, if assistance is needed await appropriate personnel
- IoT is to place the ledge at water level (“O”) for every race
- Swimmers must adjust the level of the ledge before entering water
- IoT should not touch ledge after it is set by the swimmer
- In case a swimmer does not want to use the Backstroke ledge, the IoT should be informed in order to remove it before the start
- Remember: At least one toe of each foot must be touching the touchpad at the start

Infraction Reporting

- Do not be afraid to call an infraction and be 100% sure when reporting
- JoS – Report any possible infractions **immediately** to Referee
- IoT – Upon observing a possible infraction: finish observing swimmer(s) in your jurisdiction, do not step back. When swimmer has left your jurisdiction, indicate **immediately** to Chief Inspector of Turns (CIT) by remaining at the front of the bridge. CIT will arrange IoT replacement
- The CIT will report via radio to the Referee
- The IoT goes immediately to the Referee and reports details of the infraction directly to the Referee
- Answer the questions asked of you by the Referee in a calm manner without any hand gestures
- Complete and sign the Disqualification Card – PRINT infraction in English

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- Swimming Rule Quick Reference Infraction Sheet is available at the Referee's table

Chief Inspector of Turns (CIT)

- One Start End
- One Turn End
- Brief IoT team before each session on operating protocols relevant to that session
- Be observant at all times
- Send Reserves to replace IoT or JoS during reporting
- Notify Referee immediately of any potential DQ (lane & turn) so IoT can go to the Referee as soon as possible after the turn or at the finish
- CIT to give indication (all ok) to Referee at end of race
- If there are any problems, please use the radio. No hand signals
- JoS should advise CIT to communicate by radio to the Referee they are bringing forward a potential DQ

Reserves

- One Reserve seated beside CIT - Start End
- One Reserve seated beside CIT - Turn End
- Reserves remain seated during start procedure and throughout the race
- In case of an infraction report, CIT will send you in to take over the position of IoT so that IoT can report to the Referee IMMEDIATELY
- Also be aware of JoS reporting infractions, as you will be called to step in for them

Resolution Desk

- Ideally 2 Officials assigned and situated in a location accessible to Team Leaders but not too “public”
- As Team Leaders cannot access restricted areas on deck you are the liaison between Team Leaders and TSC Commission
- Receive initial queries (withdrawals, queries relating to DQs, swim-offs) and refer to TSC Commission on poolside
- Ensure you have withdrawal forms, pens, etc.
- Communication via radio