



# // MEET CONSIDERATIONS



## MEETS AND COMPETITION DURING COVID TIMES *Considerations for Meet Referees*

\*\* Return to competition will be governed by all federal, state and local guidelines and restrictions. \*\*

### SANCTIONING

- Meets sanctioned after June 30, 2020, according to guidelines provided by the LSC. Times will count only for LSC purposes. No USA Swimming records possible.
- Type of meet – intra-squad, inter-squad (dual or other), virtual
- Non-sanctioned meets – other options limited only by club and venue

### AUTHORITY

- Meet Referee has final authority over conduct of the meet if sanctioned. No officials needed if unsanctioned. Officials may participate to help with the educational value when requested.
- Determination of purpose for the meet is done by the host (fun, getting back in the water, baseline of recordable times...)
- Work cooperatively with the site management and assist with maintaining capacity restrictions

### PRE-MEET

- Day before meet, know officials who are coming to check OTS for certifications, or ask officials to send Deck Pass screen shot.
- No officials meeting
  - Communicate positions and responsibilities electronically; report to position 10 minutes before session starts. Instruct officials to bring a mask, headset, and a writing utensil.
- Conduct coaches meeting electronically before arrival or send pertinent information the day before.

### SOCIAL DISTANCING AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- Use minimum number of officials (DR and SR who can be S&T; S&T; AO). If more S&T are necessary, position accordingly. Decide on which side of the blocks all timers will stand so officials can be in position and still maintain safe distances.
  - Be aware of any cap on number of people allowed on deck or in venue.
- Use one starter to keep microphone sanitized. Starter also provides accurate order of finish.
- If not on opposite sides of pool, DR and SR 6 feet apart.
- Officials should bring minimal belongings, no clipboards, and personal water bottle. Allow cinch bags or fanny packs to be worn for holding car keys, phone, and identification.
- Any on-deck training of S&T officials can be done from one lane away to keep distance.

### TIMELINES

- Heats will move more slowly to allow swimmers and timers behind blocks. Adjust interval in MM accordingly.
- Suggest swimmers in completed heat stay in pool ala flyover starts. Next heat waits behind timer chairs. Short whistles prompt timers to return to chairs and heat goes behind blocks. Long whistle when heat is ready. Heat in water exits in front of timers after start. Instruct swimmers to not ask for times.

#### **ADMIN**

- No DQ slips. Use radios for Admin/DR to record, one or two-column heat sheets for Referee to record and turn later deliver safely to admin. Suggest using sheet protectors.
- If no AO, DR will need to check work periodically and review at end of session.
- If no electronic timing system, enter times in MM. Check order of finish.
  - How many events per page – may want to do just one per event
  - Determine how OOF information is to be requested and reported to Admin when necessary.
- Use a MM DQ report to notify coaches
- Results not available right away
- Other software that's available? Touch Pad, Meet Maestro, Swimmingly?

#### **TIMERS**

- One per lane; watch and button preferred.
- Could officials and/or coaches be timers to keep number of individuals to a minimum?
- Always go to left side of block to maintain distancing.
- Verbally only check swimmer's name. Do not approach.
- Briefing: Send instructions to Meet Director for electronic distribution.

#### **WORKING WITH YOUR MEET DIRECTOR**

- Flow of swimmers to and from blocks; bullpen personnel with heat sheets
- Timer recruitment and briefing done before day of meet.
- Minimal heat sheets; parents use Meet Mobile if possible or have no heat sheets.
- Will there be spectators?
- Will swimmers use locker rooms? Procedures must be clear and available day before meet.