

We need families to step up and offer to officiate a meet. We had many officials from past seasons who had swimmers graduate and this has left us with a very small group of officials. It's understandable that you may not be offering to help due to not knowing what to do, but we will answer any questions and for away meets we only need to provide three, the home team will do the rest.

We are trying to set up a very brief officials training to help families feel more comfortable, but in the meantime we need those families that are familiar with all 4 strokes to help out. We will not be able to swim if we don't meet the requirements for officials at meets. Our last option is to rent officials and this will be a huge cost and will require us to raise team fees.

If you are willing to help out please go the website meets page and follow the link to register as an official. We now have online functionality for signups and reminder emails sent to you 24 hours in advance to help you remember! Again we will help make you feel comfortable officiating, all you really need is a white shirt and knowledge of the turns and strokes. No kids will know if you have to DQ them :)

Please enter your name, email and PASSWORD: stingrays. SIGN UP for the dates you are available....

## RULES PRIMER

The technical rules of swimming are designed to provide fair and equitable conditions of competition and to promote uniformity in the sport. Each swimming stroke has specific rules designed to ensure that no swimmer gets an unfair competitive advantage over another swimmer.

Trained officials observe the swimmers during each event to ensure compliance with these technical rules. If a swimmer commits an infraction of the rules that is observed by an official, a disqualification (DQ) will result. This means that the swimmer will not receive an official time and will not be eligible for an award in that event. A disqualification may result from actions such as not getting to the starting blocks on time, false starting, performing strokes in an illegal manner, or unsportsmanlike conduct.

DQs are also a result of technical rules violations. They include but are not limited to:

- **Freestyle:** Walking on the bottom, pulling on the lane rope, not touching the wall on a turn, or not completing the distance.
- **Backstroke:** Pulling or kicking into the wall once a swimmer has turned passed the vertical onto the breast. Turning onto the breast before touching the wall with the hand at the finish of the race.
- **Breaststroke:** An illegal kick such as flutter (freestyle), dolphin (butterfly), or scissors (side stroke); not on the breast; alternating movements of the arms; taking two arm strokes or two leg kicks while the head is under water; touching with only one hand at the turns or finish.
- **Butterfly:** Alternating movements of the arms or legs; pushing the arms forward under instead of over the water surface (underwater recovery); a breaststroke style of kick; touching with only one hand at the turns or finish.

For specific language on any technical rules consult the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations book. Violations of the rules are reported to the Referee. The rules require that every reasonable effort be made to notify the swimmer or his coach of the reason for the disqualification. If your child is disqualified in an event, be supportive rather than critical. For beginning swimmers, a disqualification should be treated as a learning experience, not as a punishment. A disqualification alerts the swimmer and coach to what portions of the swimmer's stroke need to be corrected. They should be considered in the same light as an incorrect answer in schoolwork—they point out areas that need further practice. Disqualifications are necessary to keep the competition fair and equitable for all competitors. A supportive attitude on the part of the official, coach, and parent can make a positive situation out of the disqualification.

Thanks in advance for your help, it really does take all of us to make a great swim team!