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# SAFETY MARSHAL

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# CLINIC

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August 29, 2018

# AUTHORITY



- The Safety Marshal has the authority, on direction of the Referee, to:
  - i. For minor infractions: Inform the swimmer of a breach of the safety rules. Get the attention of that swimmer, speak directly to him or her and remind them of the importance of safe warm-ups.
  - ii. For more serious infractions or repeated infractions: Remove the swimmer from warm-up and escort that swimmer to the coach and review the warm-up procedure and the importance of safe warm-ups with the swimmer and coach.
  - iii. For major infractions: Inform the Referee (including the name of the swimmer and team) of the safety violations, or the refusal of the swimmer or coach to follow your request
- As Safety Marshal, you do not have the authority to exclude the swimmer from the meet or order the swimmer off the pool deck. Only the Referee has that authority.



# KEY TERMS

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- **Pace Lane** – A lane or lanes dedicated to pace / race pace swimming of the four competitive strokes in a circular pattern. No drills or training equipment shall be used in a pace lane.
- **Sprint Lane** – A lane or lanes dedicated to sprint swimming from a starting position at one defined end of the pool (25m or 50m). The sprinting shall be in one direction only. Announcements or signage shall be used to indicate when the sprint lane(s) are opened.
- **Backstroke Ledges** - A ledge placed into the pool for backstroke starts to assist the swimmer with their start



# SAFETY MARSHAL DUTIES

# RULES DESCRIBING THE DUTIES OF THE SAFETY MARSHAL



**CSW 2.13.1.5** *Shall be responsible to the Referee for all aspects of safety related to conduct during the warm-up period by ensuring that all appropriate warm-up procedures are followed.*

# DUTIES



- The Safety Marshal typically wears a bright coloured safety vest or similar clothing. This vest will be provided by Meet Management prior to the beginning of your assignment.
- Discuss with the Referee or the Meet Manager which lanes will be assigned as sprint lanes and which lanes will be assigned as pace lanes. Verify at what point in the warm-up period the sprint and pace lanes will be opened. The sprint and pace lanes are normally open 30 minutes prior to the end of warm-ups.
- Be on deck and in position before the beginning of warm-ups
- It is recommended that a minimum of 2 safety marshals be on deck at all times during warm-ups
- Ensure lifeguards are in place before the first swimmer enters the pool.

# DUTIES (cont'd)



You may be asked to use the PA system to announce:

- the start of warm-up and ask the swimmers to enter the pool feet first
- at the appropriate time that the sprint and pace lanes are open and which lanes are assigned as sprint and pace lanes.
- at the appropriate time announce that warm-up are over and ask the swimmers to “clear the pool”

Pay particular attention at the beginning of warm-up when a large number of swimmers are entering the pool at one time. If necessary, make additional announcements or speak to the swimmers directly (politely please) and remind them that a safe feet first entry into the water is required.



# DUTIES (cont'd)



- It can get crowded in the pool during warm up. "Circle-swimming" is used to avoid conflicts - i.e., swimmers swim down one side of the lane, turn and swim up the other side of the lane.
- If you observe an injury or potential injury, bring this to the attention of the lifeguard immediately. Lifeguards are to administer first aid or assistance to swimmers (if necessary). The Safety Marshal is required to advise Meet Management and/or the Referee of any injury during warm-ups.
- At the appropriate time ensure that the sprint and pace lanes (review the definition of the sprint and pace lanes below) are opened.
- Prior to opening a sprint lane, ensure that the lane is empty.

# DUTIES (cont'd)



- Normally in an eight lane pool,
- lanes 1 & 8 are pace lanes and 2 & 7 are sprint lanes OR
- lanes 1 & 8 are sprint lanes and 2 & 7 are pace lanes
- During warm-ups for a long course session that has 50m events with starts from the “turn end”, it is common practice to open one of the sprint lanes for starts from that end. Ensure that starts are only from one end of each sprint lane.
- The Safety Marshal on duty at the end of warm-ups is requested to assist in clearing the pool at the conclusion of warm-up in anticipation of the start of the session.
- At the end of the warm-up, the Safety Marshal is available for another officiating assignment for the balance of the session.

# SWIMMING CANADA COMPETITION WARM-UP SAFETY PROCEDURES



- Meet Management for all sanctioned Canadian swimming competition must ensure the following safety procedures are applied. It is incumbent on coaches, swimmers, and officials to comply with these procedures during all scheduled warm-up periods. Coaches are requested to encourage swimmers to cooperate with Safety Marshals.
- The following statement must appear in all Swimming Canada sanctioned meet information and posted notices:

**“SWIMMING CANADA WARM-UP COMPETITION SAFETY PROCEDURES  
WILL BE IN EFFECT AT THIS MEET.”**

# COMPETITION WARM-UP SAFETY PROCEDURES (cont'd)



## GENERAL WARM-UP:

- Swimmers must enter the pool **FEET FIRST** in a cautious manner, entering from a start or turn end only and from a standing or sitting position.
- Running on the pool deck and running entries into the pool are prohibited.
- Meet Management may designate the use of sprint or pace lanes during the scheduled warm-up time. Any such lane usage must be communicated either in pre-competition handout, announcement or deck signage.

# COMPETITION WARM-UP SAFETY PROCEDURES (cont'd)



## GENERAL WARM-UP (cont'd):

- Diving starts shall be permitted only in designated sprint lanes. Only one-way swimming from the start end of sprint lanes is permitted.
- Pools with backstroke ledges available may offer a designated lane for backstroke starts, at meet management's discretion. (This is not mandatory if not enough general lane space is available for the number of swimmers in the meet.)
- Notices or barriers must be placed on starting blocks to indicate no diving during warm-up.

# COMPETITION WARM-UP SAFETY PROCEDURES (cont'd)



## EQUIPMENT:

- Kick Boards, Pull-Buoys, Ankle Bands, and Snorkels are permitted for use in main warm-up pool during warm-up.
- Hand paddles and flippers may be permitted for use in a secondary warm-up pool only (where available), at meet management's discretion and recommended only for higher level or senior competitions.
- At meet management's discretion and based on available space, the Meet Manager may permit the use of tubing or cord assisted sprinting in designated lanes and during specific times of the warm-up only. It is recommended that this only be allowed in secondary warm-up pools as space allows. Coaches are responsible for equipment reliability and use. This is recommended only for higher level or senior competitions.

# COMPETITION WARM-UP SAFETY PROCEDURES (cont'd)



## **VIOLATIONS:**

- It is recognized that there is a level of interpretation and common sense that must be applied when applying these guidelines. Diving headfirst quietly into an empty pool at the start of warm-up is not the same as diving headfirst into a crowded lane. Judgement and context is required.
- Swimmers witnessed by a Safety Marshall diving or entering the water in a dangerous fashion may be removed without warning from their first individual event following the warm-up period in which the violation occurred and the alternates in that event notified should that event be a final. They may also receive a verbal warning from the Safety Marshal. Swimmers receiving verbal warnings will have their names registered with the Meet Manager.
- In the case of a second offense during the same competition the swimmer may be removed from the remainder of the competition.

# COMPETITION WARM-UP SAFETY PROCEDURES (cont'd)



## **SAFETY MARSHALS:**

The Safety Marshal is a trained position designated by Meet Management. Safety Marshals shall:

- Be visible by safety vest
- Be situated at each end of the competition pool and when applicable, similarly situated in designated warm-up pools when pre-competition warm-ups are scheduled.
- Actively monitor all scheduled warm-up periods.
- Ensure participants comply with warm-up safety procedures and report violations to the Referee.

Judgement, tact and confidence is required and therefore the Safety Marshal should ideally be a more experienced official.



# COMPETITION WARM-UP SAFETY PROCEDURES (cont'd)



## **PARA-SWIMMER NOTIFICATION:**

- Coaches are requested to notify Safety Marshals of any Para-swimmers participating in warm-ups where necessary and at the coach's discretion.

# CONGRATULATIONS



You have now completed the Safety Marshal Clinic

- Your next task is to obtain deck experience
- Ensure you are aware of the Safety Marshals role heading into every meet, as you may be called on to perform this job



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