

# NWAL™ Guidelines for Announcer and Public Address System Etiquette

**OBJECTIVE:** As one of the identified 'officials' in the NWAL rule book (Section V.F.7), the meet Announcer plays a key role in communicating to the teams and in helping coordinate the flow of the meet. In this role the announcer must be in a position near the pool and with sufficient equipment (section VI.A) that he can adequately perform this task. As he can be the sole 'voice' of the meet, we must be ever diligent in the use of the "power of the pulpit" to assure a fair swim competition and family oriented event.

Improper usage of a Public Address System (PA) can only serve to discredit the host team, the other officials, and offend many parents, as well as neighbors who live near the pool area. For the Announcer to be seen as professional and as fair, they must perform and be perceived as acting in a neutral and respectful manner.

## General Guidelines:

Announcer should be familiar with the current NWAL rule book, especially section V.F.7

Announcer should remain neutral

Meet score updates as provided by the Clerk of Course **should not** be announced if the difference of team scores exceeds 100 points as such an announcement would be deemed unsportsmanlike. The final score may be announced as provide in section V.F.7

Announcer should coordinate with the Referee as to the timing and location of the officials meeting prior to the start of a meet and make such announcements

Announcer should coordinate with the Referee and Head Timer as to the timing and location of the timer and scribes meeting prior to the start of the meet and make such announcements

Announcer should coordinate with the Referee as to the proper timing of the National anthem and the calling of the first event prior to the start of the meet

Announcer should have an adequate source for playing the national anthem at the beginning of the meet. Live singing should only be permitted if it can be done with a sufficient quality and dignity demanded when singing our national anthem.

Announcer should be in a position within the pool area such that he can be aware of the meet's current race status and that of the Ready-bench

Announcer should coordinate with the Clerk of Course and the Ready-bench to announce the calling and seeding of upcoming events and heats

Announcer should be in close coordination with the Referee and Starter so that no announcement interferes with the start of any race

Announcer should announce any shift changes for timers and deck officials

Announcer may announce results of events (as noted in Section V.F.7) and may announce any new team or pool records as provided by the Clerk of the Course

Announcer may make weather announcements and coordinate with the Referee on any delays in the meet due to inclement weather

Announcer should remain in control of the PA microphone and not allow unauthorized use of the equipment during meets

No off-color or crude jokes should be made over the PA

Announcer may make general information announcements on concessions, parking, housekeeping (trash pick-up), specific facilities' issues, and safety items

Birthday and anniversary announcements may be made in good taste

Spirit music may be played but only with the approval of the Referee