

NWAL™ Guidelines for Radio Usage and Etiquette

OBJECTIVE:

As our technology and sophistication continues to grow, we must be ever diligent in the use of the technology to assure a fair and level swim competition.

Radios or two-way walkie-talkie's are the norm among many volunteers, coaches and spectators. Improper usage of headsets or radios by the Officials' team can only serve to discredit the officials using them.

For assigned teams and deck officials to be seen as professional and as fair as absolutely possible they must perform and be perceived as acting in a fair and consistent basis. All officials using headsets or radios must communicate in a clear and very precise manner.

General Usage Process:

1. Headsets or radios must be used strictly for the efficient administration of a meet.
2. Headsets or radios with a "VOX" or Voice activated feature should have that feature disabled to prevent any unwanted or embarrassing information being heard.
3. Headsets or radios are to be used by Officials STRICTLY for the efficiency and accuracy of reporting rule infractions. This allows timely and accurate notification to the swimmer and or coach in a clear and consistent manner.
4. Headsets or radios should never be used to call attention to a particular swimmer. They should never be used to ask other officials to observe a swimmers stroke, turn, or finish.
5. Headsets or radios should never be used to discuss a particular rule infraction or any incident regarding the swimmer, the competition, or coach. Deck Referee's may ask for more information on a particular infraction for clarification.
6. Headsets or radios should never be used to tell jokes or off color stories of any kind
7. Abusive language of any kind must never be used or tolerated
8. Headsets or radios should never be used to discuss any situation involving meet operations, pool staff, or volunteers

Suggested Reporting Process

1. Official (initiator) raises hand to identify possible infraction
2. Official (initiator) activates headset and says "Disqualification in Lane #, states infraction clearly and accurately – using full description or DQ codes from the NWAL checklist
3. Official (initiator) lowers arm
4. Official (receiver) who will be the writer of the DQ and informant to the swimmer replies repeating the Lane # and infraction or code. If unsure the receiving Official asks for clarification on Lane or Infraction from the initiating Official.
5. Deck Referee monitors communication and may also seek clarification. The Deck referee may also repeat and confirm the DQ or summarize at the end of a heat any DQ's to ensure all are captured and swimmers or coaches have been informed.
6. **NOTE:** Deck Referee may overrule any disqualification if they determine any doubt. Doubt can be identified by NOT raising the arm promptly, and or miss calling the infraction (i.e. what the swimmer did wrong), and or miss called the lane or a combination of the above, and or from personal observation
7. **NOTE:** Officials should maintain diligence in watching the swimmers while receiving communication and should resist the temptation to write up a DQ too early if that takes them away from watching the finish or stroke or take-off etc of other swimmers.