



**Northwest Aquatics League  
Training and Certification**

## **Common Official's Mistakes**

<b><u>Who?</u></b>	<b><u>What?</u></b>
Referee	not watching starts and/or out of position at start
Referee	doesn't recognize bad starts and/or doesn't know it is his/her responsibility to recall bad starts
Referee	no way to recall starts (no gun in hand, or no whistle in mouth)
Referee	not recording place finishes (at least on final heat)
Referee	wasting time and misdirecting attention by recording DQs
Referee	premature or ill-timed whistle blow, or forgets whistle
Referee	allows head timer to set the pace of the meet
Referee	not maintaining a balanced deck
Referee	missing or ignoring insignia violations
Referee	failing to enforce the 5-foot rule
Referee	inadequate instructions to officials and/or timers prior to meet start
Starter	not following protocol given in rulebook
Starter	not knowing quite what to say or how to say it
Starter	not knowing when to push the button, and not able to recognize a bad start
Starter	starting heat before all swimmers are set
Starter	not observing toes out of water on backstroke starts
RTO	being out of position
S&T	never reading the rulebook again once they are certified
S&T	missing infractions, especially when a swimmer first enters the water at the start
S&T	not getting hand up promptly (or at all) on DQs
S&T	not quickly and efficiently relaying DQs to the DQ writer
S&T	inattentive DQ writers during most of the race
S&T	being out of position on deck
S&T	wrong body position/posture
S&T	doing inappropriate things while on duty – eating, talking on cell phone, talking to others, etc.
S&T	poorly written DQs on cards and illegible handwriting
S&T	confusion about when a swimmer must exit pool on relay before DQ
S&T	pulling off “nose goggles” – missing this DQ and misunderstanding of what the DQ really is
S&T	breast – missing the pull out on angle (“shoulders not in line with water surface”)
S&T	breast – calling and writing up “two underwater pulls” at the start or turn
S&T	breast – missing double strokes and kicks
S&T	breast – not understanding the relative timing of the dolphin kick on the breaststroke pullout on the start and on the turn
S&T	fly – missing underwater recovery, both during swim and at walls



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- S&T fly – not recognizing non-simultaneous arm recovery
- S&T backstroke – missing two arm strokes during turn