

Place Judging Guidelines and Best Practices

Take officiating seriously and work hard at it. Swimmers have a right to expect judges to know the rules and interpret them correctly.

Overview of Responsibilities

1. Study and KNOW the MSBSC Competition Rules.
2. Don't guess or anticipate
3. Make decisions quickly and decisively. Exercise good judgment.
4. Be fair and consistent; *always give the swimmer the benefit of any doubt.*
5. Disregard team affiliation.
6. Judge all lanes in your jurisdiction EQUALLY and fairly.
7. Do not use any personal electronic devices while on deck. Maintain focus on the swimmers.
8. *Please refrain from cheering*, unless your own child is about to swim. A judge must always appear to be impartial.
9. Refrain from socializing with swimmers, coaches or spectators while on deck.
10. Admit a mistake if wrong; being fair to a swimmer is more important than your own ego.

Duties

The Home team is responsible for places 2, 4, 6. The Visiting team is responsible for places 1, 3, 5.

Each Judge calls his/her own place ONLY (for example, 1st calls 1st, 2nd calls 2nd, etc). At no time is it acceptable for a judge to call any other place finish except for the one they are responsible for (for example, 1st place calls 1st, 2nd and 3rd or 2nd place calls 1st, 2nd, and 3rd).

The finish requires completion of the required distance and contact with the finish end.

If there is a close finish, a judge may refer to the next place judge to discuss in order to help determine who came in what place (for example, a close finish for 2nd and 3rd place may be discussed by the 2nd and 3rd place judges only; 1st and 3rd place judges do not discuss the finish).

If the place judges cannot come to an agreement, only then can other place judges and the Meet Director be requested to come in and make an **opinion**.

The Meet Director **cannot say**, "I saw it this way and this is how we are going to place the swimmers". A meet director may be asked to mediate a conflict and facilitate a *final decision by the places judges*. The meet director does not have the final word. Ties are an acceptable alternative and permitted by the league.

Under no circumstance will a stopwatch time or digital recording be considered by the place judges.

Timers may not interfere with this position or call out times to places judge.