

STROKE JUDGE

A Stroke Judge's responsibility is to observe strokes, turns, touches and finishes to determine their compliance with league requirements.

PRIOR TO MEET:

All Stroke Judges must attend a Northwest Swim Circuit (NWSC) training session. The training is offered annually on an evening in May (the location of the training varies). The Stars swim team strongly encourages all Stroke Judges to attend the class, but we also understand the demands of work and other commitments; therefore, the Stars will host a similar training session conveniently in Steiner Ranch where you can fulfill your training requirement. Dates and times for the NWSC and Steiner Ranch training sessions are TBD but will generally be announced in April.

NOTE: If you want to be a Stroke Judge, you must attend this mandatory training even if you've attended the class in a previous year or if you are an experienced swimmer. This is the policy set forth by the NWSC.

HOME AND AWAY MEETS:

1. Attend the Stroke and Exchange Judge meeting approximately 20 minutes prior to the start of the meet.
2. Obtain your Stroke Judge supplies (clipboard, disqualification (DQ) slips and pencil) from the Head Stroke Judge.
3. Report to the position assigned to you by the Head Stroke Judge.
4. Ensure you have a partner Stroke Judge from the other team on your side of the pool.
5. Split the pool's lanes in half and only judge the lanes that are closest to the side of the pool to which you were assigned. The other half of the lanes will be judged by the judges on the other side of the pool.
 - For a 6-lane pool, you will judge 3 lanes; for an 8-lane pool, you will judge 4 lanes.
6. Keep in mind the instructions that were given to you by the Head Stroke Judge at the meeting prior to the start of the meet regarding any special needs swimmers, if applicable.
7. Judge only for legal stroke technique, turns, touches and finishes. For relays, do not judge false starts.
8. Always walk the full length of the pool; do not stand or only walk half of the pool.
9. Watch for underwater touches at the finish, especially for the younger swimmers. Stroke Judges should always be positioned at the finishing end of the pool at the end of the heat in order to watch the touches.
10. In the event of a DQ, complete the DQ slip and raise it in the air for a Runner to collect.

Rules for DQs:

- For relays, Stroke Judges should not DQ for false starts as this is the job of the Exchange Judges; rather, Stroke Judges should only judge for proper stroke technique, turns, touches and finishes.

- Both the Stars Stroke Judge and their partner Stroke Judge from the other team on the same side of the pool watching the same lanes must agree on a DQ.
- A judge cannot coerce the other judge to agree with them.
- One judge cannot assure the other judge that they saw an infraction if the other judge did not see it; both judges have to see the infraction to DQ a swimmer.
- Stroke Judges must DQ a swimmer if they have an illegal stroke, turn, touch or finish. No leniency should be granted to younger swimmers. They need to learn how to do the strokes and finishes properly.
- If an agreement cannot be reached, the swimmer should always get the benefit of the doubt.

11. Any issues or problems should be addressed to the Meet Director, not the Head Stroke Judge.