



Staffing of Officials for Swim Meets

Wisconsin Swimming, Inc.

Effective May 1, 2013

USA SWIMMING POLICY 102.10.2: All officials acting in the capacity of Referee, Starter, Administrative Official, or Stroke and/or Turn Judge at a swimming meet shall be certified in such position by their LSC prior to being assigned to officiate in that capacity. A Meet Referee may also perform the duties of an Administrative Official through September 1, 2013. After that date, the Referee and Administrative Official may not act in more than one officiating capacity.

WHAT IS AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL?

- Assistant to and delegate of Meet Referee
 - Involved with all "dry" side details of a meet
 - Works closely with the Meet Director
- NOTE: An Administrative Official and an Administrative Referee are NOT the same.
- Administrative Referee is generally used for higher level meets involving a Prelims/Finals format, and
 - Must be certified at a Referee level at a minimum.

MEET REFEREE:

Wisconsin Swimming Policy 2 reads:

"2.2.1...Meet Information shall include the following: ...

R. Name of Meet Referee....."

Interpretation: The Meet Referee must be a USA Swimming certified Starter/ Referee or Referee for all LSC sanctioned or approved swim Meets. The name of the Meet Referee must be included when the Meet Host submits its Meet Information to the LSC Sanctioning Chair for sanction or approval.

MINIMUM NUMBER OF OFFICIALS:

The Wisconsin Swimming Policy 4.1 states:

4.1 Minimum Number of Officials



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4.1.1 Sanctioned and Approved Meets

A minimum of four (4) Officials, as described below, shall be present at all times during competition of a meet, including dual meets. Additional Officials are recommended for major meets, especially for any meet with a Prelims/Finals format.

- One USA Swimming certified Starter, who may serve as a Stroke and Turn Judge when sufficient other Officials are not available;
- One USA Swimming certified Referee, who cannot serve in any other capacity (except in a dual meet where they can also serve as a Stroke and Turn Official);
- One Administrative Official, certified by the LSC Officials Committee, who cannot serve in any other capacity; and
- One certified Stroke and Turn Official, or another certified Starter/Referee.

RECOMMENDED MINIMUM STAFFING FOR OFFICIALS FOR OTHER THAN DUAL MEETS:

The Wisconsin Swimming Officials Committee recommends the following minimum number of Officials for Swim Meets: Six (6) Officials with the following positions:

- 1 Administrative Official
- 1 Starter
- 1 Referee
- 1 Chief Judge
- 2 Stroke/Turn Judges

1. Rationale: Adequate staffing of Officials leads to:

- Better communication between Officials, Meet Director, coaches, swimmers, and other Meet staff.
- Better managed Meets.

2. Rationale: Under-officiated Meets may lead to:

- Increased risk of missed infractions, for which swimmers may disqualify at higher level Meets when more Officials and often more experienced Officials conduct the Meets.
- Increased risk of inaccurate disqualifications.



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- Fewer opportunities for Apprentice Officials to complete their on-deck apprentice sessions in a timely manner .
- Increased risk of stress/burn-out for Officials.
- Meet delays due to difficulties keeping pace with disqualifications and other administrative duties.

SUMMARY:

The current Wisconsin Swimming Policy establishes the minimum number of required Officials at three (3). However, effective September 1, 2013, the USA Swimming requirements related to the Administrative Official effectively raises this minimum requirement to four (4) officials. The Wisconsin Swimming Officials Committee recommends at least six (6) Officials for better officiated Swim Meets. The Committee recommends more than six (6) Officials for Meets with a large number of swimmers. Additional Officials always are welcome.

Questions regarding the above should be directed to: the Wisconsin Swimming Officials Chair officialschair@wisconsinswimming.org

Rule Interpretations and Recommendations Prepared By:

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Updated by Jeanne Drzewiecki, Sanctioning Chair (March 2013)

Updated by Rick Potter, Officials Chair (September 2016)

Updated by Managing Director Angela Monty (October 24, 2023)