

Meet Referee Planning: The Coaches Meeting

As a Meet Referee, one of your responsibilities is meeting with the attending coaches and answering their questions. During the meeting, the referee communicates any new or odd situations affecting the meet, and sets expectations on just about anything coupled to the meet. The meet referee is the authority for the meet and the Coaches Meeting is a chance to lead by example, by showing trust in the coaches and gaining their trust as well.

This **guideline** is to help the Meet Referee plan the Coaches Meeting at a swim meets. The **guideline** will not cover every possible topic because there's no crystal ball, and every meet is unique in some way. This **guideline** is a tool to help the meet referee develop the agenda for this important meeting.

Elements and topics to consider for the Coaches Meeting may include the following:

- Recent events
 - Timeline concerns/changes
 - Warm-up changes
 - Computer mishaps
 - The list is endless!
- Standard Procedures
 - Location of the posted results
- Athlete Safety & Protection - An active responsibility bestowed on all GRAL Swimming members
 - Coaches are expected to help ensure their team's parents understand the athlete protection elements and help to enforce them
 - No photography behind the block
 - No deck changing in/out of swimsuits
 - Be smart and use common sense
- The continuous warm-up lane:
 - Entry & Exit from the <specific> side of the pool only
 - Swimming only...no playing and no socializing. Swim and get out.
 - Please remind your bigger swimmers to be take care of the little kids in the warm-up lanes so they don't get hurt and if your little kids are in the warm up lanes, remind them to be careful of the big kids
- Deck Entry Procedure - location of the Clerk of Course
- No-Show Procedure
- Starts:
 - Fly-over starts (yes/no)
 - Where the 25yd and 50m events will start
- Procedure for missing a heat (what should a swimmer do)
- Combined Events (remind coaches to help swimmers know those situations so they don't miss a splash)
- Empty Events (remind coaches to help swimmers know those situations so they don't miss a splash)
- Pool dependent scenarios
 - The gutter and potential problems for toes on the backstroke
 - Relay events with in the water starts because of a shallow pool
 - Youth areas (open/closed)
 - A funny block in lane _____
 - Safety precautions because of an odd shaped pool
 - Closed areas of the pool
- Unusual procedures
 - Outdoor meet: who the lightning authority/monitor is
 - Event and heat announcements (if applicable)
 - Anything specific to the pool or meet

- Medical attention or emergencies:
 - Lifeguards are on duty (if applicable)
 - Ice is available if needed (give the location)
 - Hospital Location (or where the directions are posted)
 - Location of the First-aid kit
- Showing attention into the smallest detail helps the coaches see that the Meet Referee is focused on everything about the meet. If there are small details you want to communicate, then so it. An example of a small detail is the current water temperature
- Questions from the coaches?