



Briefing for Relay Take-Off Judges

At each end of the pool (note: actually, placement of “side” judges will be at the referee’s discretion. It will depend on the configuration of the pool, glare, etc.) Judges from Team A: one next to lane 3; the other “side” judge for lane 4. Judges from Team B: one next to lane 4; the other “side” judge for lane 3. Relay take-off judges should be in position to clearly see the incoming swimmer touch the wall, even if that means getting wet.

Relay take-off judges should stand up straight. Look at toes of departing swimmer. Once swimmer’s toes have lost contact with wall, look down for touch of incoming swimmer. Relay take-off judges will *not* raise their hands if they see an early take-off. (Note: stroke & turn judges still raise their hands if they see a stroke or touch violation.)

After each and every exchange of swimmers, judges must mark their relay take-off slips—an “O” if the exchange was good; an “X” if it was early. Judges must make sure to mark the correct row, the number corresponding to the swimmer who is taking off, and the event number on the slip. After the last swimmer has entered the water, a stroke & turn judge at the far end and the referee (or designee) at the start end will collect and compare the relay take-off slips. If both judges on a lane at the same end of the pool saw the same infraction, the referee will disqualify that team. The referee will *not* raise his/her hand over the lane of the team that was disqualified in dual meets.

For relay carnivals, the “side” judges must be in position to see all three lanes on their side of the pool. They will mark an “O” or an “X” for each exchange for each lane. It is recommended that a chief judge be used at these meets to collect and compare the slips at the far end of the pool. Only for relay carnivals does the referee raise a hand over the lane of the disqualified swimmers (Optional).



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