



## Deck Officials' Protocol – March 2023

### Inspector of Turns

#### **Start End:**

Jurisdiction for Inspectors of Turns at the start end commences from the start signal until the completion of the first arm stroke, except in Breaststroke where it shall be the second arm stroke.

- In Freestyle and Backstroke events (where Backstroke Ledges are not being used), remain seated at the Referee's whistle then stand and move forward when the lead swimmer reaches the 15m mark approaching the turn on the second lap. Remain standing until the finish of the race.
- In Breaststroke, Butterfly and Individual Medley events, on Referee's whistle, stand behind and to one side of your lane's starting platform. If observing more than one lane, stand in a position to view the lanes equally. Remain standing until the end of the race.
- Where required, after the starting signal is given, quickly step forward onto the bulkhead to observe the first stroke, except in Breaststroke where it shall be the second arm stroke.
- If you have observed an infraction, indicate to the Chief IOT that you have an infraction to report and remain standing over the lane until the Chief IOT comes to you.
- You will then proceed to the Referee, make your report and, if accepted by the Referee, complete the infraction card.
- You may need to operate a SAT button.
- In 800m and 1500m races, you will signal either by whistle or bell when the swimmer has 2 laps plus 5m to go.
- You will observe relay changeovers as a back-up if electronic changeover equipment is present and to judge if such equipment is not present.

#### **Turn End:**

Jurisdiction for the Inspector of Turns for each turn, commences from the beginning of the last arm stroke before touching and ending with the completion of the first arm stroke after the turn, except in Breaststroke where it shall be the second arm stroke.

- In all races, stand and move forward when the lead swimmer reaches the 15m mark from the turn end. Remain standing until the last swimmer has passed the 15m mark from the turn end on the last lap.
- If observing more than one lane, stand in a position to view the lanes equally.
- You will observe relay changeovers as a back-up if electronic changeover equipment is present and to judge if such equipment is not present.
- If you have observed an infraction, indicate to the Chief IOT that you have an infraction to report and remain standing over the lane until the Chief IOT comes to you.
- You will then proceed to the Referee, make your report and, if accepted by the Referee, complete the infraction card.

## Finish:

Jurisdiction for the Inspector of Turns at the finish commences from the beginning of the last arm stroke before touching.

- In 800m and 1500m events, you will set up and operate lap counters:

Event	Number of laps		Procedure
	800m	1500m	
Long Course	15	29	Change the lap counter when the swimmer has passed 5m after the turn.
Short Course	31	59	

## Backstroke Ledges:

*Note: The use of Backstroke Ledges by a swimmer is not compulsory. If the ledge is not required by a swimmer they should request the Inspector of Turns (IOT) appointed to that lane to remove the ledge from the water. The swimmer should not attempt to remove the ledge.*

### Prior to the Start

- The IOT shall install the ledge and adjust the setting to '0' (0 corresponds to water level).
- Once the backstroke ledge has been installed, the kicker plate should be adjusted and locked into position 3.
- The swimmer may choose to change the setting level of the ledge for their start. They should make the adjustment themselves however may request assistance from the IOT.
- On the first whistle, the IOT should stand and move forward on the deck behind the blocks. On the second whistle, the IOT should step up and move forward to observe that at least one toe from each foot is in contact with the wall or face of the touchpad. The IOT may need to request the swimmer to adjust the position of their toes. Once the swimmers toes are correctly positioned, the IOT should step back level with the back of the block but remain standing until after the starting signal is given. The check for the position of the toes must be actioned quickly and should not unduly delay the start.
- All IOT's should stand and move forward at the start of each race as above regardless of whether the swimmer in their lane uses a backstroke ledge or not.

### After the Start during heats

- After the start of each heat, the IOT should step forward and remove the ledge from the water. To remove the ledge from the water and ensure the straps do not become twisted, it is recommended that the ledge is removed from the water by standing behind the starting block and placing each hand under the straps on each side. Either lift the ledge onto the top of the block behind the kicker plate until the next start, or lift and carefully slide the ledge into position under the front of the block (below the backstroke grips).
- The setting should be returned to '0' after each start.

## At completion of the Backstroke event

- After the start of the final heat of a backstroke event, remove the ledge from the starting block and carefully roll the device back to its original position without twisting the straps.

## Chief Inspector of Turns

- Be alert and make sure you are watching the Inspectors of Turns after the start, each turn and at the finish of each race in the event they have an infraction to report.
- If an infraction is reported, the Chief will inform the Referee by radio.
- The reporting IOT will go to the Referee, make their report and, if accepted by the Referee, complete the infraction card. The Chief will arrange (if available) for a reserve official to take over on the lane until the reporting IOT returns. If no reserve is available, the Chief will remain on that lane until the reporting IOT returns.

## Judges of Stroke

- There are 4 Judges of Stroke [JOS], 2 on each side of the pool. They are numbered 1, 2, 3 and 4. JOS 1 & 2 are positioned on the same side as the Referee, with JOS 1 closest to the Referee. JOS 3 & 4 shall be positioned on the opposite side of the pool. JOS 1 & 4 are positioned opposite each other, as are JOS 2 & 3.
- Each JOS shall observe the 5 lanes in a 10 lane pool (4 lanes in an 8 lane pool) on their side of the pool.
- JOS 1 should ensure they do not walk in front of the Referee at the start or finish of a race.
- If you have an infraction to report, where possible, let your fellow JOS know that you are moving around to see the Referee but do not stop and discuss the infraction.
- Judges of Stroke shall report any infractions directly to the Referee as soon as they are observed. If the Referee accepts the report, they will then complete the infraction card.

## **Freestyle:**

- At the start of each race, each pair of JOS on both sides of the pool should be positioned at the 15m mark from the start to observe swimmers' head breaking the surface of the water.
- All stand at the Referee's whistle.
- During heats of freestyle events, all four JOS shall remain at the 15m mark from each end until the completion of all heats of the event then follow the swimmers to the 15m mark from the start end where they will join their fellow JOS.
- For 200m or longer individual freestyle events, each JOS should sit once the last swimmer has passed the 65m mark and remain seated at the 15m mark from each end of the pool until the last swimmer passes the 15m mark on the last length. When the last swimmer passes the 15m mark on the last length, JOS 2 & 3 will follow the swimmers to the 15m mark from the start end where they will join JOS 1 & 4.
- In 50m and 100m freestyle events, each JOS should remain standing throughout the race and remain at the 15m mark from each end of the pool until the last swimmer passes the 15m mark on the last length. When the last swimmer passes the 15m mark on the last length, JOS 2 & 3 will follow the swimmers to the 15m mark from the start end where they will join JOS 1 & 4.

## Backstroke:

- All stand at the Referee's whistle.
- JOS 1 & 4 will proceed to 8-10m from the start end while JOS 2 & 3 stand at the 15m mark from the start end of the pool.
- After the start of the race, JOS 1 & 4 will follow swimmers to the 15m mark to assist their colleagues to observe swimmers' heads breaking the surface of the water.
- All JOS will then walk along the side of the pool observing the swimmers. JOS 2 & 3 shall be slightly behind the lead swimmers, whereas JOS 1 & 4 will follow the tail swimmers.
- At the turn end, JOS 2 & 3 will stop approximately 5m from the end of the pool to observe the turns. JOS 1 & 4 will stop at the 15m mark from the turn end of the pool to ensure all swimmers break the surface of the water at or before the 15m mark after the turn.
- After the turn, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> length, all JOS will walk along the side of the pool, observing the swimmers. JOS 1 & 4 shall be slightly behind the lead swimmers, while JOS 2 & 3 will follow the tail swimmers. If there is another turn at the start end (eg distance greater than 100m), the reverse will apply.
- On the final lap, JOS 1 & 4 will walk slightly ahead of the lead swimmers and position themselves at the 5m mark from the finish to observe that the swimmers are not completely submerged prior to that point, and observe the finish. JOS 2 & 3 will walk slightly ahead of the next group of swimmers and also position themselves at the 5m mark from the finish to observe that the swimmers are not completely submerged prior to that point, and observe the finish.

## Butterfly:

- All stand at the Referee's whistle.
- JOS 1 & 4 will proceed to 8-10m from the start end while JOS 2 & 3 stand at the 15m mark from the start end of the pool.
- After the start of the race, JOS 1 & 4 will follow swimmers to the 15m mark to assist their colleagues to observe swimmers' heads breaking the surface of the water.
- All JOS will then walk along the side of the pool observing the swimmers. JOS 2 & 3 shall be slightly behind the lead swimmers, whereas JOS 1 & 4 will follow the tail swimmers.
- At the turn end, JOS 2 & 3 will stop approximately 5m from the end of the pool to observe the turns. JOS 1 & 4 will stop at the 15m mark from the turn end of the pool to ensure all swimmers break the surface of the water at or before the 15m mark after the turn.
- After the turn, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> length, all JOS will walk along the side of the pool, observing the swimmers. JOS 1 & 4 shall be slightly behind the lead swimmers, while JOS 2 & 3 will follow the tail swimmers. If there is another turn at the start end (eg races of more than 100m), the reverse will apply.

## **Breaststroke:**

- All stand at the Referee's whistle.
- JOS 1 & 4 will proceed to approximately 5m from the start end. JOS 2 & 3 will proceed to 10m from the start end.
- Once the race has started, all JOS will walk along the side of the pool observing the swimmers. JOS 2 & 3 shall be slightly behind the lead swimmers, whereas JOS 1 & 4 will follow the tail swimmers.
- At the turn end, JOS 2 & 3 will stop approximately 5m from the end of the pool to observe the turns. JOS 1 & 4 will stop approximately 10m from the end.
- After the turn on the 2<sup>nd</sup> length, all JOS will walk along the side of the pool, observing the swimmers. JOS 1 & 4 shall be slightly behind the lead swimmers, while JOS 2 & 3 will follow the tail swimmers. If there is another turn at the start end (eg races of more than 100m), the reverse will apply.