



FINISH JUDGE TRAINING NOTES

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FINISH JUDGE

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Introduction

These notes detail the responsibilities, duties and procedures of the *Finish Judge* and will help you carry out the duties of *Finish Judge* or *Chief Finish Judge*, whether you are working at Championship or Club level.

The notes are structured to take you through your responsibilities as you would normally encounter them during a swim meet.

Finish Judges are not required, and none will be appointed, when Automatic Officiating Equipment (AOE) is being used in combination with Semi-Automatic Timing (SAT), as occurs at State and Australian Championships, when SAT is in use with three (3) Timekeepers on each lane, or when manual timing is in use and there are three (3) Timekeepers per lane.

In other circumstances, particularly when SAT only or manual timing is being used with less than three Timekeepers on every lane, there must be at least three (3) Finish Judges, one of whom is to be appointed as Chief Finish Judge.

While it is acceptable to operate with a minimum of three (3) Finish Judges, it is preferable to have an odd number, say five (5), including the Chief Finish Judge and these notes assume the appointment of this number. It could be beneficial, on occasions, to have a Chief Finish Judge and five (5) Finish Judges where circumstances warrant.

There are two distinct judging roles: Finish Judge and Chief Finish Judge. The Chief Finish Judge normally acts as one of the Finish Judges, taking the placings of each race, but has some added responsibilities, which are discussed below. These additional responsibilities do not mean that the Chief Finish Judge has any greater authority than the other Finish Judges in the matter of placings. You need to be aware of the respective responsibilities of each role if you are to work effectively at swim meets.

Judging is so important that the Rules prohibit a Finish Judge from also performing the duties of Timekeeper in the same event, other than when that role is operating a SAT button. Finish Judges should not undertake any other roles.

Arrival at the Meet

As a Finish Judge you are to report to the **Referee** at least thirty (30) minutes before the advertised starting time of the swim meet. This enables the Referee to give you a program, to mark you present against the appointment roster, and to advise you of any special instructions.

You need to bring several items of equipment to do your job properly. These are pencils, notepad and a clipboard.

- Pencils are required instead of a felt tip, ink or ballpoint pen as a pencil (HB or softer) will continue to write even if the results sheet gets wet.

Finish Judges' specific responsibilities and duties

The single most important duty of the Finish Judge is to place all competitors in the order of finish.

To do this you need to observe the competitors from the start and throughout the race, counting the laps completed and being aware of when a competitor fails to finish the course or changes lanes.

You should also, after the start, note any vacant lanes on your notepad/program to help avoid inadvertently placing non-starters in the event.

- Note the lane number of a competitor who fails to finish on your notepad / results sheet with a notation of "DNF " (did not finish)
- Place a competitor who changes lane by their starting lane

On conclusion of the race, you record your placings **as soon as any part of the swimmer's body** contacts the finish line/wall:

- (a) on a notepad
- (b) by lane number
- (c) in order of finish.

Always use lane numbers to record placings as these can be written quickly and easily, and in any case it is unlikely that you will know the names of competitors. Anonymity guarantees your impartiality.

When recording your placings do not murmur or speak out loud as this may distract or influence the other Finish Judges. It is recommended that all Finish Judges refrain from speaking in the concluding 25m of the race.

All placings **must be written down** so that you have a written record of the finish, and to enable comparison with other Finish Judges' results in the compilation of the official result.

You must place all competitors, irrespective of whether you are of the opinion that the competitor is going to be, or should be, disqualified. Only the Referee has authority to disqualify a competitor.

- The method of touch is not the responsibility of Finish Judges.

When you see two or more competitors in a heat touch the finish line/wall at the same time, whether above, on or below the water surface, then you can declare EQUAL PLACINGS in the race. However, you must be certain that the swimmers involved did

touch at the same time, not that you are unable to decide who touched first. When a majority of Finish Judges consider the result of a heat to be equal placings then that is the Finish Judges' decision. This should be indicated on the result sheet by drawing a circle around all the lanes concerned and noting "EP" (equal places) alongside them

Do not guess the finish. Only record what you see. If you miss placing one or more lanes, tell the Chief Finish Judge, who will discard your result.

After a race, you should immediately pass your written result to the Chief Finish Judge for compilation of the result.

The key responsibilities of a Finish Judge can be summarised as:

- (a) After the start, record vacant lanes
- (b) Observe all competitors throughout the race
- (c) Place all swimmers in the order they finish
- (d) Record all placings on a notepad/program
- (e) Pass (show) your placings to the Chief Finish Judge after each race.

Chief Finish Judge's specific responsibilities and duties

The duties of the *Chief Finish Judge* are to:

- (a) Assign Finish Judges to a seat and position them in line with the finish
 - in an elevated position, in line with the finish, preferably on the lane 1 side of the pool with an unobstructed view of the course and finishing line/wall so that they can best perform their duties;. Except that when it is not possible to judge from that side of the pool due to, for example, a lack of working space or reflection of the sun on the water, the Chief Finish Judge should consult with the Referee and arrange to judge from the other side of the pool (but still in line with the finish line or wall etc.);
- (b) Give directions on how Finish Judges shall operate
 - including giving them of a number which they are to write on each results sheet with their placings of each event and heat before passing their signed results sheet to the Chief Finish Judge at the completion of the race (and reminding them of their duties generally);
- (c) Place all competitors in the order of finish
- (d) Collect numbered and signed results sheets from the other Finish Judges
 - when using a Chief Finish Judge in addition to either five or three Finish Judges, the placings of the Chief Finish Judge are only used in the results compilation when one of the other Finish Judges fails to place all competitors;
- (e) Record all Finish Judges' placings on the results sheet
 - discarding any Finish Judge's result when all competitors have not been placed;
- (f) Determine the order of finish of the race
 - informing the Referee if unable to establish the result;

- (g) Add the placings of the Referee to any area of disagreement in order to determine the result
 - the Referee's placings are used only in relation to the actual lanes concerned in the disagreement;

Note: Only the Chief Finish Judge and Referee are to be involved in the collation of the result
- (h) Note on the results sheet any disqualifications advised by the Referee
 - normally done by circling the disqualified competitors' lane number and writing DQ beside the number;
- (i) Note on the results sheet any equal placings by circling the relevant lane numbers and noting EP beside those numbers
- (j) Present the results sheet to the Referee for signing
 - the Referee must check the compilation, returning the sheet to the Chief Finish Judge for correction if there is an error, before signing the results sheet; and
- (k) Ensure that the results sheet is then collected and taken to the Chief Recorder
 - along with the result printout from the SAT, if in use.

The key responsibilities of a Chief Finish Judge can be summarised as:

- (a) Assign and position Finish Judges
- (b) Direct Finish Judges how to operate
- (c) Judge the race
- (d) Record all Finish Judges' placings
- (e) Determine the result
- (f) Use the Referee's placings to settle any disagreement
- (g) Record disqualifications and equal placings
- (h) Obtain the Referee's concurrence to the official result
- (i) Send the official results sheet to the Chief Recorder.

The Finish Judges' Result and Automatic Officiating Equipment

In general, placings and times recorded by AOE and SAT will comprise the official result subject to determination by the Referee.

Swimming NSW Rules direct the Referee on what action to take when the equipment fails to determine a placing or record a time, e.g., when a competitor fails to activate the touch pad. When this occurs the Referee is to make a decision in accordance with the Rules.

When the Finish Judges' result and the times recorded by SAT or manual stopwatches do not agree, the Referee determines placings.

- It is not permitted to announce times of a heat which do not support the placings made by the Finish Judges. In this respect the Finish Judges' decision takes

precedence. In this case the Referee shall make a decision on placings following adjustment of the times by the Chief Recorder.

- The Chief Recorder is to draw the attention of the Referee to such situations if the Referee has not already dealt with the matter.

Collating the Finish Judges' Result

The majority principle is applied by the Chief Finish Judge when collating the Finish Judges' results to determine of the official result. The decision on any placing must be given to the competitor who is placed ahead of another by the majority of the Finish Judges whose placings are being used to establish the result.

Where the majority of Finish Judges (i.e. 2 out of 3, or 3 out of 5) agree on the relative placing of a competitor, that shall be the Finish Judges' decision.

All the placings of a Finish Judge who fails to place a competitor, or who places the same competitor in more than one place, must be ignored by the Chief Finish Judge in the compilation.

Some examples for you to work through follow:

Example 1

Finish Judges' placings			Official Result	Referee's placings
Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	<i>(To be compiled by candidate)</i>	<i>(if required)</i>
3	3	4		3
5	4	3		5
4	5	5		4
6	6	6		6
7	7	7		7
2	8	2		1 DQ
1	1	1		2
8	-	8		8

Example 2

Finish Judges' Placings					Official Result	Referee's placings
Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Judge 4	Judge 5	<i>(To be compiled by candidate)</i>	<i>(if required)</i>
3	3	4	4	3 EP		3
5	4	3	5	4 EP		5
4	5	5	3	5		4
6	6	6	7	6		6
7	2	7	6	7		7
2	7	8	7	2		1
1	1	2	1	1		2
8	8	1	8	8		8

Example 3

Finish Judges' placings			Official Result
Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	<i>(To be compiled by candidate)</i>
4	3	4	
3	4	3	
5	6	5	
6	5	6	
2	2	2	
1	1	8	
7	8	1	
8	7	7	

Rules

The following Rules relate to the Finish Judge's responsibilities and duties:

- SW2 Swim Meet Officials, Their Control, Duties and Powers, particularly
 - SW2.1.5 Add Referee's placings
 - SW2.1.6 Referee's decision to determine placings when using Finish Judges without three (3) digital watches
 - SW2.1.8 Determine result when a judging device is in use
 - SW2.1.13 Disqualification advice by Referee
 - SW2.11 Duties - Chief Finish Judge and collation
 - SW2.12 Duties - Finish Judges
 - General comments on Rule SW2

- SW11 Determination of times and placings - AOE

- GR21 Accidental omission by an official

- SW13 Automatic officiating procedure
- OWS4.19 to OWS4.23 Open Water Chief Finish Judge and Finish Judges