

## **MEDICAL OFFICER#:**

It is the responsibility of the Organising Committee to ensure that a suitably qualified person is appointed to look after the initial needs of the injured swimmer.

This person could be a registered Medical Practitioner (Medical Doctor), Para-Medic, Ambulance Officer, First Aid Officer etc. Just remember that only Doctors are permitted to prescribe drugs or treatments. Others are used primarily to provide a level of support until a Doctor can supervise any treatment. The General Requirements apply to the Medical Officer's appointment, but consideration of the other demands on their time must be given. **000** is the number to remember!

The Medical Officer shall:



- be responsible to the Referee for all medical aspects related to the competition and swimmers.
- inform the local medical facilities of the nature of the competition and ensure that any casualties can be evacuated to medical facilities at the earliest opportunity.
- in conjunction with the Safety Officer, advise the Referee if, in their opinion, conditions are unsuitable for staging the competition and make recommendations for the modification of the course or the manner in which the competition is conducted.

### ***In addition to the Rules:***

The Medical Officer is responsible to the Organising Committee for the provision of adequate medical safety cover to ensure the well being of all swimmers and provide such facilities as are required under the rules and recommendations of the Organising Committee. During the actual event the Medical Officer's primary responsibility is to the Referee and will also act in conjunction with, and liaise with, the Safety Officer.

### ***Dependant on the level of Competition, the Medical Officer's duties shall include:***

Checking that the **water quality** for the designated course is safe and suitable for staging the event and to confirm that there are no other factors (such as shark, crocodile or jellyfish) which would render the venue undesirable.

Provision for **final physical examination of all swimmers prior to the day of the event**. Any swimmer who is, in the opinion of the Medical Officer, medically unfit to take part shall be reported to the Referee and Organising Committee.

To compile such data on the status of the swimmers as may be requested by competent authorities (ASDA, ASC, SAL or SNSW).

Provide an explanation of the race medical plan for officials, escort safety craft crews and swimmers' representatives. This plan should include swimmer recovery/casualty evacuation procedures.

Provide a detailed explanation of the medical plan together with relevant procedures required for its activation for Medical, First Aid and Paramedic Teams.

Ensure that all swimmers, at the time of finishing or in the case of withdrawal, at the point of landing are not requiring further medical supervision.

Providing advice and assistance regarding suitable intake of refreshment or sustenance to aid recovery from the event.

**Submitting a detailed report on all medical aspects** of the event together with any recommendations for the planning and execution of medical plans in future events.

**The Medical Officer shall also provide a Medical Plan.**

The detailed medical plan for any given event will be unique when the vast range of variables are taken into consideration, especially the variations in temperatures and climatic conditions.

***The medical plan should include but not be limited to the following:***

- Sufficient personnel and equipment to execute the plan.
- A timetable and personnel roster for the pre-race examination of all swimmers.
- A main medical receiving site at which there should be sufficient medical equipment and trained personnel to ensure the basic medical needs of a swimmer until onward transportation or evacuation can be accomplished.
- Detailed plan for onward evacuation of serious urgent medical cases to prepared designated hospitals or medical centres.
- Sufficient means of communication to establish and maintain contact between the Medical Officer and their Medical Teams.
- Detailed planning for the treatment of either hyperthermic or hypothermic symptoms.
- Details of the provisions made to supply the equipment and personnel required to conform to the rules and recommendations regarding the testing of swimmers for banned substances.
- Sufficient land, water or airborne transportation to ensure the rapid movement of any casualties from the water or escort safety craft to a medical team.

Ok the above is the ideal, but on most occasions you will fall short of this ideal situation. What do you do? You make do with what you have. It can be difficult to have a Doctor at the location. Their time is under constant demands. You might have to settle for a Doctor on standby. Just remember notification to the local Hospital and Ambulance service may be all that you can arrange. **000 is the number that everyone should remember** and with the advent of mobile telephones contact can be just seconds away.

**RULES:** The following rules relate to the Medical Officer's responsibilities and duties:

**FINA**

OWS3.36

OWS3.37

OWS3.38

**SNSW**

OWS4.36

OWS4.37

OWS4.38