




RACE JUDGES:

Race Judges are Open Water Swimming's equivalent of the "Pool's" Judges of Stroke. The Race Judge observes the appointed swimmer at all times. Race Judges at FINA or International events are Referees and are usually FINA appointments.






When an OWS event is held that has motorised escort safety craft assigned to each swimmer, Race Judges are assigned by random draw in each escort safety craft.

At National, State and Local meets it's unlikely that individual motorised escort safety craft will be in use. There is a greater responsibility on Race Judges as they are acting on behalf of the Referee who cannot cover the whole course and once the swimmers spread out it becomes impossible to observe all swimmers at the same time throughout the Race.

What to bring?

-  Appropriate clothing suitable for all climatic conditions that may be encountered (and if you want to be really comfortable your own life preserver. If you've ever been asked to wear one supplied by the escort safety craft owner you may find that it's not very comfortable at all!);
-  Clipboard, writing paper/note pad, pencils (HB or softer), stopwatch, wristwatch, whistle, Red and Yellow flags, whiteboard, markers and a copy of the appropriate Open Water Swimming Rules and any local rules that apply; and
-  Sufficient refreshments to last for the duration of the event that depending on the distance being contested could be up to two (2) hours after the first swimmer in the men's and women's respective events finishes.

What to do?

-  Personally observe the appointed swimmer at all times during the Race;
-  Ensure that the Rules of the competition are complied with and any violations recorded in writing and reported to the Referee at the earliest opportunity;
-  Keep a complete record of the swimmer including stroke rate, times of feeding, distance covered per hour and any violations;
-  By personal observation ensure that the appointed swimmer does not take unfair advantage or commit impedance on another swimmer and if the situation requires to intervene and instruct the offending swimmer to move away (any such intervention must be recorded and the Referee informed at the first possible time); and
-  Have the power to order a swimmer from the water upon the expiration of any time limit so ordered by the Referee.

The whistle should be used sparingly. It is only used as a last resort. Usually you will be able to speak to or instruct the swimmer's Handler as to the requirement, like move apart. Where the Handler or the swimmer disregards your instruction you need to gain the swimmer's attention. The whistle will achieve this result. If you over-use the whistle no one will pay any regard to it when it is blown.

Race Judges should also be aware that many escort safety craft are small and have no toilet facilities, so care should be taken with the quantities of fluids ingested.



RULES: The following rules relate to the Race Judges' responsibilities and duties:

FINA

OWS3.24

OWS3.25

OWS3.26

OWS3.27

SNSW

OWS4.24

OWS4.25

OWS4.26

OWS4.27