

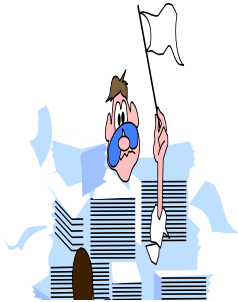
## **TURN JUDGES:**

Sufficient Turn Judges should be appointed so that at each alteration of the course there is a Turn Judge positioned to ensure that each swimmer executes the alteration in the course as detailed in pre-competition information and /or as given at a pre-race briefing meeting.

So, is that all there is to being a Turn Judge? Not likely! The Turn Judge can be likened to the “Pool’s” Inspector of Turns, with the difference being that you are not looking at a turning action or a touch in accordance with the Rules. You are ensuring that the swimmers are on course and do actually execute the alteration in accordance with the instructions as contained in the pre-competition information or as instructed at the pre-race briefing. You observe the swimmers as they approach and pass your position. Records are kept of those who fail to execute the alteration in the course in the prescribed manner, and any infringement observed is also recorded and reported to the Referee. There may be radio communications between your post and the Referee and the Chief Reorder.

What are the likely alterations in a course that need to be observed?

Surf, lakes, rivers, dams or rowing courses usually have one of the following configurations or a mix of them:



- Parallels the beach,
- Goes out to or around a fixed point such as a pier or island
- Circles a closed course marked by buoys, or
- Follows a course that is a combination of any of the above.
- Point-to-point

In an “out and back” configuration it will be the furthest point from the start where the swimmers turn to return to the finish. There may be gateways that have to be swum through on the way to the turn point. A triangular course would have a minimum of two turn points (alterations in the course). Unless the turn point or alteration in the course is close to the shore you will usually be positioned in a craft anchored just off the turn point from where you have an uninterrupted view.



When positioning your craft you need to pay careful attention to the wind, current and tides. It’s embarrassing to be sitting comfortably in the craft watching the swimmers approach and then finally come to the realisation that your craft is now in the middle of the course because:

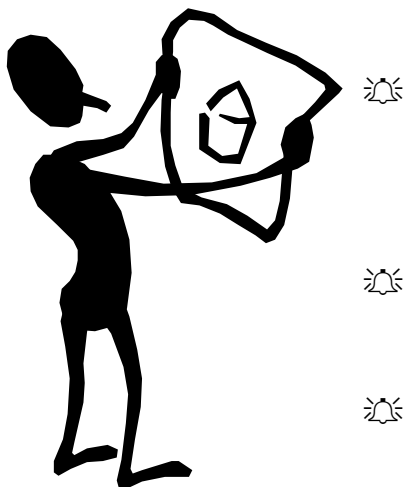
the wind has changed direction;

there’s been a turn of the tide; or

a rip has developed that has pushed you into the swimmers’ path. Does this happen? Sure does!

**What to bring?**

Exactly the same as the Race Judge.



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), wristwatch, whistle 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. This could be up to 9 hours or more after the Start. Remember not all craft have toilet facilities and it can be a long time between comfort stops!

**What to do?**

Be positioned so as to ensure all swimmers execute the alteration in course as indicated in the competition information documents and as given at the pre-race briefing and you may be required to record the swimmers' order of turn;



Record any infringement of the turn procedures on the recording sheets provided or your writing paper/note pad if none are supplied and indicate the infringement to the Referee/Race Judge at the time of infringement by blasts on a whistle (or use the radio communication if available); and



Promptly upon completion of the event deliver the signed recording sheet to the Referee [OWS3.31 actually says "the Chief Finish Judge" but you should deliver any matter to the Referee if there is a possibility of affecting the determination of the race].

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

**FINA**

OWS3.28

OWS3.29

OWS3.30

**SNSW**

OWS4.28

OWS4.29

OWS4.30