



SWIMMING OFFICIALS GROUP

TECHNICAL OFFICIALS RADIO PROTOCOL

The use of technology to enhance the role of the Technical Official in all sports is an ongoing process. Use of radios as a means of speedy communication between officials both in the Field of Play and between those in a supporting role is growing. FINA and LEN have utilised the use of radio communication between Technical Officials in swimming events.

Transmissions should be restricted to messages regarding potential disqualification.

Radios and call signs will be assigned as follows:

| <u>Official</u> | <u>Call Sign</u> |
|--|------------------|
| Technical Director | Director |
| AOE Referee (Control Room Supervisor) | Timing Control |
| Deck Referee (one each) | Referee |
| Ch. Insp. of Turns (Start end) | Finish Inspector |
| Ch. Insp. of Turns (Turn end) | Turn Inspector |
| Judge of Stroke (Side -'opposite the Referee') | Stroke |

Purpose

The purpose of the radios to ensure prompt and accurate communication between the Race Referee and those officials with whom, due to distance around the pool face-to-face contact is difficult.

Should an action be observed by an official, which they consider an infringement of the swimming rules or other rules pertaining to the Event the Referee needs to be informed as soon as possible in order to decide on a course of action at the earliest opportunity.

It is not intended for the radios to be used for any other purpose – save an emergency or safety issue.

Some changes have been made in the sample conversation within this protocol. This has been done in order to reflect the procedures adopted at Open Water events. Those events are often managed using marine radio frequencies and as such, formal radio procedures are required.

Method of Operation

- Check the radio is on and that you are using the correct allocated channel, the battery level is ok and that the volume level is set.

- Press the transmit button, pause, then send your message speaking clearly and slowly, pause, then release transmit button. The pauses are necessary to ensure that the start and finish of your message is transmitted properly; the duration of the pause should be no more than 1-2 seconds.
- Wait for a response; repeat your message if necessary.
- Prior to competition commencing a short radio check will take place on the Pool Deck to ensure that the communications are working.
- Should a Judge of Stroke on the far side observe an infringement they will make contact with the Referee via radio, Judges of Stroke on the Referee's side would speak to the Referee directly. Inspectors of Turn will remain standing causing the relevant Chief Inspector of Turn to approach them. Details of the alleged infringement shall be passed and if necessary briefly discussed between the Referee and reporting Official. If the Referee concludes that the competitor shall be disqualified the Lane and infringement will be confirmed and the 'Director' and 'Timing Control' informed. The reporting official will then complete the relevant report sheet and hand it to the Referee.
- A radio message should always commence with the receiving 'call sign' repeated twice e.g. 'Referee, Referee, from Finish Inspector' The repeated initial call sign allows the recipient to recognise that he/she is being called.
- The receiver should acknowledge the caller and either permit a message to be sent or inform the caller to wait
- When invited to continue, the caller should confirm their identity and pass the message briefly and concisely giving such detail as will be required for any decision to be made.
- Unless to aid clarity, it is not necessary to end transmissions with the word "Over" although "Out" maybe used to indicate the end of a conversation.
- The Referee should verify disqualification reports.

In for example a 200m Breaststroke event a typical conversation may be as follows

"Referee.....Referee this is Finish Inspector"

"Finish Inspector this is Referee – (Go ahead or Standby)"

"Referee this is Finish Inspector – The swimmer in lane four touched the wall none simultaneously, left hand then right hand at turn two"

"Finish Inspector this is Referee – Confirming non simultaneous touch in lane four"

"Referee this is Finish Inspector – Correct - out "

"Timing Control and Director this is Referee – Swimmer in Lane 4 Disqualified for a rule infringement at the turn Timing Control acknowledge"

“Referee this is Timing Control – Understood, swimmer in lane four disqualified”

“Director this is Referee - Acknowledge”

“Referee this is Director – Understood, swimmer in lane four disqualified for rule infringement at the turn”

It is true to say that the language used in the sample conversation above is formal for the reasons as stated. In the pool environment the actual formality is not particularly important. The vital elements are accuracy, understanding and effectiveness.

Do not be over concerned with radio etiquette so long as your message is ‘received and understood – over’!

Remember: PRESS – PAUSE – SPEAK.

Radios are here to help us be effective and efficient.