



OPEN WATER OFFICIALS GUIDELINES

CHIEF REFEREE

RULES

The Chief Referee shall:

- Have full control and authority over all officials and shall approve their assignments and instruct them regarding all special features or regulations related to the competition. The Referee shall enforce all the Rules and decisions of FINA and shall decide all questions relating to the actual conduct of the competition, the final settlement of which is not otherwise covered by these Rules.
- Have authority to intervene in the competition at any stage to ensure that FINA Rules are observed.
- In case of hazardous conditions that jeopardize the safety of the swimmers and the officials, they can stop the race.
- Adjudicate on all protests related to the competition in progress.
- Give a decision in cases where the judges' decision and times recorded do not agree.
- Signal to swimmers, by raised flag and short blasts on a whistle, that the start is imminent and when satisfied indicate by pointing the flag at the starter that the competition may commence.
- Disqualify any swimmer for any violation of the Rules that he / she personally observes or which is reported to him by other authorised officials.
- Ensure that all necessary officials for the conduct of the competition are at their respective posts. They may appoint substitutes for any who are absent, incapable of acting or found to be inefficient. They may appoint additional officials if considered necessary.
- Receive all reports prior to the start of the race from the Course Officer.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Before the start of the event:

- Is present at the technical meeting
- Before the race, with a member of the organizing committee and a coach designated at the technical meeting, verify the water temperature at the center of the course at a depth of 40cm (the minimum permitted is 16°C).
- In agreement with the Organizing Committee, validate the official's assignments.
- Verify the course with the **Course Officer**
- Receive the start lists from the **Recorder**.

During the event

The **Chief Referee** follows the event from a boat.

- Signal to the swimmers, with brief whistles, the imminent start of the race and transfers the responsibility of the start to the **Starter**.
- See to the application of the rules.
 - Warn swimmers in the case of slight errors: whistles
 - Advise swimmers in the case of a first infraction: Yellow Card + Swimmer's Number.
 - Disqualify swimmers in the case of a serious fault or a second infraction: Red Card + Swimmer's Number. The swimmer must leave the water immediately.
- Record the withdrawals during the race and advises the Chief Finish Judge and the Recorder

After the end of the event

- Assure there are no swimmers left in the water and declares the race finished.
- Receive from the **Chief Judge** the results and the rankings, verifies and signs them.
- Judge all eventual protests.

MINIMUM MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Thermometer
- FINA rule book
- Megaphone
- Whistle
- Stopwatch
- Paper and Pencils
- Flag (if possible a different colour than the one used by the **Starter**)
- Radio
- Cell Phone

MISCELLANEOUS

- Start lists and course plan.
- Important telephone numbers

STARTER / CHIEF JUDGE

RULES

The Starter shall:

- Start the race following the signal by the Chief Referee.
- Establish the result and placing which shall be sent directly to the Chief Referee.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Before the start of the event

- Verify that the starting system is functioning properly.
- Receive the start list
- Is present at the technical meeting

During the starts

The **Starter / Chief Finish Judge** shall be positioned so as to be clearly visible to all competitors, facing the **Chief Referee**.

- The start shall be given by lowering the flag with the arm extended while emitting simultaneously an audible signal once they judge that the swimmers are ready.

During the event

The **Starter /Chief Finish Judge** align themselves beside or above the arrival pad.

- At each arrival record the swimmer's number on the arrival forms.
- Establish the order of arrivals at the end of the event and submits it to the **Chief Referee**.

MINIMUM MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Flag (if possible a different colour from that of the **Chief Referee**).
- Whistle
- Pencils
- Arrival forms
- Radio
- Cell Phone

SAFETY MARSHAL

RULES

The **Safety Marshal** shall:

- Be responsible to the Referee for all aspects of safety related to the conduct of the competition.
- Check that the entire course (with special regard to the start and finish area) is safe, suitable, and free of any obstruction.
- Be responsible for ensuring that sufficient powered safety craft are available during the competition so as to provide full safety backup to the escort safety craft.
- In conjunction with the Medical 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.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Before the start of the event

- Verify the start and arrival zones
- Verify the course with the **Chief Referee**
- Verify the safety protocol.
- Clarify the roles of rescuers
- Hold a safety meeting with all those involved with the event safety (Land and water safety officials, kayakers, etc) at least one hour before the start.
- If necessary, distribute to the participants, information signalling particular dangers (tide, currents, obstacles, etc)
- Receive the start lists from the **Recorder**.
- Submit his report, to the **Chief Referee**, at the least 15 minutes prior to the start of the race.
- Identify safety boats with a number.

During the event

The **Safety Officer** follows the event from land.

- Co-ordinate safety
- Verify, with the Chief Referee, the return to land of all contestants who abandon the race.
- Inform safety personnel of all incidents.

MINIMUM MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Paper - Pencil
- Radio
- Cell Phone

MISCELLANEOUS

- Plastic envelope for start lists and course plan.
- Important telephone numbers

Other Positions

Other positions may be filled depending on the number of competitors. These positions can be viewed in the Swimming Canada Rulebook (Appendix D) and may include:

- Chief Timekeeper
- Chief Finish Judge
- Course Officer
- Turn Judges

The chief referee is responsible for ensuring the adequate positions are filled before the race.