

## ROLE OF THE ADVISORY REFEREE

### History of the Advisory Referee:

In times past there was a rulebook-defined person known as the Meet Referee. This person was the senior official at a multi-session meet. It was expected that this official would attend every session of the meet to guarantee continuity. This was particularly important for long meets like Cascade Speed Meet, Grand Prix, or EKI etc. This official had real power to shape the officials profile and could intervene to overrule the session referee.

Over a decade ago the Technical Swim Committee moved to restore full authority to the session referee who shed that title and became known simply as the Referee. For FINA and SNC designated meets, a Commission was created. This group of 3 or 4 senior officials was created to assist the Referee with those matters not specifically covered by the rulebook. The idea was that the Referee on duty was the Captain of his ship and completely responsible for enforcing the FINA swim rules and any additional SNC protocols.

Recently the new Referee's clinic speaks of the role of a Senior Referee. This position combines some elements from the old Meet Referee definition and excludes other. *Gone is the real power of the position. While this person still has the power to remove a referee and starter this is to be done only after extensive consultation with Meet Management and the Officials Chair of the Meet. The position is an "advisory" one.* The position is meant to be a resource for Meet Management and the Officials Chair. The senior referee will assist these individuals and the Referee "if asked".

In Alberta we do not use the term Senior Referee, as it seems to negate the authority of the Referee. In Alberta, we use the term "Advisory Referee" to symbolize the true role of this position.

### **Role of the Advisory Referee:**

- 1) For each multi-session meet, Meet Management in consultation with a member of the Alberta Officials Committee will appoint an Advisory Referee. This person shall be a Master Official when possible. For Swim Alberta designated competitions, Swim Alberta will appoint Advisory Referees as per established guidelines.
- 2) The Advisory Referee should be available for all sessions.
- 3) The Advisory Referee will work with the meet Officials Chair and Meet Management to ensure that all is in place and all equipment necessary is in place for the senior officials (Referee, Starter, Clerk of Course, Chief Timer, Chief Finish Judge, Chief Judge of Electronics, and Chief Stroke and Turn).
- 4) The Advisory Referee will ensure PARA swimmers have Code of Exceptions added and these codes are distributed to Referee, Starter, Stroke and Turn Judge, if these are not completed by Meet Management. This information is located at:  
<https://www.swimming.ca/ParaswimmingClassification>
- 5) The Advisory Referee will ensure that a short briefing takes place between the Referee(s), Starter(s) and Chief Stroke and Turn. The Advisory Referee will ensure that the Referee covers all essential points at the general briefing. The Advisory Referee will evaluate Referees and Starters if asked.
- 6) The Advisory Referee will assist all first-time senior officials and will fill in at any vacant position.
- 7) The Advisory Referee, if asked, may fill in for the Referee and Starter while they are otherwise busy with on-deck problems.
- 8) The Advisory Referee will fill in at any senior position to allow brief hospitality or bathroom breaks.
- 9) The Advisory Referee will ensure that the Referee's program is handed to Meet Management at the end of the Session.
- 10) While the Referee is arbitrator of the swim rules, the Advisory Referee will advise the Referee on the application of any provincial, national or FINA meet protocols in use at the meet.