

Meet Referee Thoughts part 1

Welcome young Jedi's

As you begin your journey through the galaxy of swim meets this season; we will be training you to replace some of our elder and rapidly aging Jedi MR masters.

It will then become your responsibility to carry on the "Force" and pass it along to others.

Let us begin your journey at the beginning:

In a time and place a long, long time ago coaches were hired and swimmers were recruited; and thus "Teams" were born.

It was determined that there was a need for a way to test these new swimmers to see where they were in their training. Thus, the swim meet was invented – a way to determine how far these swimmers had come and a way to make money to pay these coaches!!!

A group of these Jedi coaches banded together and meticulously crafted a document called the "meet information"; It would become their blue print for running these events they would later call a "Swim Meet".

They were so proud of their creation, they began to replicate it and call it by many names – Woodie B, Pentathlon, Eastern, etc.

In order to truly test their new swim warriors; these coaches would seek out and invite other "Teams" to participate in these new "Competitions".

As the sport grew and additional Competitions and challenges came along, it was decided to create a "Swim Calendar" to make sense of it all – this would be called "The Season"

Thinking this was great and profitable – the Coaches decided to duplicate this thing called "The Season" – one would be called "Short Course" and one called "Long Course"!!

A committee of Jedi Masters was formed who would review this document called – Meet Information – to make sure that all of the rules of combat were specified and being followed.

This committee was called "The Sanction Committee" – made up of Jedi Master leaders representing various other tribes called "Committees" – Tribe Age Group, Tribe Senior, Tribe Officials, Tribe Treasurer, etc.

This Sanction Committee was granted the power to sanction (on behalf of the "Force" also known as U.S.A. Swimming) these combat events.

To assure that the "Sanction" and the words (rules) of the "Committee" were followed as governed by the meet information, the power of the Force was passed onto a selected Jedi Master called the "Meet Referee"

who was granted oversight to assure the "Meet Information" was adhered to and followed as passed down from the "Committee" in the form of sacred documents called the "Sanction Documents".

So now, you three have been selected and trained to follow in the steps of all those MR's who have gone before you. You have been given the power and responsibility of a Referee and are now willing to accept the additional power and responsibility that comes with the next level "MR".

Now that you have an understanding of the history and how you have arrived at this presuppose, let's talk about how things work today, in this galaxy.

- 1) Meet information is created by the coaches, following a format or template, created by Georgia Swimming, to capture all relevant and legal information required.
- 2) Once a Meet Referee has come forward to run the meet; a copy of the meet information is forwarded to he/she to review to make:
 - a. They understand what is being asked of them operationally
 - b. Make sure it makes sense and can be executed without issues

- 3) Once the Meet Referee signs of or agrees to the meet information the meet is submitted for sanction.
- 4) A Sanction Request form is sent; along with the meet information; to the names on the sanction form for review and approval.
- 5) Meets can be Sanctioned or Approved – see section 202.1 in the rule book to understand the difference.
- 6) Once approved; a unique Sanction number will be granted for your meet.
- 7) Meet information (with the Sanction number added) and various Sanction Documents will be returned via email to the Meet Director and Meet Referee specified on the Sanction Request.
- 8) The approved meet information will have additional boiler plate information added (if not contained in the original document submitted) required by USA-S to cover Liability, Safety, etc.
- 9) The sanction documents you receive will explain the timelines for final reports required after the meet, steps you as a MR must follow to finalize everything and any monies/fees the host will owe Georgia Swimming at the conclusion of the meet.
- 10) Print out a copy of all sanction documents and add them to your meet book.
- 11) One of the parties who will receive a copy of the sanction is Bruce Adams. Bruce, as our OTS coordinator, will create the meet in OTS and make you (MR) the administrator of the meet in OTS.
- 12) Review and understand the Meet Information (Final) and high lite all important information you'll need to discuss at your coaches meeting, or that you'll need to make sure is executed properly – i.e. and special seeding rules for specific events.
- 13) As far in advance as possible – begin soliciting officials to work your meet. If your meet includes other teams – reach out to their officials as well.
- 14) Organize your meet book. Determine what forms you'll need and make copies so you're ready to go on meet day.
 - a. Print your Officials Sign In sheet for each session.
 - b. Print your coaches sign in sheet
 - c. Print any counting sheets you might need for distance events
 - d. Print blank Deck Set sheets for each session – at least two per session
 - e. If you are running relays – print an ample supply of relay take off slips
 - f. Figure out what equipment you will need to run the meet – i.e. a bell for the distance events
 - g. Check your radios to make sure they are in working condition – restock your pens, paper, office supplies
 - h. Make sure you have your current USA rule book in your officials bag
 - i. Create a spreadsheet so you can track your officials as they respond to your request to work your meet.
 - j. If your spreadsheet doesn't have a lot of names, other than yours, send out a second or third call for officials – it is appropriate for begging to begin with the second call for officials.
- 15) Communicate with your Meet Director:
 - a. Request any special supplies you'll need
 - b. Request any specific set up on the pool deck you think you'll need – chairs on deck for officials, etc.
 - c. Request they check to make sure the lap counters are in good condition and you have an ample number to cover each lane + spares
 - d. If you're running 25's that will start at the other end of the pool – make sure you remind the Meet Director to set up a second starting system at that end and "Charge it over-night"
 - e. Request the Meet Director send you a copy of the timeline as soon as it is available.
- 16) Go out to OTS and make sure Bruce has set up your meet and you have access to it.
- 17) Arrive at the venue at least one hour before the warm ups so you can get set up and walk around to make sure the facility is ready – check 15M marks, starting speakers, etc.
- 18) Do not leave anything for the last minute.
- 19) Know what time your coaches meeting is scheduled for and know what you want to talk about or what information you want to reiterate to the coaches.
- 20) Be Prepared!