



# **So You're Going to be A Chief Judge – Now What?**

Tips on Planning For Success

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# Disclaimer / Acknowledgement

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# Agenda

- Introductions
  - Who is this guy and why is he talking to us?
  - And you?
- Traits of a Good CJ
- Things to do before the meet
- The Meet itself
- Almost done (post meet to do's)
- Closing Remarks

# Traits of a Good CJ

- Organized but flexible
- High energy
  - Willing to do the overtime for scheduling assignments, evaluations, etc.
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Knowledgeable
- An upstanding soul
- Eyes and Ears
- Can be certifiable
  - Depending upon the LSC
- Be The Duck
  - Calm on the surface, paddling like heck underneath

# Before the meet

- Identify your CJ Team
- Coordinate expectations, roles, etc. with
  - Meet Ref
    - Meeting times
    - Attire
    - Time Trials
    - Number of positions
    - Jurisdiction preferences
    - Distance events
    - Etc.
  - Admin Ref / Team
    - Creation/distribution of paperwork (e.g., RTO's, Heat Sheets, etc.)

# Before the meet (cont.)

- Coordinate expectations, roles, etc. with
  - Meet Director
    - Meet Supplies
    - Paper / Printer / Copier access
    - General office supplies
  - Hospitality
- Know your deck
  - Obtain listing(s) of Deck Refs, Starters, and S&T's
  - How many pools to staff
- Initial prep. work
  - Draft deck staffing plan
  - CJ team duties – rotation of meet duties (briefings, radios, etc.) or no rotation?
  - Briefing agenda(s) for each session

# The Meet Itself

- Keeping you sane – the CJ Notebook
- Running the pre-game show
  - Briefings
  - Deck Assignments
  - Radios / Radio Roll Call
  - Etc.

# The Meet Itself (cont.)

- Oh yeah, there's that swimming thing...Handling DQ's, False Starts, No-Shows, and RTO's
  - Radio protocol/process
  - Remember that DR's should be willing to question the calls. As a CJ, your job is to merely report (and perhaps recommend) a call. You do not deny a call to a S&T; that's the DR's job
  - Recall, too, that it's easy for experienced officials to talk an unsure official into an infraction. One key to the CJ role is to determine that the official *observed* an infraction and can tell you what rule had been violated. If you can't get to a clear description of a rule violation, then the benefit of the doubt goes to the athlete



# The finale

- Meet evaluations
- Entering sessions into OTS
- Thank you's

# In Closing...

- Chief Judge – the toughest job on deck you'll ever love
- Resources:
  - USA-Swimming has several wonderful items, including:
    - Officials manual / Guide to officiating – esp. Chapter 4 CJ
    - Stroke Briefing
    - Radio Protocols
    - Evaluation criteria/checklist (S&T, CJ, etc.)
  - Officials Blog

Your Turn...

**QUESTIONS?**