

PVS Officials Code of Conduct

- If you volunteer to work at a meet, please show up to work. If circumstances change and you can't make it, let the Officials Coordinator know as early as possible.
- Arrive on time for the session, in the proper uniform with the necessary equipment, and ready to officiate. Sign-in on the assignment sheet and attend the Officials Briefing. Be in position on time, plan to work the entire session, be focused on your assignment, and perform your duties to the best of your ability.
- Know the rules, interpretations, and procedures. Continually review. Stay informed. Ask questions. Be consistent in the application of the rules at all times and at all levels of competition.
- Enforce all rules fairly and equitably. Do not allow rule infractions to go uncalled simply because no one has gained an advantage. If you see a violation and you're sure of what you saw, call it. But remember that the benefit of the doubt always goes to the swimmer.
- Disregard a swimmer's identity or club affiliation and avoid any appearance of bias or favoritism.
- Never "warn" swimmers (or their coaches) that they were almost disqualified. A violation either occurred or it didn't. A warning constitutes coaching and officials are present to officiate, not to coach.
- The Meet Referee is the final authority at the meet; follow his/her instructions and guidance. The Deck Referee and Chief Judge directly represent the Meet Referee.
- Never engage in cell phone conversations or texting while performing your duties on deck.
- Never enter into discussion with swimmers, coaches, or parents regarding violations, disqualifications, or rule interpretations (unless you are the Referee for the session).
 - Answer appropriate inquiries in a polite, brief and professional manner. Further inquiries should be referred to the Deck Referee.
 - Coaches should never become hostile or abusive to officials. Such incidents should be promptly reported to the Referee.
 - Parents or other spectators should never be allowed to interfere with or argue about calls and/or decisions of officials. They should be referred to their coach.
- Only offer private, constructive criticism of fellow officials. Serious concerns should only be reported to the Meet Referee or the Officials Committee.
- Admit when you've made a mistake and correct the mistake according to the rules. Never make a decision to "make up" for a poor decision made earlier. If you have second thoughts about a call you've made, discuss it with the Chief Judge or Referee. There is no dishonor or disgrace in the withdrawal of a disqualification.
- Never leave the deck without notifying the Referee or Chief Judge. If offered a relief break, take it, but be sure to be back in position on time.
- Be aware of unsportsmanlike conduct and report such acts to the Referee.
- Be aware of safety concerns. Stop unsafe acts. Report unsafe conditions to the Referee.
- If asked to assist with the education of apprentice officials, do your best to convey your knowledge and experience in a positive manner. Report your observations about the apprentice's ability to the Referee at the end of the session.