

ANNOUNCER

INTRODUCTION

The Announcer helps controls the tempo of the meet. He/she should be constantly conditions. To maintain spectators' and competitors' interest throughout the meet, make timely announcements, and enthusiastic descriptions of the races.

Don't over announce. A few pertinent announcements are far more effective than too many. The Announcer should be familiar with existing records and quickly announce if a record may be or is broken. In short, the Announcer can do a good deal more than just call up the next event and give the results! Once the meet starts, make only official announcements. Do not pass personal messages except for **bona fide** emergencies.

CHECKLIST

Arrive prior to the start of warm-ups. You may be needed to make announcement regarding proper usage of the pool, check-in times, etc. Check with the Referee and the Meet Director for time schedules (warm-ups, meet start time, etc.) and any special instructions regarding announcements.

Ensure that all of the equipment is in working order (microphone and all speakers working, volume adjusted properly, etc.). Adjust start of tape cassette/recording of the national anthem. (when appropriate)

If there are positive check—in deadlines, know when they are and make timely reminders. When a Clerk of Course is being used, determine when swimmers should be called for their event.

Announce each race by event and heat number; with any scratches. Announce all official results, coordinating the timing so that they do not conflict with the start of another race. **Stop talking when the Referee blows his whistle.**

TIPS

Speak clearly, talk slowly and distinctly, and pronounce names correctly! If possible, find time prior to the session to meet with coaches or athletes to learn proper way to pronounce names. This extra effort will be appreciated. When contestants are listed in a program, it is unnecessary to introduce swimmers during prelims (or a timed finals event) unless the heats have been consolidated.

During preliminary sessions, it is important that finalists be announced as soon as they are determined. Start with the two alternates, then the slowest heat to make finals, and finish with the fastest heat to make finals. Only announce the seed time for the fastest qualifier from prelims. Remember, prelims only seed swimmers for finals, therefore, do **not** announce swimmers as having finished in “x place.” Announce the time to ensure compliance with the **scratch** rules. Example: “It is now 10:05, you have 30 minutes from now or until 10:35 to declare your intent to scratch” Notes the times you announced and provide to Clerk of Course promptly to ensure proper implementation.

During finals of a prelim and finals meet, swimmers are usually introduced. Frequently, the slower heats (C Final and B Final) are announced in the water and A Final heat is announced prior to the race. The Meet Referee will provide guidance on this matter.

Establish a set routine for announcing awards and follow it. State the winning time and affiliation of the swimmers placing as and any records that are broken or established, national qualifying times achieved and/or any other significant accomplishments..

The Announcer's job is to keep everyone informed of the meet's progress in a pleasing and entertaining manner. It is an important and difficult job, but vital to the operation of a good swimming meet.