

# Potomac Valley Swimming

## Marshals Responsibilities and Duties

As stated in the USA Swimming Rulebook, section 102.18, Marshals *shall wear identifying attire and enforce warm-up procedures and maintain order in the swimming venue. The marshal shall have full authority to warn or order to cease and desist, and, with the concurrence of the Referee, to remove, or have removed from the swimming venue anyone behaving in an unsafe manner or using profane or abusive language, or whose actions are disrupting the orderly conduct of the meet.*

Marshals should arrive at the swim venue at least 15 minutes before the beginning of warm-ups and check-in with the Referee to receive instructions on where they should be positioned and any special safety concerns for the meet.

Marshals should be visible, observant and proactive in responding to any unsafe condition or behavior that they observe. They should behave in a polite professional manner, refraining from conflict with swimmers, coaches or spectators. If faced with a situation which they cannot resolve without conflict, the marshal should immediately alert the Referee.

Among the marshal's duties:

- Overseeing warm-ups, assuring that swimmers are entering the pool feet first throughout the general warm-up, that there is no overcrowding in any lane, and that designated sprint lanes are cleared and block starts are conducted safely,
- Observing the conduct of swimmers on the pool deck, responding to any unsafe or unsportsmanlike behavior,
- Being alert for any unsafe facility conditions, such as standing water on deck, unstable starting blocks, sharp protrusions on lane-lines or their anchors, and any other equipment to which the swimmers are exposed,
- Periodically patrolling the hallways and locker rooms to assure that there is no unsafe or destructive activity in these areas.

Marshals should position themselves so that together they can observe as much of the pool and deck area as possible, they should wear brightly colored shirts or vests, and they should be in position continuously throughout the competition.

Marshals should use their best judgment in assessing safety issues. Where uncertain, they should confer with the Referee.

Link to [USA Swimming Officiating Manual Chapter on Marshals](#).