



Clarification – Starting & Exchange Violation Officiating Mechanics

To all:

To help alleviate some confusion on mechanics to use for false start and relay exchange violations, please refer to the Q&A below so that we're all administering our meets in a consistent manner. Please also feel free to contact me with questions you may have.

1. In a dual meet, do we raise our hand at the time of an infraction on early takeoffs? Yes. Upon witnessing an exchange violation, the official who observed the violation should immediately raise his/her hand. The infraction should be reported to the Referee following the race. The Referee should then inform the head coach of the resulting disqualification.

2. In a dual meet, must there be dual confirmation on all infractions? No. In a dual meet, only the lead off swimmer on a relay team and each individual swimmer in non-relay events are subject to dual confirmation. The two officials should note the lane in which they observed a violation at the start, record it on their heat sheet and then compare what they wrote after the race. If they agree, the disqualification should be administered. If they do not agree, there is no disqualification.

3. Must there be dual confirmation at an invite? When do you raise your hand? The host school determines if the meet will be conducted in "championship format" or not. If yes, then dual confirmation is required for both the initial start and all exchanges. For a starting infraction by the lead off swimmer, the lane of the offending swimmer shall be recorded as in #2 above by both the Referee and the Starter and compared after the race. No hand is raised. For an exchange infraction by swimmers 2, 3 or 4, the officials should wait until the last swimmer of the HEAT is in the water and then raise their hand. Again, if both the Referee and Starter witnessed the same infraction, the disqualification is administered. If not, then there is no disqualification.

If **not** using championship format, then Referee and Starter should use dual confirmation only for the lead off swimmer on a relay team and each individual swimmer in non-relay events as described above. For relay exchanges, the Referee and Starter shall each watch the lanes in their half of the pool, signal infractions immediately and report the violation to the Referee after the race.

4. In Championship meets, when should our hands be raised, if at all? Do we compare with our partner after the race? Procedures for Championship meets are still being reviewed at this time and will be communicated to Sectional / State Final officials at a later date. Remember in Illinois, the IHSA only recognizes the Sectional and State Final meets as "culminating" meets; and therefore, Championship meets.

Thank you again for your attention to these details, and continued success this season!

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