

# SWIMMING OFFICIALS' NEWS

A two way exchange of information with the Swimming Officials Committee



If all goes to plan, you should be receiving with this edition of Swimming Officials News your 2003 copy of the Extracts of ASA Laws and ASA Technical Rules and with any luck all of the contact details on the back cover are correct this year!

There are hardly any 'black spots' to draw your attention to this year, however, it's worth noting that the Judicial Laws have been extensively amended and took effect from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2003.

## 2002 Referee Examinations and March 2003 Race Results Examination

Congratulations to the following Officials in achieving their Registered Referee Status

Rodney Briggs Michael Carroll

Allan Clift

William Collins

Robert Cooper

Pam Crofts

Christine Dening

Sue Drury

Peter Elsom

John Giles

David Greenaway

Judith Jones

Chris Lambert

Sue Lambert

Anthony Lord

Sheila Mackenzie

John Maxey

Peter McDonnell

Richard McGonagle

Trevor Oliver

Leroy Paddock

Mike Parker

Alan Percival

Sue Prasad

Ceri Shepherd

David Smith

Helen Thirlwell

Kate Ward

Ronald Wilkes-Green

Anthony Witham

In addition to these 30 new referees there were 58 passes in the two Race Results papers – again congratulations

One question that regularly appears and has given the most difficulty to candidates is the question of a swimmer with NO TIME when times are required to

award the swimmer with points. This can be LEN points, FINA points or probably more applicable to most of us, GB or BAG points. Clearly a swimmer with NO TIME would receive NO POINTS so we must do something that is fair to all concerned. This was the question in the March 2003 Race Results paper:

At a meet where FINA Comparative Points Tables were being used to assess performances, the following data was given to the referee at the end of the race.

EVENT:052 HEAT:02		<u>Manual Times</u>	
		<u>Lane</u>	<u>Time</u>
P	14.23:17.57	1	9:50.15
L L		2	9:05.74
A A L	01/06/02	3	9:15.18
C N A		4	9:11.70
E E P	BACK UP	5	9:47.23
1 2 2	9:05.76	6	9:31.29
2 2	9:05.76	7	NO TIME
2 4 2	9:11.77	8	9:50.65
4 2	9:12.00		
3 3 2	9:15.22		
3 2	9:15.30		
4 6 2	9:31.28		
6 2	9:31.43		
5 5 2	9:47.37*		
5 2	9:47.37		
6 1 2	9:50.11		
1 2	9:50.31		
7 8 2	9:50.74		
8 2	9:50.86		
8 7 2	9:59.72M		
7 2	--		

  

<u>Manual Placings</u>	
Judge A	2 4 3 7 6 5 1 8
Judge B	2 4 3 7 6 5 1 8
Referee	2 4 3 7 6 5 1 8

1. Decide and record the official result.
2. What are the restrictions applicable to any time that might be accredited to the swimmer in Lane 7?

In true publication tradition, the solution is on the back page! Which links very nicely with the question posed in the last edition....

"As the Referee, you receive a report from a turn judge that a swimmer did not touch the wall at the finish end during the second turn of the event. When you receive the AOE printout, it clearly shows a pad time of the correct magnitude for the turn in question. What do you do?"

A few of your submissions:

*"If the referee accepts that the AOE is working correctly he should allow the result to stand. If he has reason to believe the AOE was defective then if both turn judges reported the infringement there should be a disqualification if, however, only one turn judge reported the alleged offence it is up to the referee to decide depending upon whether he saw any infringement or not".*  
*"If the referee has decided that the AOE timing is working correctly, and has no indication to the contrary, the swimmer is given the decision as having touched???"*

As is the case with most of these questions, there is no right or wrong answer! The Referee can only investigate the incident more fully before deciding on the action to take. If there were only two turn Judges the swimmer may have managed an unobserved touch or the turn Judge, assuming one per lane, may have accidentally stepped on the pad as they observed the swimmer turn. The Referee must, however, be 100% certain the swimmer did not touch before calling a disqualification.

## EXAMINATION NEWS

### 2003 EXAM DATES

Timekeeper

By arrangement with the District Organiser

Judge/Starter

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November

Entries Close September 9<sup>th</sup>

All the above papers are multi-choice

Race Results and Referee

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October

Entries Close September 9<sup>th</sup>

Application forms from your  
District/County Organiser  
Or

[www.britishswimming.org/sports/officials/forms.asp](http://www.britishswimming.org/sports/officials/forms.asp)

**E**arly in the New Year, there was much discussion about starting pistols again following the tragic events in Birmingham. Stories appeared in the press about the carrying of replica guns or starting pistols becoming an offence. This obviously caused concern and many starters sought guidance on how they stood legally when they were travelling to competitions. The gun amnesty during April produced different definitions of a pistol from different police divisions and the ASA gave following guidance:

*"If the pistol has been specifically designed for starting races there is no obligation on the owner to hand the starting pistol in. Starting pistols, (i.e. those designed only to start races) are exempt under current*

*legislation. Please note that there is presently a Government White Paper, "Respect and Responsibility", which may have implications for the future. We will be keeping this matter under review and will write to you again if there are any changes to the legal position.*

*If the starting pistol is a pistol which has been converted for the use of starting races then this type of pistol should be handed in to your local police division.*

*Starting pistols must be kept secure and under the supervision of the owner at all times. Starting Pistols must only be carried when going to and from galas for the purpose of starting races, and possibly occasionally, to a gunsmith for repair. They must not be carried or used for any other reason."*

**N**ow a few of your queries and observations received over the last few months.

Dear Bob,

*Predictably I have found that the most comments have been raised over the "reinterpretation" of the backstroke turn. Like many, I thought that I knew what it looked like until I read your explanation, but I have been trying to use both "old and new" rules for a few weeks. In essence, I find that nothing has really changed except that effectively there are fewer instances arising where I must disqualify.*

*An official, upon spotting a swimmer who has rotated to a prone position continuing to kick into the wall, has hitherto, in most cases, called for that swimmer to be disqualified. In some cases under the old interpretation rightly so, where the kick has been used to reach the wall, but there has always been the question of whether the kick has been a passive, non-propulsive movement. Under the new regime however, that same official must now spot the rotation, observe the feet to look for the kick to aid rotation, and watch the arms to establish whether the swimmer has commenced the continuous turning action. And what's more, at the majority of lower order galas, that official must do it for up to 8 or 10 swimmers perhaps simultaneously through a disturbed water surface at some considerable distance from the point where he/she is standing. Are we all to be issued with blue Lycra suits a red cape and red knickers to wear on the outside?*

*No, of course we aren't! But what I believe the latest edition of SON to be stating in these points, and those relating to Dq at the start, is that we are trying to encourage swimmers to swim. I do not take the view that we are out to equate ourselves with the traffic warden whose successful day is measured by the number of tickets we can dish out in a shift.*

*Far too many times I have had judges come racing down the poolside waving a clipboard excitedly saying that they have spotted this or that and giving the impression that this is their raison d'etre. If it's wrong then it's wrong - but if it's almost right most of the time, then*

*it's right, and I endorse comments that lines can be drawn in different places at different times!*

Blue Lycra suits a red cape and red knickers to wear on the outside?.....just as soon as the ASA can find a sponsor!

*After achieving the prone position, & as part of a ..... "continuous turning action"..... a backstroker raises his head to aid rotation before it he drops it (!).*

*Disqualify?*

*PS*

*I would be interested to hear your view / the "official" view before it is thrown open for public debate. There appears to be some query at present in this area.*

*PPS*

*Following people asking for definitions of the new interpretation at galas I have come up with my own visual description. "If you see a prone, lifeless, floating log before the turn, then you should disqualify" - It seems to answer most people's anxieties BUT has been open to some considerable misinterpretation! Still, it raises a laugh and we do need a reason to smile!*

*Dave L*

What rule is being broken? There is no mention in the Rules as to what the head can or cannot do.....after all, the swimmer could just be breathing!!

*Please clarify something that crops up every year during my officials seminars, what EXACTLY is an "unfair disadvantage" - Rule 513.3.? Does it imply the existence of a "fair advantage"?*

I can only offer a bodysuit as a fair advantage or losing your goggles or trunks as a fair disadvantage! Open to offers on this one.

With the change last year to the Minimum Ages for Competition, there have been a number of questions about what constitutes an Open Competition. This is defined in General Competition Law 408, however, when reading this Law remember there is an "and" at the end of 408.1.2 and 408.1.3. In other words, 408.1.2, 408.1.3 and 408.1.4 must ALL be satisfied before a competition cannot be regarded as an open competition, not just one of them.

*Bob,*

*I think we are all conversant with Rule 517 and in particular 517.4 which deals with Backstroke Turns but can you please give me some guidance on the Backstroke Finish?*

*As we know after the 15 metre point following a start or turn some part of the body must break the surface of the water, Rule 517.3 Rule 517.5 states "Upon the finish of the race the swimmer must touch the wall while on the back. The body may be submerged at the touch."*

*When is the swimmer allowed to submerge?*

*My interpretation is that the swimmer is allowed to lunge for the wall and if he submerges during this action shall not be disqualified. i.e. Last stroke into the wall.*

*I have come across other interpretations which are far more relaxed and a swimmer submerging some metres before the finish and dolphin kicking into the wall would not be disqualified.*

*In the interest of consistency would you please let me have the ASA considered interpretation of this rule.*

*Dave M*

FINA were formally asked to clarify this recently and the question asked was: "Can a swimmer be completely submerged during the last stroke before the finish"

FINA Interpretation: "We would like to confirm that the swimmer may be completely submerged AT THE TOUCH but not before the touch. The FINA Rule SW 6.3 allows the swimmer to be submerged "at the finish". The finish is the touch. FINA Rule 6.5 states, "the body may be submerged at the touch"."

So how is it possible for a swimmer to be completely submerged at the touch but not before? We can only draw upon the advice given by FINA in their new video, "When observing the swimmer at the finish, make sure they do not completely submerge prior to the touch. As you shift your focus to the touch do not look back, the race is over".

It's worth adding that this is not a new interpretation, USA swimming gave this exact interpretation in 1997 and it's VERY important to observe the WHOLE body as some part of the lower body often breaks the surface during the lunge for the finish when performed correctly.

The new FINA video is available on loan from your District Organiser and as with all FINA publications, it may be copied without any copyright infringements provided there is no financial gain.

*Dear Bob,*

*I am newly qualified swimming judge and therefore read the new regulation book when it arrived. I have noticed that the rules do not describe the breaststroke turn except for the simultaneous hand touch at the end of each length. But when I see swimmers in competition I notice a tendency for some to commence their turn before they touch i.e. their arms and shoulders have left the normal horizontal plain and I often see only one hand when a turn is made, the other hidden below the water. I have had differing answers from experienced judges when asked to clarify. I would interpret the rules as follows: all movements of the arms during the stroke shall be simultaneous and in the same horizontal plain as the normal water level. The touch, being covered by the stroke rules, must be part of the stroke and therefore should be made with the arms in the same horizontal plane. One experienced judge said that the test he applied to such a problem is "does the swimmer gain an*

advantage", Having thought about this I would say it is an advantage because anything that saves time must be so. The more turns the greater the advantage, and anyway, swimmers wouldn't do it if was not quicker. What say you? Dave P

There is no requirement for the swimmer's arms to remain in the same horizontal plane AFTER the last arm

pull before the touch at the turn or finish. The hands may touch at different levels but MUST touch simultaneously. The hands may be on top of each other as you cannot be certain if the intertwined fingers are touching or not.

Here's a Colorado printout from a recent meet I attended in a 25m pool and demonstrates the resilience of the system and a feature that is not often used. There is a single example of this feature in the "AOE Guidance Notes" written by Bob Proctor, this example may explain the feature more fully as all lanes experience the same scenario.

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=====> RACE HISTORY <===== Race 0026 <==
                                                    Sunday 03-09-03 14:49.48

|-----< Lane Number
| |-----< Lengths
| | |-----< Time
5) 02 1:05.77  6) 02 1:06.95  3) 02 1:07.07  4) 02 1:07.10  7) 02 1:07.26
1) 02 1:07.99  2) 02 1:08.35  8) 02 1:10.08  5) 04 1:40.74  3) 04 1:41.49
6) 04 1:41.76  4) 04 1:43.30  7) 04 1:44.57  1) 04 1:44.66  2) 04 1:45.80
8) 04 1:49.11  6) 06 2:15.32  3) 06 2:15.42  6) EARLY .04  5) 06 2:15.44
3) EARLY .04  5) EARLY .01  4) 06 2:19.37  4) EARLY .03  1) 06 2:20.62
1) EARLY .12  2) 06 2:21.75  2) EARLY .02  7) 06 2:22.72  7) LATE .10
8) 06 2:29.05  8) LATE .01

BACKUP

=====> Colorado Time Systems -- Version 3.28

=====> RACE SUMMARY <===== Race 0026 <==
                                                    Sunday 03-09-03 14:49.48

                                Colorado Time Systems

                                200 METERS BOYS ALL AGES BACKSTROKE
                                EVENT: 14  HEAT: 9

                                ----- By Lane -----
                                Lane Place Time

                                ----- By Place -----
                                Place Lane Time

=====> Colorado Time Systems -- Version 3.28

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If this is a printout given to you as Referee and you are unfamiliar with Colorado, you may decide the AOE is faulty.....no result, no back-up times, no relay judging equipment being used and it's not even a team event!..... and declare the official results using the manual times and places. However, all of the information you need to declare the results using the AOE times is in the above printout and is accurate; it is even possible to calculate the back-up times!

The Colorado system provides a feature whereby if the back-up buttons are pressed during a turn or a relay

take-over, a measurement is performed between the pad time and the button time with the result printed in the Race History. This appears as "EARLY" or "LATE" followed by the difference in the same way as if Relay Judging Equipment was being used.

They have appeared on this printout as the system believes there is still another 50m to swim (only six lengths recorded) when the timekeepers pressed their buttons. Consequently, the system is not in the "Finish Armed" state on all lanes when the swimmers complete their distance. The swimmers HAVE finished their

distance and the timekeepers HAVE operated their back-up buttons. Your clues are the insufficient number of lengths recorded and the times that are recorded. These times for length six are consistent with the finish times you would have expected for this event taking into account the ability of the competitors, whereas the first turns at length two, are recorded around the 1:07.00 second mark.....consistent with an expected four length time. Conclusion: the first turns have not been recorded by the system and therefore the pad times shown for length six can be considered as prime finish times as no "Start Used :KEYBOARD" is shown on the printout. Back-up times could be calculated by applying the "EARLY" or "LATE" difference to the pad time.

That was the feature, now the resilience and why length two was missed.

Unlike Omega, the Colorado system does not require an indication to be given to the Starter informing him that the system is ready for the start of a race. Once the

previous event has finished the system is ready. The system operator is required to store and print the previous event and then press the reset and next event/heat buttons which loads the correct event definition if using "Title Mode" and the events have been predefined using "Event Sequence".

In the event that produced the printout above, the reset key was not pressed after the previous heat had finished. When the Starter gave the starting signal for the next heat, the following warning message appeared on the Colorado Sports Timer, "START WITHOUT RESET Y/N?" . Answering 'Y' retains the start time which is then applied to the next event definition. In this example, the first turn had passed before the question was answered, resulting in the 100m turn being recorded as the first turn.

If you ever have this type of unusual situation, please forward the details so we may all share the 'experience'.

## **ASFGB Pre-FINA List No. 2**

Applications are invited from very experienced swimming officials who are members of the ASA, SASA or WASA who wish to be considered for nomination to the next ASFGB Pre-FINA List commencing January 1<sup>st</sup> 2005.

Further information and an application form may be obtained from the Secretary of the  
ASFGB Swimming Officials Group

Closing date for applications 31<sup>st</sup> July 2003

**Bob Outtram Hon. Sec. ASFGB Swimming Officials Group**

## 2003 SWIMMING RACE RESULTS & REFEREE COURSE

The SOC has organised the annual residential course on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> September for those candidates intending to take either the Race Results or Referee examination paper. It will again be held at Loughborough University. The booking and course arrangements are being organised by the Swimming Officials Committee Secretary Bob Outtram.

We will start at 10.00 on the Saturday and finish around 4.00pm on Sunday. The residential fee of £80.00 includes Saturday lunch, dinner, bed, breakfast and Sunday lunch. We will adjourn to the bar on the Saturday evening for a pub quiz (about swimming) so it will not be until closing time that swimming is finally put to bed.

During the weekend we are running courses for those candidates who are taking one or both examination(s). The plan is to have lectures and seminars with the aim of answering your questions as well as giving you the best possible chance of passing whichever examination(s) you are entering.

If you are not sure if you intend to enter the exam this year, we will be accepting entries for the Race Results and Referee examinations at the course. The closing date for the examinations is Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September thus enabling you to attend and then decide if you are ready.

Race Results Examination - Candidates must be registered officials who have passed the full ASA examinations for timekeeper and judge.

Referee Examination - Candidates must have been registered officials for two years and have passed the full ASA examinations for timekeeper and judge and the written examination for starter.

**O**n to the solution to the question on page one.

Firstly the **official** result is:

<u>Place</u>	<u>Lane</u>	<u>Time</u>
1	2	9:05.76
2	4	9:11.77
3	3	9:15.22
4	7	NO TIME
5	6	9:31.28
6	5	9:47.37
7	1	9:50.11
8	8	9:50.74

The restrictions applicable to any time that might be accredited to the swimmer in Lane 7 are:

1. The swimmer is usually credited with the same time as the swimmer immediately behind them.
2. Such a time must not appear in the results of the competition.
3. The time must not be used for any other purpose.

It's important to note that the question specifically asked about a time that 'might' be accredited. The referee has other options that could be agreed with the swimmer. A re-swim may be more appropriate in this example as there's a sixteen second window the swimmer

could have been in. Giving them the same time as the swimmer immediately behind them could significantly reduce the number of points they are awarded if they were nearer the swimmer in front of them.

**Past Examination Papers and  
Marking Guides  
Are now  
Available to download at**

**[www.britishswimming.org/sports/officials/2002\\_Examinations.asp](http://www.britishswimming.org/sports/officials/2002_Examinations.asp)**

**More expansion planned soon**

Keep the e-mails coming.

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## 2003 SWIMMING REFEREE CANDIDATE COURSE BOOKING FORM

Photocopies accepted or download from [www.britishswimming.org/sports/officials/forms.asp](http://www.britishswimming.org/sports/officials/forms.asp)

<b>Name:</b>		<b>Please post to:</b>						
<b>Address:</b>		Mr R. Outtram						
		63 Catchacre						
		DUNSTABLE						
<b>Post Code:</b>		LU6 1QD						
<b>E-mail</b>		<a href="mailto:bob.outtram@BTInternet.com">bob.outtram@BTInternet.com</a>						
<b>Club:</b>		<b>Course entries must be received by 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2003</b>						
<b>Telephone:</b>		Please tick	Race Results		Referee		Both	

Cost £80.00 - Please make cheques payable to the Amateur Swimming Association.