



SAFETY MARSHAL CLINIC

September 1, 2023

COURSE OBJECTIVES



- Understand the duties of the Safety Marshal.
- Clarify the authority of the Safety Marshal.
- Review the Swimming Canada Warm-Up Safety Procedures.
- Explain key terms.
- Describe next steps.

WARM-UPS



Before the start of any swim meet, there is a warm-up period for swimmers to prepare to race.

- It can be a very busy period with many swimmers in the water at the same time.
- The Safety Marshal is a trained position designated by Meet Management to ensure swimmer safety during this period.
- Warm-ups can be as short as a 15 minute period for a club time trial and as long as 2 hours for a national meet.



SAFETY MARSHAL DUTIES

DUTIES



- The Safety Marshal typically wears a bright coloured safety vest or similar clothing. This vest will be provided by Meet Management prior to the beginning of your assignment.
- Be on deck to meet with the Referee 10-15 minutes prior to the start of warm-ups.
- The Referee will inform you which lanes will be assigned as sprint lanes and which lanes will be assigned as pace lanes and when they will be opened. Normally 30 minutes prior to the end of warm-ups.
- Para swimmers may have a dedicated warm-up lane.
- If there are backstroke events, you will be instructed as to when the backstroke ledges may be used during warm-ups.

DUTIES



- It is recommended that a minimum of 2 Safety Marshals be on deck at all times during warm-ups. Additional Safety Marshals are recommended for long course or double-ended meets.
- Safety Marshals must be in position before the beginning of warm-ups.
- Ensure lifeguards are in place before the first swimmer enters the pool.
- Pay particular attention at the beginning of warm-up when a large number of swimmers are entering the pool at one time. If necessary, make additional announcements or speak to the swimmers directly and politely, reminding them that a safe, feet-first entry into the water is required.

DUTIES



- It can get crowded in the pool during warm-up. "Circle-swimming" is used to avoid conflicts - i.e. swimmers swim down one side of the lane, turn, and swim up the other side of the lane.
- If you observe an injury or potential injury, bring this to the attention of the lifeguard immediately. Lifeguards will administer first aid or assistance to swimmers if necessary.
- The Safety Marshal is required to advise Meet Management and/or the Referee of any injury during warm-ups.

DUTIES



- At the appropriate time ensure that the sprint and pace lanes are opened.
- Prior to opening a sprint lane, ensure that the lane is empty.
- Normally in an eight-lane pool:
 - lanes 1 & 8 are pace lanes and 2 & 7 are sprint lanes, OR
 - lanes 1 & 8 are sprint lanes and 2 & 7 are pace lanes.
- During warm-ups for a long course session that has 50m events with starts from the “turn end”, it is common practice to open one of the sprint lanes for starts from that end. Ensure that starts are only from one end of each sprint lane.

DUTIES



If there is no announcer, you may be asked to use the PA system to announce the following:

- The start of warm-up asking the swimmers to enter the pool feet first.
- At the appropriate time, that the sprint and pace lanes are open and which lanes are assigned as sprint and pace lanes.
- At the appropriate time announce that warm-up is over and ask the swimmers to “clear the pool”.

DUTIES



- The Safety Marshal on duty at the end of warm-ups is requested to assist in clearing the pool at the conclusion of warm-up in anticipation of the start of the session.
- At the end of the warm-up, the Safety Marshal is available for another officiating assignment for the balance of the session.

RULES DESCRIBING THE DUTIES OF THE SAFETY MARSHAL



II.C.2.20 The Safety Marshal shall be responsible to the Referee for all aspects of safety related to conduct during the warm-up period by ensuring that all appropriate warm-up procedures are followed (see Swimming Canada Competition Warm-Up Safety Procedures - <https://www.swimming.ca/en/resources/officiating/rules-and-forms/competition-warm-up-safety-procedures>)

AUTHORITY



On the direction of the Referee, the Safety Marshal has the following authority:

1. Minor infractions:
 - Inform the swimmer of a breach of the safety procedures.
 - Seek the attention of that swimmer and speak directly to them and remind them of the importance of safe warm-ups.
2. More serious or repeated infractions:
 - Remove the swimmer from warm-up.
 - Escort that swimmer to the coach and review the warm-up procedures and the importance of safe warm-ups with the swimmer and coach.

AUTHORITY



3. For all infractions:
 - Inform the Referee of the name of the swimmer and team.
 - Advise the Referee of the safety violations, or the refusal of the swimmer or coach to follow your request.

Note that as Safety Marshal, you do not have the authority to exclude the swimmer from the meet or order the swimmer off the pool deck. Only the Referee has that authority.

All infractions must be reported to the Referee no matter the severity of the infraction.



SWIMMING CANADA

WARM-UP

PROCEDURES

COMPETITION WARM-UP SAFETY PROCEDURES



Meet Management for all sanctioned Canadian swimming competition must ensure the following safety procedures are applied. It is incumbent on coaches, swimmers, and officials to comply with these procedures during all scheduled warm-up periods. Coaches are requested to encourage swimmers to cooperate with Safety Marshals.

- The following statement must appear in all Swimming Canada sanctioned meet information and posted notices:

“SWIMMING CANADA COMPETITION WARM-UP SAFETY PROCEDURES WILL BE IN EFFECT AT THIS MEET.”

COMPETITION WARM-UP SAFETY PROCEDURES (cont'd)



GENERAL WARM-UP:

- Swimmers must enter the pool **FEET FIRST** in a cautious manner, entering from a start or turn end only and from a standing or sitting position.
- Running on the pool deck and running entries into the pool are prohibited.
- Meet Management may designate the use of sprint or pace lanes during the scheduled warm-up time.

COMPETITION WARM-UP SAFETY PROCEDURES (cont'd)



GENERAL WARM-UP (cont'd):

- Meet Management has the discretion to split warm-up, as they see fit, to ensure a safe warmup environment.
- Diving starts shall be permitted only in designated sprint lanes. Only one-way swimming from the start end of sprint lanes is permitted.
- Pools with backstroke ledges available may offer a designated lane for backstroke starts, at meet management's discretion.
- Notices or barriers must be placed on starting blocks to indicate no diving during warm-up.

COMPETITION WARM-UP SAFETY PROCEDURES (cont'd)



EQUIPMENT:

- Kick Boards, Pull-Buoys, Ankle Bands, and Snorkels are permitted for use in main warm-up pool during warm-up.
- Recommended for national events or senior competitions only at Meet Management discretion when secondary warm-up pools are available:
 - Hand Paddles and Flippers may be permitted.
 - The use of tubing or cord assisted sprinting in designated lanes and during specific times of the warm-up only may be permitted.

COMPETITION WARM-UP SAFETY PROCEDURES (cont'd)



VIOLATIONS:

It is recognized that there is a level of interpretation and common sense that must be applied when applying these guidelines.

- Swimmers witnessed by a Safety Marshal diving or entering the water in a dangerous fashion may be removed from their first individual event.
- They may also receive a verbal warning from the Safety Marshal.
- Swimmers receiving verbal warnings will have their names and clubs noted with the Meet Manager and should subsequent violations occur the swimmer may be removed from their first individual event.
- In the case of a second offense during the same competition the swimmer may be removed from the remainder of the competition by the Competition Coordinator/Meet Referee.

COMPETITION WARM-UP SAFETY PROCEDURES (cont'd)



PARA SWIMMER NOTIFICATION:

Coaches are requested to notify Safety Marshals of any Para swimmers participating in warm-ups.

Para swimmers may have a dedicated warm-up lane.

DUTY OF THE SAFETY MARSHAL



The Safety Marshal is a trained position designated by Meet Management.

Safety Marshals shall:

- Be visible by safety vest.
- Be situated at each end of the competition pool or in designated warm-up pools when pre-competition warm-ups are scheduled.
- Actively monitor all scheduled warm-up periods.
- Ensure participants comply with warm-up safety procedures and report violations to the Referee.

Judgement, tact and confidence is required and therefore the Safety Marshal should ideally be a more experienced official.

CONGRATULATIONS



You have now completed the Safety Marshal Clinic.

- Your next task is to obtain deck experience.
- Ensure you are aware of the Safety Marshal's role heading into every meet, as you may be called on to perform this job.



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