



// OFFICIALS



Race Considerations for Open Water Referees During COVID Times

Return to competition will be governed by all federal, state, and local guidelines and restrictions.

AUTHORITY

- Meet Referee has final authority over conduct of the meet if sanctioned. No officials needed if unsanctioned. Officials may participate to help with the educational value when requested.
- Work cooperatively with the site management and assist with maintaining capacity restrictions

EVENT

- Everyone must wear a mask at ALL times except when in the water and maintain social distancing of 6 feet to the extent feasible.

PRE-RACE

- Day before meet, know officials who are coming to check OTS for certifications, or ask officials to send Deck Pass screenshot.
- No officials meeting
 - Communicate positions and responsibilities electronically; report to position 10 minutes before session starts. Instruct officials to bring a mask, water bottle, writing utensil, and a headset for a radio if necessary.
- Conduct coaches and swimmer's technical meeting electronically before arrival or send pertinent information the day before.
- Conduct briefing for athletes just prior to start of race in an area they may maintain the 6-foot social distancing. Instruct athletes to keep their mask on until they are called into the water.

NUMBERING & FINGERNAIL and SUIT-CHECK

- All athletes, officials, etc. must wear a mask at ALL times.
- Each station shall be at least 6-feet apart.
- Each station should have hand sanitizer for all to use. Hand sanitizer must be used between helping each athlete.
- Explain what the process is and why it is done.
- Ask permission from the athlete before starting to number/tattoo their arms, back, and hands.

- For minor athletes, explain the process to the supervising adult and request permission prior to adding the number/tattoo.
- For minor athletes, have a coach or guardian present to observe.
- Officials work with gender-like athletes.
- Work in pairs (2 officials, 1 watching while other numbers).

START OF RACE

- Instruct athletes to keep their mask on until they are called into the water.
- If in-water start, swimmers should walk into water after they are announced single file.
- Platform start, athletes should line up 6-feet apart. Best to have area marked where to stand.
- Ideas for what to do with athlete's masks before, during, and after a race.
 1. Host team provide disposable masks given to each athlete at check in. Athletes must wear their masks at all times until they enter the water. Mask should then be disposed of in a nearby trash can. When finished with the race, athlete gets a new disposable mask when they exit the water to wear back to their bags.
 2. Ziploc bags that are numbered with athlete's race number. They put the mask in the baggie, collecting them when they exit the water.
 3. Have individual baskets for each athlete to put their mask in.

TIMING & FINISH JUDGE

- Use minimum people allowed to maintain the 6-foot social distancing.
- Only one person uses the same watch and same writing utensil to take order of finish.
- Use hand sanitizer when turning in OOF papers.

WORKING WITH THE RACE DIRECTOR

- Flow of swimmers to and from ready area; bullpen personnel with race order sheets.
- Announcer? Will there be one?
- Will there be spectators?
- Live stream if no spectators allowed?
- Will swimmers use locker rooms/public restrooms? What is the procedure for sanitizing after use? Procedures must be made available prior to raceday.

STAY SAFE, USE CAUTION, WEAR A MASK, MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING, AND SANITIZE, SANITIZE, SANITIZE!