

The PVS Officials Committee strongly recommends that Stroke Judges walk the side of the pool to observe the swimmers while judging Backstroke events at long course meets. We believe this is critical to providing fair and equitable judging for our athletes.

There are several ways this recommendation can be implemented. When there is only one Stroke Judge on each side of the pool, this judge should walk and observe the swimmers in his/her jurisdiction for the entire length of the course. When there are two Stroke Judges on each side of the pool, the judges can observe using lead/lag procedures, or they may walk with the swimmers from the 15-meter mark to the end of the course and back.

The Referee should determine the appropriate procedure for implementing this recommendation. As always, the Referee has final say in matters of protocol and jurisdiction; he/she should base these decisions on the configuration of the pool, the available personnel, etc.