

Radios at PVS Meets

The use of radios is becoming increasingly common on PVS pool decks. Radios are commonly used to conduct meet business including disqualifications, safety incidents, injuries, equipment failures, and other information critical to the operation of the meet. It is important that the radios be used appropriately to ensure accurate, efficient, and effective communication among officials.

General Guidelines

- Radios are to be used strictly for the efficient administration of the meet.
- Always assume that an athlete, coach, or parent with another radio is listening to your conversation, and conduct your communication in a professional and responsible manner.
- Radios should never be used to transmit any information that could be misconstrued as being unprofessional in nature.
- Radios should never be used to call attention to a swimmer (i.e. one official should not use the radio to ask other officials to observe a swimmer's stroke, turn, or finish).
- Radios should never be used to tell jokes or off-color stories of any kind.
- Abusive language or swearing of any kind, in any language, should never be used.
- Radios should never be used to talk about any coach, swimmer, parent, or volunteer.
- Communication of situations dealing with meet operations should be limited to those situations in which a "public announcement" would not cause embarrassment or harm.
- Radios are typically used by the Deck Referee, Chief Judges, and Meet Referee. If an Admin Referee is used, he/she should use a radio. It can be helpful for the HyTek Operator to have a radio. Starters should not use a radio.
- It is important to test the radios before the start of the session, to ensure that:
 - the radios are powered-up
 - the volume level is appropriate
 - the radios are on the appropriate channel
 - the radios are not switched to VOX (voice-activated)
- Key the microphone briefly before speaking, hold the microphone key down during speaking, and stop speaking before releasing the microphone key.
- Before using the radio during the meet, be aware of the starting area. All officials should avoid speaking while a start is taking place—this can be very distracting to the Deck Referee.

Handling the Disqualifications

It is the responsibility of the Meet Referee or the Deck Referee to establish the specific procedure to be used for the communication of potential disqualifications at the meet. The procedure should cover how communications should flow and who has the responsibility for writing the disqualification. The recommended procedure may need to be adjusted depending on conditions of the session.

The only official authorized to approve or reject a disqualification is the Deck Referee. The Deck Referee must obtain sufficient information to make this decision. When Chief Judges are assigned, it is important that they are either certified Referees, certified Chief Judges, or Stroke & Turn Judges with sufficient knowledge and experience that they can “ask the right questions” and make informed recommendations for approval or rejection.

The Recommended Procedure

Upon seeing a Judge raise his/her hand for an infraction, the Chief Judge immediately alerts the Deck Referee of a possible disqualification, identifying the area of the pool where the potential infraction occurred (e.g. “possible disqualification, stroke judge lane 1 side” or “possible disqualification, lanes 5/6, turn end”). Upon reaching the official making the call, the Chief Judge begins by verifying the lane where the potential infraction occurred, and then immediately relaying that information to the referee and other CJs via the radio (e.g. “the possible disqualification is in lane 2”). The Chief Judge will then engage the official in a discussion of the disqualification, without interfering with the judge’s ability to observe swimmers within the jurisdiction. After the Chief Judge gathers information from the official, the infraction is reported to the Deck Referee using rulebook terminology. The Chief Judge also makes a recommendation to the Deck Referee that the DQ be accepted if all information is correct, or that the DQ be rejected if something was wrong with the information or the jurisdiction:

“Possible disqualification in event # ____, heat # ____, lane # ____, for (description of the violation). I recommend that the disqualification be accepted.”

OR

“Possible disqualification in event # ____, heat # ____, lane # ____, for (description of the violation). I have concerns with this disqualification and recommend that it be rejected.”

The Referee responds with “The disqualification in event # ____, heat # ____, lane # ____ is confirmed / not accepted / I require additional information”, depending on the situation.

Extended conversations concerning the details of a disqualification should not take place over the radio. If additional information is needed beyond that which can be concisely communicated, the Deck Referee should confer “off-line” with the Stroke & Turn Judge or the Chief Judge.