

THE WORLD'S LARGEST SWIMMING POOL

ROME, ITALY - The world's largest swimming pool began as a densely populated area located on the floor of a low valley between the Caelian, Esquiline, and Palatine Hills in Rome. Through this valley ran a canalized (or human built) stream that took its water from the Aqua Claudia aqueduct.

After the Great Fire of Rome in AD 64, Roman Emperor Nero (*Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus*, 15 December 37 – 9 June 68 AD) seized much of the area and began construction of the Domus Aurea (Latin, for "*Golden House*"), in the front of which he had constructed an artificial lake. Lined in marble and surrounded by pavilions, gardens, porticos, and mansions, it remains the largest body of water separated from the earth by means constructed by man (in contrast to the forced flooding of a depression in the natural landscape). It is estimated that Nero's "pool" occupied just over 6 acres utilizing more than 25 million gallons of water. A modern Olympic pool has less than 1 million gallons.



Artist's rendition of Nero's pool as it existed in relation to the Colosseum. (courtesy www.realmofhistory.com)

The stream that fed this man-made lake can still be seen underground during a visit to the Basilica of St. Clemente in Via di San Giovanni.

Descending thirty feet below ground level, one may walk on the cobblestones of old Roman alleyways, peering through the remains of

ancient Roman shops and houses, all while listening to the sound of running water.

Little is known about the use of the lake due to a lack of an accurate historical record by those who were contemporaries of Nero. What does survive in the historical accord tells that Nero used the lake for bathing, boating, and, that on occasion, he would invite celebrated athletes to train in the water. Since swimming as we know it was not a part of the original Greek Olympic Games, what was practiced by these athletes is a matter of speculation.



The Roman Colosseum today. (courtesy *s. strazza*)

Nothing survives of this immense structure because of a decision made by Emperor Vespasian (*Titus Flavius Vespasianus*) in AD 72.

As a populist gesture of returning to the people an area of the city appropriated by Nero, Vespasian had the marble removed, the surroundings structures demolished and the land filled in. Upon this site he began the construction of the Colosseum.

In contrast to the common practice of the day, which was to build amphitheatres on the outskirts of the city, Vespasian chose the city center as the symbolic and physical center of Rome and thus, an appropriate location for the Colosseum.

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OFFICIAL'S INSTRUCTION

Jack's Corner



Why Do We Do That?

By Jack Neill

Swimming officials have a lot of practices and procedures that we perform on deck. Some are spelled-out in the rulebook, some we learn by observing other officials. Nearly all the time there are very good reasons for doing the things we do.

Take, for instance, the Declared False Start or DFS. Years ago, a swimmer who was seeded in an event and did not appear on the block to compete in the event could be disqualified for the remainder of the session or even the entire meet. In an effort to avoid the penalty, swimmers who didn't want to swim the event would often step up for their heat and intentionally false start.

This wasted a lot of time in the days when false starts were recalled and was quite disruptive to the rest of the field. So, section 101.1.3E was added to the rulebook enabling a swimmer to declare a false start prior to the start of his or her heat. Such declaration goes into the books as a disqualification and, it counts against the maximum number of events allowed at the session or meet, but it spares the swimmer from the penalties of missing his or her heat.

The Declared False Start rule minimizes meet disruption and allows the session to smoothly

continue. Note that a DFS typically may not be used in the Finals session of a Prelims/Finals meet; specific scratch procedures for such a situation should be indicated in the meet announcement.

Another "why do we do that" process occurs after an event has been completed. If you are on a radio or standing close by, you might hear the Deck Referee tell the Administrative Official, "Event 12 is closed with 6 No Shows, 2 Disqualifications, and 2 Declared False Starts," or something similar. This tells the AO that the event is complete, all DQs have been submitted to the table, and the results can be compiled. The AO will verify the numbers with the HyTek results. If there is a discrepancy, the AO and the Deck Referee will huddle together to determine the correct numbers before the event is posted

Lastly, we're used to hearing the series of short whistles followed by the long whistle to tell swimmers to step up onto the blocks. But what about that additional long whistle for backstroke? This one comes directly from the rulebook: "At the Referee's first long whistle, the swimmers shall immediately enter the water, and at the second long whistle shall return without undue delay to the starting position." In effect, that second long whistle tells the swimmers to return to the wall, set their feet, and assume a starting position.

Many referees blow this whistle too late, waiting until the swimmers have already assumed a starting position. USA Swimming advises that the Referee blow the second long whistle as soon as the last swimmer's head surfaces after entering the water. 🕒

| EVENT LIST - Friday- 11-14 BOYS Session - Yards - (Session 2A) | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-----|--------|-------------------------------------|-------|---|----|----|-----|-------------------|
| | Evt # | Rnd | Status | Event Name | Heats | ? | NS | DQ | DFS | Actual Start Time |
| | 6 | F | Scored | Boys 11-12 200 Yard Medley Relay | 4 | - | 1 | - | - | |
| | 8 | F | Scored | Boys 13-14 200 Yard Medley Relay | 3 | - | - | - | - | |
| | 10 | P | Done | Boys 12 & Under 200 Yard Backstroke | 7 | - | 3 | - | - | |
| ▶ | 12 | P | Done | Boys 13-14 100 Yard Breaststroke | 11 | - | 6 | 2 | 2 | |
| | 16 | P | Done | Boys 11-12 50 Yard Breaststroke | 11 | - | 2 | - | - | |

Example of a Hy-Tek display showing No-shows, DQs and Declared False Starts.

The Sound Development of Young Athletes

A Negative Lesson from the Japanese National Soccer Team

By **Izumi Horikawa**

This past June in Russia, my home country's national soccer team advanced to the second round in the World Cup 2018 despite losing their final game in the first round. Specifically, towards the end of that game, Japan just kept passing the ball around, without trying to draw or win the game. They successfully led themselves to the next stage (an advance based on the sixth category of tiebreakers, namely fewer yellow/red cards) by appearing to have purposely lost by leaving the score at 0-1. Though there was much debate on the move, what they did was within the rules and regulations.

If I were in my late teens or early 20's and, I had a wish to advance on a world stage, I would've agree with their strategic decision. In those days, I was even supportive of a high school baseball team who gave five consecutive intentional walks to a once super-talented high schooler, Hideki Matsui, who later played for the Yankees.

Being older, having raised two children and, having been a long-time volunteer for young athletes, my concerns with such situations are much more than the recognition of the strategic cleverness I used to advocate. Is that the educational message I really wish to convey?

As parents in the swimming and other athletic communities, we should always instruct our student athletes to prioritize efforts that achieve their best performances. I believe that an important mission of our volunteering activities is to support the sound development of athletes in not only the physical aspects, but also in the mental, ethical, and social qualities.

Japan's National team, as an example of what not to be, has reminded me of the role that sports can play in the education and development of youth, as well as our own responsibility as adults, parents, and meet volunteers/officials in order to foster a culture and environment that values fairness, integrity,

and respect. Sometimes the most strategic response is not the most honorable.

Let me conclude by sharing with you my favorite words from an umpire-in-chief who volunteered for over 20 years at the Japanese national high school baseball championships: *"When you umpire a high school baseball game, you must be prepared to become a teacher for all players and, possibly, for all students cheering and watching the game as well."* 🙏

Know Your Rule Book

Underwater Recovery in Butterfly – Prior to the Touch

By **Jay Thomas**

(Chair, Rules and Regulations Committee. USA-S)

Questions sometimes arise regarding what constitutes an underwater recovery in butterfly prior to the touch at the turn and finish. The last sentence of USA Swimming Rule 101.3.2, "Stroke," governs. *"Both arms must be brought forward simultaneously over the water and pulled back simultaneously under the water throughout the race."* The Official Glossary is also relevant to the discussion regarding the definition of the *arm* – *"That part of the body that extends from the shoulder to the wrist."*

With the above language, the official can determine the legality of the following observations:

1. Just prior to the touch, a swimmer with outstretched arms moves the hands down and back up, and then touches the wall. The rule requires that if the arms are pulled back, they must be recovered over the water. In this case only the hands moved and not the arm – so this would not be a violation.

2. Just prior to the touch, a swimmer separates their arms, moves them back together, and then touches the wall. This swimmer's arm movements did not constitute a pull and therefore this would not be a violation.

3. Just prior to the touch, the swimmer's arms move backwards as if they were beginning a stroke, and are then pushed forward under the water. This is then followed by the touch.

(Please see [RULE](#), next page)

Rule

(Continued from previous)

Since the swimmer pulled the arms back, by rule, they must then be recovered over the water. This swimmer pushed the arms forward under the water after pulling; and that is a violation. The judge should recommend to the Referee that the swimmer be disqualified for performing an underwater recovery.

The key to making the determination is that what was observed was an underwater recovery. This with the understanding that the arm being pulled back is what drives the requirement to recover over the water. Judges should consciously think: are the arms pulled back requiring arm recovery over the water?

As always, if there are any doubts as to what was observed, give the benefit of the doubt to the swimmer. 🙏

Looks Don't Last

By **Barb Ship**

Last year we created a line of PVS apparel meant to enhance your appearance on and off the deck. I think this service is worthwhile since no other mechanism, other than garnering a white shirt at an event, is available for acquiring "official" PVS logo clothing. I fault myself for not advertising it better. So, here we go...

If you have any questions about any of the items, just contact the vendor, Vicki Townsend, at Vicki@CCVpromotions.com or Text 317.691.740. (Feel free to contact me as well! I have purchased quite a few items!) What a great way to start off a new PVS swimming season with new customized apparel! 🙏

(Editor's Note: Ms. Ship has informed the news magazine that due to slow sales, it is no longer cost effective to maintain the site and it will cease operations December 31st, 2018.)

Diversity in the Water and On Deck

By **Kristian Greene**

Hosted by DCWAVE and held at the Takoma Park Aquatic Center, the annual Black History Month Swim meet has been growing in popularity with the athletes and this year's attendance by spectators was the highest in its thirty-two year history.

Supporting diversity in all aspects of swimming, none was more apparent than the diversity achieved by PVS Officials in support of this historic meet. 🙏



PVS Officials at the Black History Month Meet. (courtesy of k. greene)

Deck Pass – What's In It for Officials?

By **Tim Husson**

About seven years ago, USA Swimming released a smartphone app called Deck Pass. The purpose of the app was to allow swimmers, parents, and coaches the ability to track their swimming accomplishments. A later version allowed officials to link Deck Pass to their USA Swimming account and display their registration status in the app. In the past, to view their certification and officiating history, officials had to log into the USA Swimming website and use the Officials Tracking System (OTS). All officials must possess a USA Swimming account to access the online tests.

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Pool

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Although Vespasian did not live to see the Colosseum finished (it was completed by his successor, Titus, in AD 80,) it was not the last time water would be brought to this site.

As we see the Colosseum now, the structure that comprises the “floor” is actually the hypogeum, or “underground”. This collection of rooms and tunnels was built at the direction of Vespasian’s younger son Domitian, who would succeed Titus.

Although little remains of the original floor, which would have been the roof of the hypogeum, what is known is that it was made from wood and was covered with sand; the Latin



The Colosseum interior and hypogeum as seen from the reviewing stands (modern day). (courtesy of s. strazza)

word for sand being *arena*. So, how then does this explain how water was again used at this site?

Occurring before the gladiatorial games as we understand them, the Romans would flood the Colosseum and stage mock naval battles as entertainment making the Colosseum the second largest “pool” venue ever constructed.

Prior to the hypogeum’s construction, the Aqua Claudia aqueduct had been enlarged to support flooding the base of the Colosseum, which, according to historical record and evidence from archeological digs at the site, could be done quite rapidly. ☹

Pass

(Continued from Page ONE)

Two years ago, the new USA Swimming website introduced a Deck Pass application. Now, when an official logs into their online account, they have the option to view his or her Deck Pass. This deck pass shows the current registration status including expiration dates for your registration, Athlete Protection Training (APT), and Background Screen (BGC). In addition, it displays all the information for that official retrieved from OTS.

Deck Pass lists all your officials’ certifications (both PVS and National) and their expiration dates. It lists your meets with the positions and sessions worked along with all of your activities such as clinic attendance. Also to be found are any and all online tests you have completed and your test scores. And, it works well on mobile devices.

Why is Deck Pass important to officials? To certify or re-certify, we need to have clinic attendance documented and a minimum number of officiating sessions worked per year. With our annual need to register with USA Swimming, take APT every two years, renew our BGC every two years, and position re-certify every two years, an application that can keep us apprised of our status with what is expiring and what is current, is invaluable.

With the importance of these requirements, it is vital that the information in Deck Pass be accurate. To ensure your meets and activities are accurately recorded, make sure you legibly sign in at meets worked and clinics attended. This will make it easier for meet referees, club officials’ chairs, and clinic instructors to properly record your attendance. Since mistakes do sometimes happen, periodically check your Deck Pass to make sure all of your meets and activities have been recorded. Contact the appropriate meet referee or clinic instructor if you notice any errors or omissions. ☹

FINALE

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