

Technical Officials Newsletter Number 1

Updated 13 December 2004



To assist with the distribution of information the SNZ Technical Panel has decided to publish an official's newsletter outlining any information relevant to officials after each of the panel meetings.

A further newsletter concerning points from the Panel's 13/14 November 2004 meeting will be issued shortly.

The main points from the SNZ Technical Panel minutes for the meeting held 3 & 4 July 2004 are as follows:

- **Over the top starts in Backstroke:** There was a decision by Swim Sport earlier this year that when using over the top starts all swimmers shall remain in the water in backstroke. The panel's suggested protocol for the management of this process is as follows:

- Move the swimmers 1m from the wall
- Referees/starters to manage the process
- Use the starters microphone to move the swimmers, if necessary

Rationale: If we can standardise the procedure throughout the country at National Meets it will make it easier for officials and swimmers.

- **Backstroke Whistle:** These whistles should be the same length – long whistles per SW 2.1.5 and SW 4.2 – not one short and one long. One whistle is to have the swimmers enter the water and one to have them return to the wall without undue delay.

Rationale: This is a confirmation of the requirement per FINA rules.

- **Medal Presentations:** Presentations for medals to be in the following order - third – second – first.

Rationale: This brings the presentations in line with the procedure used at Olympic Games and World Championships for all sports.

- **Protest Process:** The protest form to be handed to the referee with the \$50.00. The referee is to consider the protest and make a decision and advise the Team Manager of the decision and state the reason. If the referee does not accept the protest and returns it to the team manager the region has the ability to request the Jury of Appeal to consider the protest.

Rationale: The practice in New Zealand has been for the protest form to go straight to the Jury of Appeal; this is not in line with the FINA rules. The above process brings us into line with the rules.

- **Referees Grading:** For referees who wish to be re-graded from C to B this will be actioned automatically by the Technical Panel at their meetings. For referees who wish to be re-graded from B to A an application (form available on the SNZ web site or from the SNZ office) is required.

Rationale: Those referees who wish to be re-graded from B to A need to provide evidence of their work record to allow the panel to make an informed decision.

- **Examinations:** There will be no further National timekeepers or recorders certifications. The Technical Panel recommendation is that Regions assess their position with regards to these certifications and the panel members are happy to discuss with regions.

Rationale: To simplify the certification process. The Panel will continue to monitor the certification process on an ongoing basis. At National meets due to the shortage of applications for timekeeper's position Regional timekeepers have been appointed and therefore the National qualification was seen as being surplus to requirements.

- **Finish Whistle:** At the conclusion of a final race the referee is to clear the pool.

Rationale: The referee is in control of the race. This is in line with what is done at FINA meets.

- **New Zealand Records:** If a New Zealand record is broken in the same session on the same day all records are recognised and a record certificate is issued to each swimmer.

Rationale: Per SNZ regulations.

- **Starters Command:** Starters need to be conscious of the tone of the start command "take your marks". It should be in an even tone without emphasis on any word of the command.

Rationale: The voice of a good starter will lead the swimmers into their starting positions, not break their concentration with unexpected orders or remarks. At the same time, the starter must ensure that all competitors are given a fair start. This is the standard required by FINA.