

**EMSOA ASSOCIATION 2020-2021**

As we enter the upcoming season, please take a minute and review the **"Recommended Positioning of Officials"** article posted on the EMSOA “For Officials” page.

⮚Do not give verbal signals on start as whistles are being used. 4 short whistles for attention (if any swimmer climbs onto block, get them down). 1 long whistle to get on block for forward start or in water for backstroke start. Then if backstroke 1 more short whistle for swimmers to place feet (do not say “place your feet – this was replaced by the whistle). Starter remember to always say “Take your mark” before firing signal device.

⮚Confer with your partner on hand signals or how you're going to divide the pool as I.M. and stroke races unfold.

⮚On all relays including the medley, both officials should be parallel to the end of the pool to judge "take offs". ***You should not be positioned out by the backstroke flag pole!*** If you observe an early takeoff, DO NOT RAISE YOUR HAND until the final swimmer of the entire heat has left the blocks. Any infractions MUST be written down. At the end of the heat, before moving on to next heat, confirm early takeoffs with your partner. If both agree and have it in writing, then the relay team is disqualified. ⮚Finishes........if it appears that places are apparent (i.e. I.M. & 500 especially) DO NOT abandon the far end of the pool to confirm an obvious finish and then have a swimmer do an illegal turn or miss a wall.

⮚500 Free ***DO Not slow the meet down by walking down to give instructions to the counters***. Coaches should be doing this. Once the race has started and you have arrived at the other end, chase away extra swimmers, let a counter know if they are turning the cards too early. ***Remember you will have plenty of time to get things organized over the course of the race.***

⮚Keep meet moving.

⮚Pay attention to the swimming in the pool. We have numerous comments of officials not watching the swimming races but playing with scoresheet and clipboard.

⮚All officials should be loud and assertive on commands. Make sure swimmers and coaches can hear your whistle commands.

Page 1 of 1 http://www.emsoaswim.com/