

THE LONG WHISTLE

Illinois Swimming Officials Association
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Arbiter Pay

MSL Today – are other conferences far behind?

**ARBITER,
WITH PRINCIPLE OWNERSHIP BY
NCAA, REPORTS THAT ALMOST
ALL OHIO AND MOST OF
MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL
OFFICIALS ARE PAID BY ARBITER**

The Mid Suburban League recently announced that all three districts in the league will be using Arbiter Pay to pay ALL SPORTS OFFICIALS, effective January 1. If you officiate in MSL you need to establish your "Arbiter / Ref Pay" account now. "The Long Whistle" recently interviewed representatives from District 211's Administration Building who confirmed that 211, 214 and 220 will all be using Arbiter Pay in 2018. Several ISOA members have questioned operational aspects of the new system. Although no payments have yet been processed through the system, operational expectations include:

- Pay from ALL MSL schools will be reported on a SINGLE 1099 issued by Arbiter Pay. *The league's position is that this should have no effect on any official, as all income is required to be reported to the IRS even amounts below the 1099 - \$600 threshold.*
- Using Arbiter Pay will get officials paid sooner. As soon as the AD releases payment to the sports official the money will be available in the official's account.
- Using the Arbiter's debit card option (\$0.50 per purchase transaction) is the fastest way to have access to your pay. All other options will take three processing days.
- A manual paper check will cost the official an \$8.50 processing fee.
- Funds can automatically be transferred by ACH for a \$1.50 fee per transfer of manually transferred for free.

Go to www.refpay.com to set up your account if you work MSL

Repeat After Me: What do you tell a coach when a breastroker executes a turn but does not touch the wall simultaneously with both hands?

When we all use the same words to describe an infraction to a coach and that language is taken right out of the rulebook there can be no arguments and communication between officials and coaches is more effective. Consider ALWAYS using this particular statement:

"Your swimmer in LANE THREE did not touch the wall simultaneously on his THIRD turn."

"One hand touch" is NOT enough – be sure to include the lane and turn number! (Rule6-2-2(a))

NEED NEW SHOES FOR THE POOL DECK?

ISOA is working with "Shoes for Crews" on a member discount benefit. Watch for more information.

Romsted-Drumm Award

On December 4, 2017 at its semiannual dinner, the Illinois Swimming Association (ISA) presented the Romsted-Drumm Award to 17-year veteran Swimming & Diving official, Tom Strunk. The Romsted-Drumm Award is ISOA's highest honor; recognizing two discrete qualities: excellence in the officiating profession and demonstration of a significant contribution and commitment to the sport. The recipient was chosen from a wide field of nominations by the ISOA officers. Steve Fedota explained the background of the award and introduced Tom who then briefly shared his observations of what good officiating and sportsmanship is all about. Tom was joined by his wife Pam, when receiving this honor.

Member News

Committees at work...

At the November Membership Meeting several Committees were established.

NOMINATING:

Jim Katula, Skip Yates and Steve Fedota make up the Nominating Committee. They are soliciting candidates for the Vice President and Secretary Board positions. Please contact any of them with your recommendations for these positions. Candidates must be Association members and willing to serve

AWARDS:

Patti Flesher, Mike Foscco and Mike Hutton are serving as the Awards Committee. Please contact them with recommendations for Official of the Year, Rookie of the Year and Most Improved Official of the Year. Recommendations should be received by February 1. Criteria for selection can be found on Association the website. <http://www.swimofficials.org/>

WORKING GROUP:

Nancy Meyer is heading up a working group – to report at the February Association Meeting (in conjunction with the Boy's State Meet) on social event(s) for the Association. Although the Association represents officials statewide it was though that social events (particularly during the summer) can help to establish bonds beyond the pool deck.

Continuing Education

1. Central Suburban High School's starting blocks include the track style wedge. As swimmer #3 in the 200 yard freestyle relay prepares for his take off the referee observes that the left foot is in front of the wedge and the right foot is behind the wedge. In observing the take off during a dual meet, the referee observes that the swimmer starts in motion, stepping forward over the wedge leaving the block from his left foot after swimmer #2 has completed his distance and touched the wall. What rule(s) apply and what should the referee do?
2. As the referee blows a series of short whistle bursts before the start of the JV-50 yard freestyle the swimmers in Lane 2, 4 and 5 all step onto the top of the starting block. What should the Referee do?

HOW DID YOU DO?

In the last newsletter we posed a rule question. How did you do in answering the question:

During the medley relay the breastroker in lane six has difficulty exiting the pool and:

1. Is assisted out of the water by the lane timer before the butterfly leg is competed.
2. An attempt is made to assist her out of the water before the completion of the butterfly but she remains in the water as the butterfly completes her leg of the course.
3. She exits the pool via the ladder adjacent to lane six
4. Attempting to exit the pool with assistance from a teammate not in this race, she pulls the teammate into the pool.

What infractions (if any) occurred in each situation? What are the applicable rules?

The rule interpretations from Mike Hutton (recovering from heart surgery) are on the next page.

Answers to 10-16-17 Continuing Education Scenarios from “The Long Whistle”

Q1: The breastroker in the Medley Relay is assisted out of the water by the Lane Timer before the butterfly leg is completed.

A1: There is no disqualification in this instance. The breastroker was out of the pool before the butterfly swimmer completed their leg of the race. There could be a question as to whether the breastroker exited the water “promptly,” as required by Rule 8-3-7, but in the absence of the Referee’s interpretation of “promptly” or knowing whether any specific requests to exit the water earlier were made by the Referee, this is best left alone.

Q2: An attempt is made to assist the breastroker from the water following her leg of the Medley Relay, but she remain in the water as the butterfly swimmer behind her finishes her leg of the race.

A2: The relay team is disqualified from the event. This is a violation of Rule 8-3-7 because the breastroker (2nd swimmer) was still in the water as the 3rd swimmer completed their leg of the race. In any scenario, failing to leave the water in that amount of time would not be viewed as “promptly,” as required by Rule 8-3-7. For a violation by any individual member of a relay team, the relay is disqualified from the event.

Q3: A breastroker in the Medley Relay, competing in lane six, exits the water using the ladder adjacent to lane six. There are lane markers on both sides of all lanes.

A3: The relay team is disqualified from the event. There are several rules which apply to this situation:

Rule 2-5-1: Lane markers shall define the lateral limits of each lane.

Rule 3-6-2(c): Swimmers shall remain in their assigned lane throughout the race.

Rule 1-3-5: The race ends when the last swimmer finishes the race.

Rule 4-1-5: The Referee may set aside application of a rule during a meet.

For a violation by any individual member of a relay team, the relay is disqualified from the event. The breastroker violated Rule 3-6-2(c), which is now a form of unacceptable conduct, by not remaining in their lane throughout the race. Rules 1-3-5 and 2-5-1 cited above simply define terms used in Rule 3-6-2(c). There is no indication of whether the Referee set aside application of this rule as an accommodation to this swimmer, but this authority is only given to the Referee in Rule 4-1-5 — not any other official. In the absence of such an accommodation, we must assume that none was given.

Note: *It is also possible for the school to obtain, from the State Association, a letter of accommodation for this swimmer if there are extenuating circumstances which would prevent him / her from exiting the pool using the end wall on a regular basis. This is prescribed in Rule 3-3-4, and the Referee would still need to specify when, where and how the accommodations allowed in the letter shall be implemented.*

Q4: The breastroker in the Medley Relay attempts to exit the pool with assistance from a teammate who is not in this race. Not only is the exit attempt unsuccessful, the breastroker pulled the teammate into the pool. Assume that this occurred before the end of the race.

A4: *Prepare yourself for an extended conversation with the coach of the breaststroker and her teammate!* Again, there are multiple rules which apply:

Rule 8-3-7: Swimmers shall exit the water promptly after finishing their quarter of the race.

Rule 1-3-5: Defines the end of the race.

Rule 1-4-2: Definition of team personnel.

Rule 1-5-1: Definition of differing disqualifications used for infractions.

Rule 3-6-4: No team personnel may enter the water without the Referee's approval.

Rule 3-6-4 Penalty: Specifies penalties applicable to this exact scenario.

All participants from a team are disqualified from that event when a non-participating team member enters the water during that event. In this case that would be the breaststroker (and therefore her entire relay team) **plus** any other relay teams from her school who were participating in this same race. In addition, the non-participating team member who entered the water without the Referee's approval is disqualified from further competition in this meet. *This simple infraction carries with it significant and possibly quite impactful implications.*

IHSA UPDATES:

IF YOU MISSED JOE PLACK'S WINTER CLINIC – THE NEXT SCHEDULED CLINIC IS DURING THE IHSA OFFICIAL'S CONFERENCE IN PEORIA ON JULY 21 @ 8:00 AM – EAST PEORIA HIGH SCHOOL. DON'T BE PLACED ON PROBATION BECAUSE YOU HAVE NOT COMPLIED WITH THE CLINIC REQUIREMENTS!

SECTIONAL ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE OUT IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS