



## SWIMMING OFFICIALS GROUP

### CALL ROOM

#### Introduction

The term 'Call Room' has been in use within swimming competitions for a number of years but has not had a universal meaning or understanding:

FINA Rule SW 3.2.5 states:

*For heats, semi finals and finals, swimmers must report to the First Call Room no later than 20 minutes prior to the start of their event. After inspection, swimmers shall proceed to the final call-room.*

There is no further FINA comment on the Call Room and it is recognised that FINA rules are written specifically for Olympic Games and FINA World Championships.

This document is based upon observation at Olympic Games and European events and informal consultation with FINA and LEN Technical Swimming Committee members. Its intention is to give advice and guidance as to the design and operation of the 'ideal' Call Room.

#### Purpose

The purpose of the Final Call Room is:

- ❖ To isolate the athletes from external influences and allow them time to prepare for their event.
- ❖ To ensure that their pool deck clothing and swimwear comply with all relevant rules and by laws in relation to design, construction and advertising pertaining to the competition.
- ❖ To ensure that the athletes are present and ready to enter the pool deck for their event.

#### Design

The Call Room should be a contained and controlled area accessed only by authorised personnel and athletes. It should be situated near to the athlete changing area, with an entrance ideally off the athlete area and an exit as close as possible directly onto the pool deck. It should be of sufficient size to accommodate the First Call Room; an area where swimmers are checked in, together with the Final Call Room; containing seats for the athletes in an identified number of races. These areas need not be separated by a solid divide.

## Equipment

In addition to the equipment listed below it is advisable to have signage advising athletes where they have to report and the requirements of reporting and remaining in the Call Room unless given permission to leave for a specific reason

### First Call Room

- Digital Clock (This clock must be synchronised with the 'Competition Clock' – see below)
- Table and chairs for personnel
- Adhesive tape (eg Duct or Gaffa/Duck Tape by commercial name)
- Indelible Marker Pens
- Official 'Start Sheets' clearly indicating the cut off time for each event/race
- Notices indicating the Competition advertising rules and 'real size' panels demonstrating the actual size and indicative layouts of acceptable advertising

### Final Call Room

- Sufficient seating for the required number of swimmers to be in the Final Call Room at any given time.
- TV screen showing the competition in progress – sound turned off

## Personnel

FINA rule SW 2.4 describes the duties of the Clerk of the Course as to assemble the swimmers prior to each event, to report to the referee any violation noted concerning advertising and any swimmer not present when called. This is a role more likely referred to in British events as a Competitors Steward – there should be sufficient Stewards to deal with the reporting of athlete numbers at any given time. In addition, Technical Officials are positioned in the Call Room to oversee Advertising and Costume rule adherence. A mix of genders within personnel in the Call Room is advisable.

## Method of Operation

**'Competition Clock'** The introduction of a correctly managed Call Room together with the time limit requirements within the rules governing protests require that a number of 'clocks' are synchronised. If there is a pool hall day time clock visible to athletes, coaches and spectators (or if additional clocks one must be identified) it may be reasonable to refer to the time this clock is indicating as the 'competition time'. The AOE daytime clock together with the Call Room clock should be synchronised with the 'competition clock' in order that all time critical requirements are synchronised.

The identification of the 'competition time' should be announced and widely circulated.

Start Sheets identifying the start time for events should be available for all interested parties, e.g. athletes, coaches, team managers. It is accepted that for events with a large number of races specific timings maybe difficult, e.g. for multiple heats of 1500m it is not practicable or necessary for all swimmers to attend 20 minutes before the start of the first heat. Information regarding the management of this process should be given at the Team

Leaders meeting or alternative arrangements made to ensure that the information is available.

Athletes are required to report to the Call Room no later than 20 minutes prior to the start of their event – or time indicated and circulated. They must enter the Call Room 'race ready' as under normal circumstances having entered the Call Room they should remain in its confines until lead onto the pool deck for their race.

Upon entry, the athlete must ensure that they report to a Steward and be registered as being present in the Call Room within the time prescribed. A report must be made to the Referee of all athletes who fail to attend the Call Room in the required timescale. It is the Referee who shall approve any sanction.

When the reporting time for an event has passed the Steward should indicate on the provided document the athletes who have not reported within the stipulated time.

Following registration in the First Call Room area athletes should be visually checked, and questioned with regards to compliance with swimsuit and advertising regulations. Such checks should ideally be carried out by persons of the same gender as the athlete being checked.

Athletes who breach costume requirements should be given the opportunity to return to the changing area and replace or remove the offending suit.

Breaches of advertising regulations may be remedied by concealing the illegal advertisements with tape or indelible marker pens.

Following completion of the First Call Room processes the athletes should proceed to and remain in the Final Call Room until directed to the start line for their race.

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British Swimming Officials Group and Event Management Team