

Announcer

Description:

This position calls the swimmers to the clerk of course for each event. They also announce the score, introduce key volunteers, and make general announcements (such as promoting snack sales, moving illegally parked cars, or reminding about where the team will convene after the meet). The Announcer has also served as the MC for the end-of-season ceremony.

The TSA rep will provide you with a script for what to say for the opening announcements. Announce the groups' reporting to Clerk of Course about three events in advance – the younger groups typically have more participants, which means as the older groups approach in the schedule, their events happen in quicker succession.

Example: "6 and Under boys and girls please report to the clerk of course for freestyle."

Tips:

- Make sure the microphone is set up as soon as you get there. Sometimes it's set up for you, other times you have to find it and set it up yourself. Same for the flag. This can take a little time if the items are not easy to find or the connections don't work, so leave some extra time during the first couple of meets as those things get ironed out.
- Do a test run to ensure the lifeguard in the shack knows how to turn down their microphone and turn up the Announcer mic. Call the pool phone to communicate with the guard.
- Make sure someone is lined up to sing the National Anthem. It's always a good idea to have a recording of it available in case of emergency.
- Pay attention to the Starter – avoid making announcements while the Starter is in the process of setting/starting a heat. Make announcements while a race is happening or during transitions between heats.
- Kids should not be allowed on the announcer deck without their parents –it may seem like it's OK to let one or two come up there at first, but others quickly follow when they realize it's cool to hang out up there. The situation can deteriorate quickly...
- You'll be facing the setting sun. I found my shins were prone to getting burned.
- At the end of the meet, encourage families to help the guards by cleaning their areas and replacing any furniture they've moved.

Length of time commitment: The whole meet: arrive no later than 5:30, and leave after the final score is announced and flag and microphone are put away, typically around 10:00.