

# Volunteer Positions

Volunteering at our swim meets is so important to the running of a meet. The volunteers keep the meets running smoothly and in a timely fashion and we can't run a meet without the dedicated people that step up every Tuesday and Thursday throughout the summer swim season! We have a lot of positions opening up over the next 2 years because our veterans children are graduating and we need to fill their spots now. So I'm going to ask you to find the spot that suits you. I encourage you to "follow" someone this year at each meet and find your favorite position! To put it into perspective, it takes 42 Graylyn Crest volunteers to run a home meet, that's not including the Gator Cafe or the volunteers the other team lines up from their side. This is a brief description of each position....

## **Referee/Meet director**

This person is generally a veteran of swim meets. Their job is basically to make sure the pool is set up, the meet continues on course, and ultimately settles any disputes that may come up during the meet. It is big job and we can't run a meet without a referee, just like any other sport.

## **Starter**

This person has control of the swimmer from the point where they call the swimmers to the blocks until they enter the water. They call the swimmers to the blocks, notify them of the distance and type of event, use the command "take your mark", and discharge a starting mechanism to begin the race. They will also determine false starts and call the swimmers back if necessary.

## **Head Timer**

They will assign and instruct timers. They have their own stop watch in case a timers watch malfunctions. And they write official times on the line up sheet for each lane, then signal to the starter when to begin. This person ultimately has control of how fast the meet with go.

## **Place Judge**

They are positioned at the side of the pool where the race will end so they can adequately see the end of the race. They record the place results on the place sheet and give it to the "runner". Lastly, they watch for false starts during relays and record them on the relay take off sheet.

## **Stoke an Turn Judges**

They need a clear view of the pool and follow the swimmers down the side of the pool during the race. They determine the legality of each swimmers stoke, turn, and finish as per the USA Swim Rule Book and NBSL modifications. They have a card to record any infractions and raise there hand if there is a DQ, they also relay the information to the coach to help eliminate future DQ's.. There is a small class for this and I promise all these technical terms make it sound much scarier than it really is. Graylyn also has some wonderful S&T veterans that would love to teach and have followers for our next generation of swimmers.

## **Timer**

We need anywhere from 8-12 timers per meet, depending on how many lanes the pool has. You start the stopwatch at the sound from the starter and stop it when any part of the swimmers body touches the wall. You and your partner from the opposing pool figure the average between both your watches and report the official time to the head timer.

## **Announcer**

Before the start of each event they announce the event, lane, and name of swimmer and club affiliation of each competitor. Also at appropriate intervals they announce the running score of the meet and any other announcements from the meet director or pool management.

## **Scorers**

They get the heat sheets from the coach and write event cards prior to the meet start. During the meet they record finish and place times for each official swimmer. They record point scores after each heat on the score paper and tally the score as the meet continues. They also record the DQ's and pool and team records.

## **Runners**

They take the event sheet from the announcer, then pick up the place sheets from the place judges, and trade event sheets with the head timer, and run all that over to a basket on the scoring table, then repeat.

## **Line Up moms (or dads)**

Each age group and gender has a line up parent, with preferable 2 for the 8s and 10s. You get the line up for your age group from George as soon as he's done writing them usually right before the meet starts. Try to keep the kids in one area you designate so you know where to find them and get them up to the blocks in time for their swim. Great way to learn who everyone is!

I know some of these positions sound intimidating, especially to people who are new to swim team. That's why I encourage all of you to observe different spots this year and find your niche with our team. The 1<sup>st</sup> home meet is our "Friendly Meet". It's designed for practice. You'll know within the 1<sup>st</sup> 10 races if a spot is to your liking. There are no good jobs and there are no bad jobs. Some people love timing and others love scoring or running. If you want more information on a position don't hesitate to ask. I won't throw you to the wolves. Anyone can do any of these positions with a little practice. There is also a need for a parking attendant, ribbon writers, a 50/50 ticket seller, Gator Cafe servers... In short, I need you, I need everyone! And I need you to start this year to at least start thinking about the future of our team...

Thank you for your time,  
Go Gators!

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