

SAFETY GUIDELINES AND WARM-UP PROCEDURES  
APPENDIX G

**WARM-UP PROCEDURES**

- A. General warm-up (Initial portion [1/2] of the warm-up session or with the agreement of all of the coaches in a particular lane.)
  - 1. **NO DIVING OR RACING STARTS** allowed from the blocks edge of the pool. Swimmers must enter the pool feet first cautiously.
  - 2. **NO SPRINTING OR PACE WORK** allowed during this general warm-up session.
- B. Specific warm-up (Last portion [1/2] of the warm-up session or with the agreement of all of the coaches in a particular lane.)
  - 1. **RACING STARTS ONLY**, either from blocks or from backstroke starts.
  - 2. Lanes are **ONE WAY ONLY**.

**SAFETY GUIDELINES**

- A. Swimmers Responsibilities
  - 1. All swimmers without a registered coach to observe them at the meet, and/or their coaches, should arrange, prior to their arrival at the meet, for a registered coach to observe them during the warm-up, competition and warm-down. Any unattached or unattended swimmers who have not made previous arrangements with a coach to observe them at the meet should contact the Meet Director, Safety Marshal or Meet Referee for assistance in making such arrangements prior to their participating in the warm-up.
- B. Coaches Responsibilities
  - 1. Coaches shall instruct their swimmers regarding safety guidelines and warm-up procedures as they apply to conduct at meets and practice.
  - 2. Coaches shall stand near the starting end of the pool when starting swimmers on sprint and pace work.
  - 3. Coaches shall actively supervise their swimmers throughout the warm-up session.
  - 4. Coaches shall maintain as much contact with their swimmers as possible, both verbal and visual, throughout the warm-up period.
  - 5. Registered coaches of unattached swimmers and registered coaches of non-Gulf teams should notify the meet host by the entry deadline if they will be at the meet, so that they may be assigned to a warm-up lane.
- C. Safety Marshals
  - 1. Appointed Safety Marshals are members of USA Swimming and have the authority to remove from the deck for the remainder of the warm-up session, any swimmer or coach who is in violation of safety guidelines or warm-up procedures. **THE MEET REFEREE MAY EXERCISE ADDITIONAL ADJUDICATION AUTHORITY AS NECESSARY.**
- D. Miscellaneous
  - 1. Swimmers should be reminded by coaches that breaststrokes need more lead time than freestyle or butterfly swimmers.
  - 2. Backstrokers shall ensure that they are not starting at the same time as a swimmer on the blocks. Swimmers shall not step up on the starting blocks, when a backstroke is waiting to start.
  - 3. Swimmers shall not jump or dive into the pool to stop another swimmer on a recalled start.
  - 4. Swimmers are required to exit the pool upon completion of their warm-up to allow other swimmers adequate warm-up time. The pool is not for visiting or playing during warm-up periods.
  - 5. Warm-up procedures shall be enforced for any breaks, scheduled or otherwise, during the competition.
  - 6. All diving boards and equipment are **OFF LIMITS**.
- E. Pool Rules
  - 1. Smoking or use of other tobacco products is not allowed on the grounds of USA Swimming meets.
  - 2. Glass containers are prohibited.
  - 3. Swimmers, coaches, and spectators are expected to observe all rules and regulations included in the announcement.