

Technical Officials Role

Inspector of Turns (IOT)

An Inspector of Turns ensures swimmers comply with the rules for starts, turns and finishes. The rules differ for each stroke, so Inspectors of Turns need to know the rules for each swimming stroke. Your jurisdiction is from the beginning of the last arm stroke into the wall and ending with the completion of the first arm stroke leaving the wall.

The IOT should read, know and understand the swim rules that govern swimming in New Zealand. You must be fair and make sure that the rules are complied with when making a decision. If a stroke rule for turning or finishing is broken you must be sure of what you saw. There must be no middle ground, if there is doubt it must be in favour of the swimmer at all times.



If you observe an infraction, indicate to the Chief Inspector of Turns (CIOT), they will take your place, go straight to the Referee, and advise them of the observed infraction. The Referee will then ask you to write out a DQ.

When appointed as an IOT at a National Meet you are required to report to the CIOT at least 1 hour prior to the start of the first session and at least 30 minutes prior to the start of subsequent sessions. If you are appointed as the CIOT you report to the Referee. There is likely to be an Officials meeting prior to the start of the first session. You are required to attend the meeting.

Position yourself well so you can observe the swimmer, commencing with the beginning of their last stroke into the wall, touching, and to the finish of the first stroke away from the wall

You may be assigned more than one lane to observe if there is a shortage of IOTs. If this happens and you have the swimmers in your lanes coming into the turn at the same time, concentrate on one swimmer coming into and leaving the wall. If the event allows, observe the other swimmer on the next turn. DO NOT try to observe two or more swimmers coming into the turn at the same time. If you do you may make the wrong call.

Start End Inspector of Turns (SE IOT)

The IOTs, assigned to the start end of the pool, begins his/her functions with the Referee's whistle in butterfly and breaststroke. At this stage you should move up to the side of the starting block but approx. 1 to 1.5m behind the swimmer and remain still. You are now in the correct position to step up to the side of the starting block to inspect the start as soon as the start signal is given. In backstroke and freestyle there is no need to watch the start. Exception to this is with Back Stroke Starting Ledges. Refer below. At the start signal, the IOTs should move up to the end of the pool and observe the start to ensure the swimmer complies with the stroke rules. Your jurisdiction at the start commences at the start and ends with the completion of the first arm stroke, at that stage the

Referee or JOS takes over. The IOTs at the finish end shall also ensure that the swimmers finish their race according to the current rules. Once standing the IOTs are to remain in position until the swimmer in their lane has completed the race. If the inspector of turns does not have a swimmer they are to remain seated. In freestyle and backstroke the IOT at the start end of the race is to stand when the CIOT stands, which will be when the first swimmer passes the 15m mark, to watch the turn/finish. Remain standing until all the swimmers complete the race. The IOTs at the finish end shall also ensure that the swimmers finish their race according to the current rules.

Back Stroke Ledges

These devices can be used for the Back Stroke starts. They are only available at some meets and are the responsibility of the Start End IOTs. Prior to each race, the IOT should place the Ledge into the correct position ensuring the straps are not twisted, are around the roller correctly locked into the pad, and then set the ledge to Zero. If the swimmer does not want the device, you take the whole device away and place behind the Starting Block. You also do this after the start of each race. 9 | Page During 800 and 1500m events the IOTs at the start end must count the laps for the swimmer in their lane and they must signal to the swimmer they have two lengths plus 5m to swim. This signal can be either by whistle or bell. Lap counting forms are available from the Control Room Supervisor. The IOTs may be required to operate a backup button for the swimmer in their lane.

Turn End Inspector of Turns (TE IOT)

All IOTs should stand up at the end of their assigned lane when the CIOT stands, which will be when the first swimmer passes the 15m mark and remain there until the CIOT Sits down which will be when the final swimmer passes the 15m mark



after they complete their last turn. The jurisdiction at the turn end commences at the beginning of the last arm stroke before touching and ending with the completion of the first arm stroke after the turn. Your role is to ensure the rules of the stroke are complied with. For 800 and 1500m events the IOTs at the turn end of the pool is responsible for turning the lap counters. Once the swimmer has turned and is passing the 5 metre flags, commence turning the lap counters to the next number. This allows the swimmers who wish to observe on their way out from the wall to see the number of laps to go. The lap counter should be positioned on the side of the block nearest to the CIOT. The lap counters are not to be held at the water's edge. Once the swimmer has completed his last turn the lap counters are to be laid flat or removed from the pool deck. Lap counters for the next heat should not be put in place until the Referee's whistle to clear the pool is sounded.

Chief Inspector of Turns (CIOT)

Chief Inspector of Turns (CIOT) At New Zealand Championships and Competitions the Meet Director will appoint the CIOTs and assign lanes to the IOTs at the start end and turn end for each day of the

meet. The CIOT will report to the Referee of the day/session for instructions on how infringements are to be reported. The CIOT shall instruct the IOTs of the SNZ Technical Advisory Committee protocol, regarding when to stand for the race and when to sit at the end of the race. The CIOTs will advise if there are any special rules that may be in place for the meet.

