

# Finish Judge Training

## Positions at Finish Line

- Home Finish Judge
- Visiting Finish Judge
- Home Finish Recorder, who writes down the order of finish exactly as verbalized from the Finish Judges for each heat on recorder sheets.
- Home Finish Recorder, who writes the order of finish on a white board for ribbon awards. This order of finish should be identical to the order of finish written on the recorder sheets.

1. Ahead of the meet, the two Finish Judges will decide which Finish Judge will serve as the primary Finish Judge (typically the Home Finish Judge). The other Finish Judge has the option to agree or challenge each call. If there is a discrepancy and the two Finish Judges cannot agree, the Home Team gets the first discrepancy, and the Away Finish Judge gets the second discrepancy. This should continue to alternate back and forth until the end of the meet.
2. Finish Judges are responsible for deciding the undisputed finish, regardless of watch times unless timing systems with touch pads are in use. As of 2022, when meets are held in venues that have timing systems with touch pads (Arlington and WCC), the timing systems will decide the order of finish, not the Finish Judges. The Finish Recorders should still record the results of the heat on the recorder sheets and white board.
3. The Visiting Finish Judge should not be a Finish Recorder. They should be focused on deciding the order of finish just as much as the Home Finish Judge. The home team should provide two Finish Recorders at each meet.
4. Assign Finish Judges to a seat and position them in line with the finish. You can stand or sit - whatever you feel is most comfortable.
5. Give directions on how Finish Judges shall operate, remind them of their general duties, and place all competitors in the order of finish. For example, if the Primary Finish Judge only calls the first 3 finishers, then the other Finish Judge should call the remaining finishers.
6. Finish Judges should observe the competitors from the start and throughout the race, counting the laps completed and being aware of when a competitor fails to finish the course or changes lanes - especially during relays.
7. You should also, after the start, note any vacant lanes to help avoid inadvertently placing non-starters in the event.
8. The image below shows a sample recorder sheet. The Home Finish Recorder completes the finish sheet by lane number, in order of finish. In event 11 listed above, the second column shows the result of heat #1. In that heat, the swimmer in lane 4 came in first place,

**FINISH RECORDER** SHEET   

Event # <u>11</u>	Event # <u>  </u>
PLACE	PLACE
<u>1</u>	<u>  </u>
<u>2</u>	<u>c</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>  </u>
<u>4</u>	<u>k</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>  </u>
<u>6</u>	<u>s</u>
<u>7</u>	<u>  </u>
<u>8</u>	<u>c</u>
Event # <u>  </u>	Event # <u>  </u>
PLACE	PLACE
<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>

*Note: A red circle highlights the handwritten '1' in the first column of the first row, indicating the swimmer in lane 4 came in first place.*

followed by lanes 3, 8, 7, 2, 1, 6, 5. Results of subsequent heats should be listed in the columns to the right of heat #1.

9. Always use lane numbers to record placings as these can be written quickly and easily.
10. When calling your placings, **speak loudly so the Finish Recorder can hear places called.**
11. All placings must be written down so that you have a written record of the finish and to enable discussion with other Finish Judge results in the compilation of the official result. Runners will collect results sheets from the finish recorder and take to the scorer's table, where they record the finish in the computer.
12. You must place all competitors, irrespective of whether you are of the opinion that the competitor is going to be (or should be) disqualified. Only the Referee, via the Stroke and Turn Judges, has authority to disqualify a competitor.
13. When you see two or more competitors in a heat touch the finish line/wall at the same time, whether above, on, or below the water surface, **then you can declare a TIE**. If both Finish Judges consider the result of a heat to be equal placings (aka a tie), then that is the Finish Judges' final decision. Do not guess the finish. Only record what you see. Place all swimmers in the order they finish. **In a meet, only the first heat is the live (scoring) heat, and only the first 3 places score 5-3-1 (points). In relays, the first 2 places in a live (scoring) heat score 7-2 (points). No team can sweep all 9 points from individual events or relays.**