

YMCA SWL 2006/2007 STARTING PROTOCOL

- At the beginning of each event the event is announced by the announcer which will usually be the starter except for finals at champs (e.g. Event 22, 50 yard freestyle)
- The referee sounds a series of short whistle chirps (four to seven or eight chirps) to alert the swimmers to get ready for the next heat.
- The announcer announces the heat (e.g. heat one). This is done before each heat.
- The referee sounds a long whistle that instructs the swimmers to step on the blocks or step into the water.
- For backstroke, the referee sounds a second long whistle when all swimmers have surfaced after entering the water. This signals the swimmers to approach the wall of the pool, place their feet, and grab hold of the bar, gutter, etc.
- When the referee sees that conditions are proper for the start he/she hands control of the start over to the starter. This is done by holding out the arm at a 90 degree angle with an open palm pointing towards the turn end of the pool or towards the starter which ever is deemed most appropriate by the starter and referee.
- The starter gives the command "Take Your Mark"
- When all swimmers are stationary the starter sounds starting device

POSITIONING OF STARTER AND REFEREE AND FALSE START OBSERVATIONS AND DUAL CONFIRMATION

The starter and referee will position themselves on opposite sides of the pool during the start of each heat for the purpose of judging the start. The referee may assign an assistant referee to observe starts on the side opposite the starter for the purpose of judging starts. The starter and referee (or assistant referee) will make a written notation after the start of every heat. The notation will signify a fair start or designate the lane(s) which false started. In the case of an observed false start the referee/assistant referee will approach the starter to confirm or refute a false start. There will be no raising of the arm. The starter may give a subtle signal to the referee/assistant referee that he/she did not observe a false start and thus prevent the need to compare observations. In the case of a dual confirmation the referee will notify the affected swimmer(s).

Note: Remember during relay takeoffs there also will be no raising of the hands. All takeoffs will be recorded as in the past. Dual confirmations will be initiated by the side judge (eg. starter, assistant referee, etc.) conferring with the official responsible for the dual confirmation without the raising of the hand.