



Supporting D/deaf and Hard of hearing Athletes at Competitions

All swimmers who are D/deaf or Hard of hearing and require an accommodation at swim meets should be identified in the Swimming Canada Registration System. This declaration is found in the swimmer profile.

Swimmer Declaration

From the Dashboard, click View Swimmer profile.

ID	Name	DOB	Club	Status	Progress	Action
123456789	Test Swimmer	2000-00-00	CLUB	Registered	100%	View Swimmer profile

Click Confirm and Submit on the Contact Information page.

Primary Contact Information
Swimmer (if 18 & older) Parent and/or Legal Guardian (if under 18)

First Name* Swimmer Last Name* Test
 Email* t.swimmerparent@mail.com
 Phone* 111-222-3333 Mobile Phone
 Address* Address2
 City* Country* Canada
 Province* Ontario Postal Code*

Preferred Household Language* English French

I would like to receive emails related to commercial activities from Swimming Canada (discounts and promotions from partners), including those related to the Swimming Canada Member Rewards program. I understand that I may unsubscribe from receiving these emails at any time*
 Yes No

User Name* Password* Confirm Password

[CONFIRM AND SUBMIT](#)

Click the Edit  icon to update the Swimmer Declaration.

Actions	ID	Last Name	First Name	Given Name	Gender	DOB	Gender Identification	Citizenship	Ca In De
 	Swimmer	Test			Male	Jan 00 2000	N/A	Canadian Citizen	Ny



Select D/deaf or Hard of Hearing from the D/deaf or Hard of Hearing Declaration.

D/deaf or Hard of Hearing Report

The PSOs and club registrars (for their own club) can produce a D/deaf or Hard of Hearing Report.

Meet managers can produce a report of all swimmers entered in a particular meet that are identified as D/deaf or Hard of hearing from the Meet Entry Management page (click on D/d/HH Report).



Support at Competitions: Best Practices

1. The Meet Information Package should state what accommodations are available to support swimmers who are D/deaf or Hard of hearing at that competition with preference to the use of strobe/starting lights, when such is available at the facility or if a compatible system is available for their temporary use from the provincial sport organization (PSO) or another club. See Meet Information Package wording below.
2. Coaches/clubs should notify meet management **when meet entries are submitted** advising what accommodation is requested based on the available options outlined in the Meet Information Package.
3. Where possible, swimmers should be accommodated without moving from their seeded lane. If a strobe light is not available in the swimmer’s seeded lane, or at all, the Meet Referee/Competition Coordinator should consult with the swimmer’s coach to determine the best way forward which may include a change in lane or other accommodation.
4. Coaches should work together with the Meet Manager and/or Meet Referee/Competition Coordinator to maintain the consistency of the accommodation for the entirety of the competition.
5. If the accommodation is to be non-verbal instruction by a support person (i.e. ankle hold), the swimmer (or their coach) shall identify their preferred person and such person shall be duly registered with Swimming Canada and the PSO.

If a swimmer requires a support person at a competition, a screen capture of the registration status of support person can be sent to the Meet Manager from the Support Staff List if requested as proof of registration.



6. Officials should be trained and briefed as required so an accommodation can be provided while respecting the privacy of the swimmer as much as possible.



7. Coaches should work together with the Meet Manager and/or Meet Referee/Competition Coordinator to support D/deaf or Hard of hearing athletes that require an alternative to using a bell to signal the final lap in distance events.

Options may include the use of a lap counter (if available), or a kick board placed in the water (provided that this is done in a safe manner and the board does not touch the swimmer).

Meet Information Package Wording to support D/deaf and Hard of hearing athletes

The following wording should be included in meet packages so that options for accommodation are clearly outlined:

This competition can provide the following accommodations for swimmers who are D/deaf or Hard of hearing: *(list those that apply)*

1. Non-verbal instruction provided by a *support person
2. Hand signals given by the starter/referee
3. An external strobe light

*Note that the support person must show a status of “Registered” as support staff in the Swimming Canada registration system.

Notes regarding support options

1. Start signal conveyed by non-verbal instruction by support staff

If requested by the swimmer/coach, swimmers may have a support staff holding/touching their ankle until the starting signal is given. For backstroke starts, the support staff may hold/touch the arm or hand.

Guidelines:

- a. Cannot give momentum to the swimmer on the start;
- b. Isn't a balancing aid;
- c. Doesn't interfere with other swimmers (undue sound, movement, etc.)

More information on conveying the start signal by non-verbal instruction by support staff can be found in the Starter and Referee Clinics.

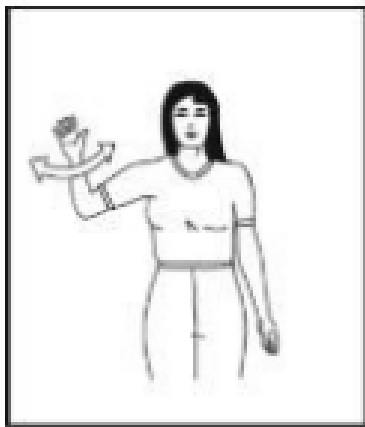
Start signal conveyed by non-verbal instruction by support staff:



2. Start signal conveyed by hand signals

If requested by the athlete, hand signals may be provided by the starter or referee.

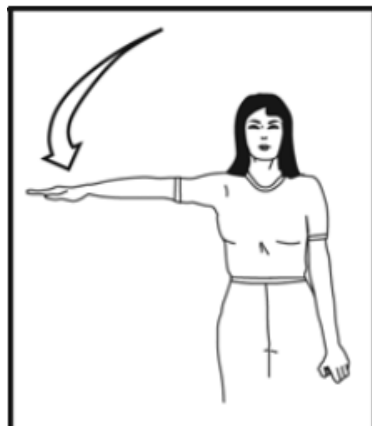
Requests for hand signals **MUST** be made in advance so that the session referee and starter are prepared.



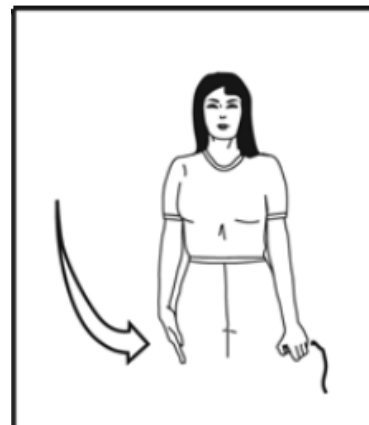
1. Twist hand at chin level (short whistle, if required)



2. Arm overhead (long whistle): Swimmer steps onto starting blocks.



3. Arm moves to shoulder level: Starter command "Take your marks".



4. Arm moves to side of body: Start signal is given.

See the link below to watch a start with hand signals.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zbR8dICeGI0>

More information on using hand signals can be found in the Starter and Referee Clinics.

3. Start signal conveyed by a strobe placed at the lane

- a. The Meet Manager and/or Meet Referee/Competition Coordinator should ensure that they have officials trained in the use of strobes available in sessions where strobes will be required.
- b. Testing of the strobe at the lane should be done prior to the session. The strobe should be placed beside the block a few heats in advance to ensure it is functioning properly.
- c. If there are physical limitations on the lanes where the strobe can be placed, the Meet Referee/Competition Coordinator should consult with the coach before the session to come to an acceptable solution. If possible, the swimmer should not be moved from their seeded lane once the session begins.
- d. When possible, consult with the swimmer or coach ahead of time about which side of the block the swimmer would prefer the strobe be placed. This may not be possible in all circumstances depending on physical restrictions, the need to accommodate more than one swimmer in a heat, etc.
- e. A designated official should move the strobe to the lane before the race and remove it again afterwards.
- f. Meet Managers and/or Meet Referees/Competition Coordinators should work with the coach/club to put a suitable backup plan in place in case there are technical issues using the strobe during the meet.

Start signal conveyed by a portable strobe:

