



Hampton Virginia Aquaplex — Marshal Guide

GPSA Wiki Documentation

Greater Peninsula Swimming Association

wiki.gpsaswimming.org

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Marshals keep the [Summer Splash Invitational](#) and [City Meet](#) running safely and orderly at the Hampton Virginia Aquaplex (HVA). This guide is for volunteers assigned a marshal post at HVA. If you're attending as a spectator, see the [HVA Participant Guide](#) instead.

Your authority and responsibilities come from the [GPSA Rulebook — Marshal\(s\)](#). The referee assigns marshals with specific instructions and, per the rules, you act **with the concurrence of the referee** when a situation escalates.

Your job in one sentence

Keep the pool deck and locker rooms restricted to the people who belong there. At HVA, access is tightly controlled, and marshals are the people who make that control real. Everything below is a specific version of these two rules:

- **Pool deck:** only credentialed coaches, officials, swimmers, and meet volunteers are permitted on the deck. Anyone else — including parents and family — stays in the spectator area.
- **Locker rooms:** athletes only. **No entry from the outside hallway.**

When in doubt, keep the boundary. It's always fine to send someone to the Meet Safety Officer, meet referee, or a GPSA Representative rather than let them through.

You're supported — who to contact for help

You are never on your own at a post. Any time something comes up — a safety concern, a medical situation, a guest who won't cooperate, or simply a question — reach out. Three people are available to you throughout the meet, and you can go to any of them:

Contact	Reach them for
Meet Safety Officer (<i>your primary contact</i>)	Your first stop for anything — safety concerns, injuries, hazards, unsafe behavior, and any question or support you need
Meet Referee	Rule enforcement and removals; per the rules, the referee's concurrence is required to remove someone from the venue
Meet Director	Meet operations, logistics, staffing, and post relief

Reach out **early** rather than waiting for a situation to grow. Flagging something to the Safety Officer is always the right call — that's exactly what they're there for. Find out how to reach each of them (in person, by radio, or by phone) when you check in.

Who enters where

Each group has a designated way into the pool. Part of marshaling is routing people to the right door:

Who	Entrance
Volunteers (all)	Volunteer entrance only
Swimmers	Any entrance

Who	Entrance
Coaches/Reps	Any entrance
Spectators / families	No deck access

Before your shift

- **Check in** to receive your post assignment and any identifying attire (per GPSA rules, marshals wear identifying attire so swimmers, coaches, and families can find you).
- **Know your boundary.** Each post below has one line you're protecting. Learn where it is and who is allowed to cross it.
- **Learn the credential.** Confirm at check-in what a valid deck credential looks like for this meet so you can recognize it at a glance.
- **Stay at your post.** Don't leave it unattended — if you need a break or a relief, send word to the Meet Director or Meet Safety Officer.

Marshal posts

Use this map to locate your post before your shift starts:

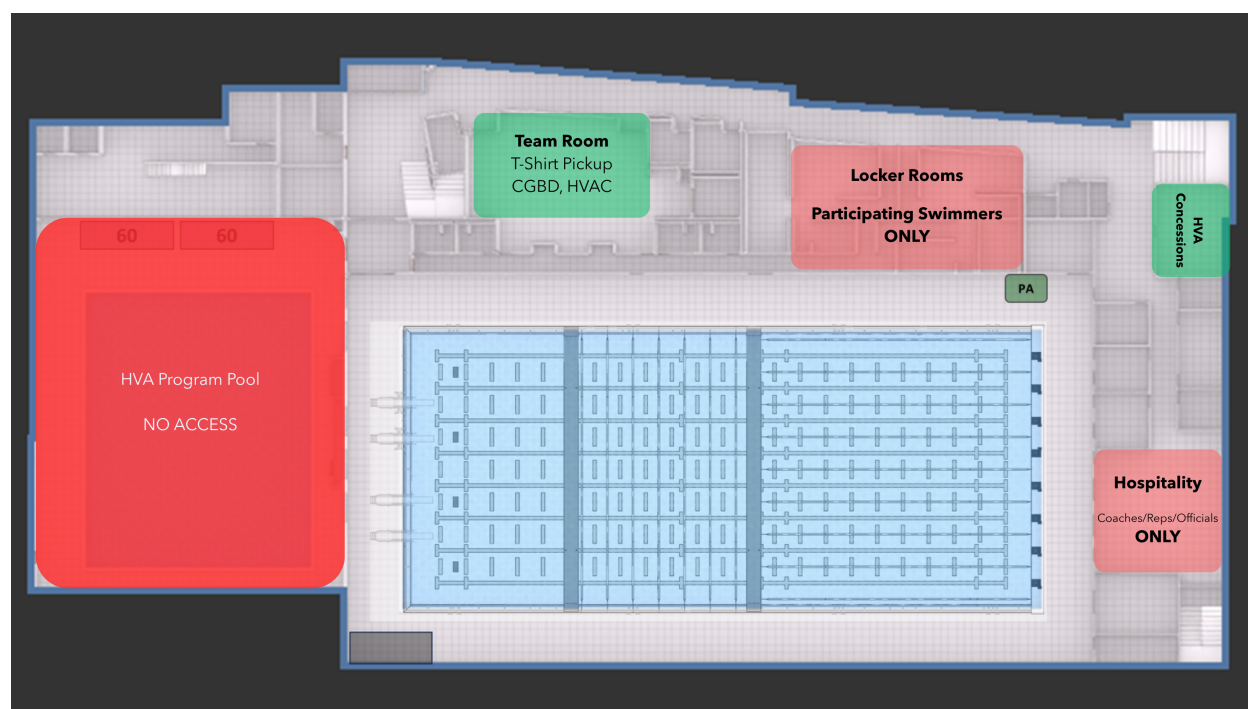


Figure 1: HVA facility map: competition pool with two center bulkheads, the team room and t-shirt pickup along the top, locker rooms reserved for participating swimmers, concessions and the hospitality room on the right, and the HVA Program Pool on the left marked no access

Post	Boundary you protect	Core responsibility
Top of stairs	Spectator area pool deck	Credentialed persons & swimmers only
Seating behind the blocks	Competition-end seating (50s+) + diving-end-side seating (25s)	No photography or recording; protect swimmer privacy
Main entrance	Lobby pool deck	Credentialed persons & swimmers only
Locker rooms	Outside hallway locker rooms	NO ENTRY
Wet deck hallway	Pool deck locker-room corridor	Athletes only in Locker Room, Coaches/Officials use Single Stall rooms
Volunteer entrance	Volunteer/official access point	Swimmers, credentialed persons, registered volunteers

Top of stairs

Stationed in the pool area at the stairs between the **spectator seating and the pool deck**.

- Allow only **credentialed persons** (coaches, officials, representatives) and **swimmers** down to the deck.
- Keep spectators and family in the seating area. Parents who want to reach a swimmer should be directed to that swimmer's coach or GPSA Representative — they do not go onto the deck.
- Do not let anyone linger on the stairs; keep the path clear for swimmers and officials moving between deck and seating.

Seating behind the blocks

Just before each start, swimmers step onto the blocks and bend forward with their backs to whatever is behind them. Any seating that looks at those backs is a **no-photo zone** — it's a swimmer-privacy and Safe Sport rule, and holding it is the core of this post. Which seating that is **switches ends with the event** (see the [Participant Guide](#) for the layout):

- **50s and longer** start at the **competition-end blocks** (the end opposite the diving boards). The **end-seating sits directly behind those blocks**, so it's a no-photo zone whenever swimmers are starting there — that's essentially every conventional event.
- **25s** start at the **center bulkhead**, facing the competition end. That turns the swimmers' backs toward the **diving-board end**, and the **seating nearest that end has a diagonal sightline right behind the bulkhead starts** — so during the 25s that section becomes the no-photo zone instead.

There is a no-photo seating zone for **every** start; it just switches ends depending on what's being swum.

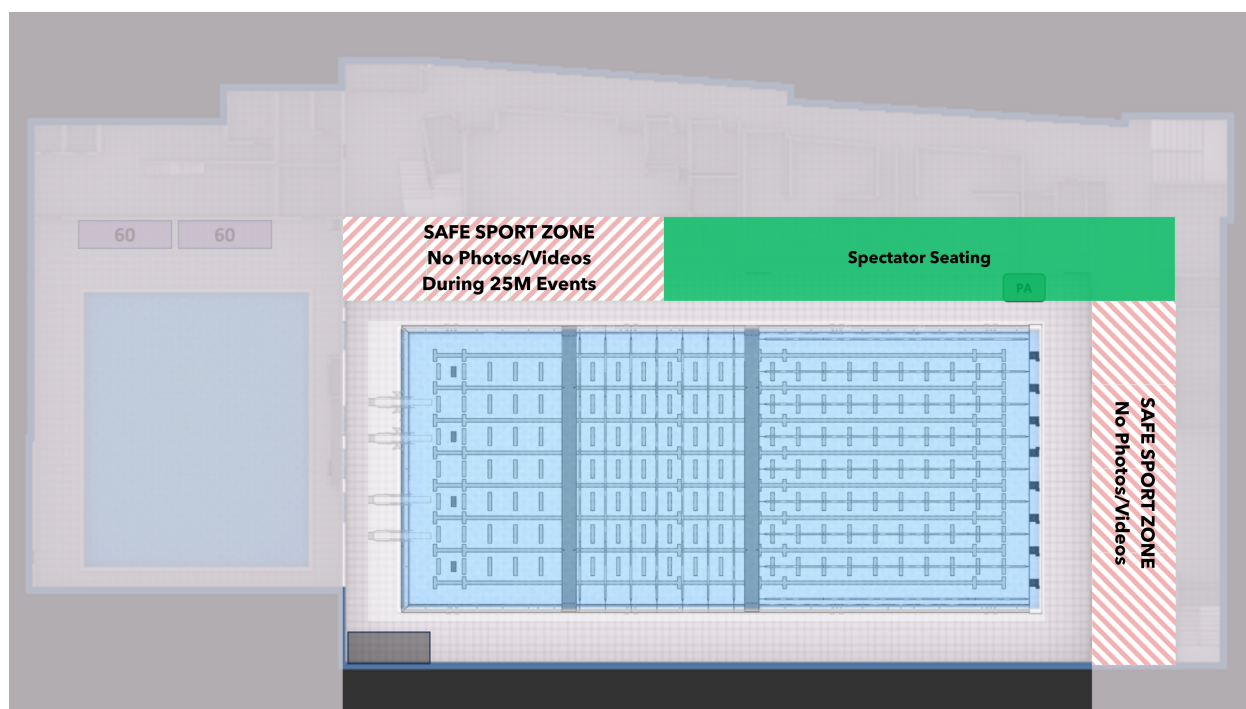


Figure 2: HVA Safe Sport zones: the seating along the right end of the pool is a no-photo zone, and the left half of the long-side seating is a no-photo zone during the 25s; the remaining long-side seating is general spectator seating

- **No photos or video of the swimmers on the blocks** from the seating behind them — phones, cameras, tablets, or any other device. This applies to everyone, **including parents recording their own child**.
- **Know which zone is live.** For 50s and longer, watch the **end-seating behind the competition blocks**. For the 25s, watch the **seating nearest the diving-board end**, which catches the bulkhead starts on a diagonal.
- Ask politely to lower any camera aimed at the blocks: “We don’t allow photos or video from behind the blocks — it’s a swimmer-privacy rule. You’re welcome to take photos from the side.”
- Keep it simple and non-accusatory. Most people don’t realize the angle is a concern and will put the camera away once you explain.
- If someone won’t cooperate, or something about the behavior concerns you, **contact the Meet Safety Officer right away**. Don’t confront the person alone, and don’t try to inspect or take anyone’s device — that’s for the Safety Officer and referee to handle.

Main entrance

The doors from the **lobby to the pool deck**, by the facility’s main entrance. Your boundary is **pool-deck access** — control who crosses from the lobby onto the deck.

- Allow **swimmers, coaches, officials, and GPSA Representatives** onto the deck.
- Keep **spectators and family** in the lobby and seating area — they have no deck access. Point them to the seating area.
- Send any **registered volunteer** who arrives here to the **volunteer entrance** — that’s where volunteers check in.

- Point people toward the [participant guide](#) information (parking, seating, facility rules) when they have general questions.
- Answer only where-to-go questions. **Do not** field questions about a swimmer's lane, heat, or event — those go to the swimmer's coach, the SwimTopia app, or the GPSA Representative.

Locker rooms

Posted in the **outside hallway** by the locker-room doors.

- **No entry from the outside hallway** — this is the rule to hold firmly. Athletes needing access to the locker room should enter from the pool deck.

Wet deck hallway

The wet-side passage connecting the pool deck and the locker rooms.

- Keep the corridor **clear** — it's a wet, high-traffic path for swimmers moving to and from the locker room.
- Allow only **swimmers and credentialed personnel** through; nobody uses it as a shortcut from the spectator side.
- Watch footing and flag any hazards (standing water, blocked exits) to the Meet Safety Officer or facility staff.

Volunteer entrance

A pool-deck access point near the concession stand, and the **required** check-in door for all registered volunteers.

- Admit **registered volunteers, credentialed persons** (coaches, officials, GPSA Representatives), and **swimmers**.
- Turn **spectators and family** away — they have no deck access; direct them to the seating area.
- Because it's near the concession stand, **swimmers** commonly use this door.

Handling pushback

Most people cooperate once they understand the rule. When someone doesn't:

- **Be firm and friendly.** State the rule simply: "Only credentialed staff and swimmers past this point — spectator seating is right up here."
- **Offer the alternative.** Point them to seating, to their swimmer's coach, or to their GPSA Representative.
- **Escalate, don't argue.** If someone refuses or becomes disruptive, call your **Meet Safety Officer** or the **meet referee**. Under the rules, the marshal — **with the referee's concurrence** — may warn, order to cease, and have removed anyone behaving unsafely, using abusive language, or disrupting the meet ([Rulebook — Marshal\(s\)](#)).

You never have to resolve a confrontation alone. Holding the boundary and calling for help is exactly the right move.

Related Resources

- [HVA Participant Guide](#) — parking, seating, and facility rules (hand this to families with questions)
- [Summer Splash Invitational](#) and [City Meet](#) — the invitationals you're marshaling
- [Referee Guide](#) — the official who assigns marshals and backs your escalations
- [GPSA Rulebook — Officials](#) — the authoritative Marshal role and authority