

# Lane Lines



## Announcements:

- The next committee morning will be December 17, after 9am workout
- We move to King Center pool on December 6, until January 2, 2006

## Lap Swimming Etiquette 101 - Part 2

This is the second in a four part series about pool etiquette.

By Art Hutchinson

### Entering the Pool:

Swimmers arriving at a pool should do three things before getting in the water:

- 1) Make note of "Fast, Medium, and Slow" lane designations. If such signs aren't obvious at your pool, ask a lifeguard.
- 2) Spend a few minutes observing and roughly timing the per-lap pace of swimmers already in the pool.
- 3) Select a lane containing swimmers moving as closely as possible to the pace that one realistically expects to swim throughout his or her entire workout.

It is the responsibility of the swimmer entering a lane to inform all incumbent swimmers in that lane of their desire to change format (i.e. from 'split' to 'circle' swimming or vice versa). Be patient, as this may take a few minutes.

A swimmer entering a lane being 'split' by two people (each swimming up/back on their own side) should be

sure before s/he begins to swim that s/he alerts both individuals to the need to change to a 'circle' format (everyone swimming counterclockwise\* on the right side of the lane). This is most commonly done by sitting at/on the edge of the pool, waving a kickboard under water, or standing in the water in the corner of the lane.

When entering a lane with only one swimmer, the arriving swimmer should still notify that swimmer of his/her presence before starting to swim, and explicitly agree with him/her on which format to use (circle or split).

Entering swimmers should allow incumbents a few laps before expecting them to stop. Incumbent swimmers have an initial right-of-way, but not a right to 'own' the lane indefinitely or to insist on their own idiosyncratic rules.

In Commonwealth countries such the UK, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, etc., the 'circle' convention is often (but not always) reversed, i.e. swimmers stay to the left of the lane and swim clockwise, or 'anticlockwise' - as is true of automobile traffic and rotaries/roundabouts in those nations. For foreign drivers and

swimmers, this can take some getting used-to! Adding to the variety (and making it all that more important to observe before starting to swim), many pools in the UK, alternate clockwise and 'anticlockwise' lanes, so that swimmers in adjacent lanes are always swimming parallel to one another rather than in opposite directions. This has the benefit of reducing the number of smashed hands, punches to the eye, and dislocated shoulders that can occur in collisions between oncoming swimmers whose wrists have the misfortune to lock together at the top of their opposing strokes.

#### **Notes from the Editor:**

The Marlins committee is looking for help with the Annual Marlins Soup Dinner. If you would like to help, please contact me at the email below. The Soup Dinner will be on February 4, 2006 at the Senior Center in San Mateo. We are still searching for entertainment, and help with setup and cleanup.

If you are not on the email list, please email, and I will send you an invitation with direction on how to signup.

It's that time of year again to re-register your annual PMS membership. Information on Marlins membership dues will be in the mail, or please contact me. For information on PMS membership, please go to [pacificmasters.org](http://pacificmasters.org).

The annual One-Hour and 1650 Postal swims are scheduled for January 7, 2006, time TBA. Start working out for these two great swims!



April 2006  
PMS Short Course Yards  
Championships; Pleasanton, CA

July 2006  
Friday - Sunday, July 7-9, PMS Long  
Course Meters Championships; Santa  
Cruz, CA

August 2006  
Xi Fina World Masters Championship;  
Stanford, CA

October 2006  
Friday - Sunday, October 13-15 PMS  
Short Course Meters Championships

*Lanes Lines is edited by Henry Chan. For questions, concerns, or to submit content for future issues, send to [hymc219@hotmail.com](mailto:hymc219@hotmail.com). Always remember, keep swimming!*

