## Sometimes lanes are short, Why, Where, and What about the results?

***By Hans van Meeteren***

For swims to be eligible for the National Top 10 and National records, a pool (competition course) has to be certified (once) and when there is a bulkhead involved the competition course has to be measured before and after each session of a meet to confirm that lanes are long enough (e.g., 50m, 25m, or 26 yard). In short "bulkhead" measurements have to be performed.

Just in NC over the last couple of years there have been several occurrences where something went wrong. In most cases measurements were not done at all. For the 2013/2014 SCY season which will end at the end of this month measurements were performed for all meets when necessary. So far so good. However in two meets something went wrong with the measurements.

For the Fall Brawl meet all lanes were significantly short based on the measurements taken before the meet, and three lanes were just short after the meet was completed. Following USMS rules none of the swims are eligible for Top 10 or records. For the Frank Clark meet lane 1 was short only after the meet. Consequently, only the swims performed in lane 1 will not be eligible. All swims will still be in the USMS results database, but they will be flagged as invalid for Top 10 and records.

Both the USMS records and Top 10 committee and your LMSC board have been discussing what to do to eliminate these occurrences. You may have noticed that recently in meet information it is specifically stated whether a competition course is certified with USMS and whether bulkhead measurements will be performed to confirm the correct placement of a bulkhead. In addition, the LMSC Board decided that from now on in NC the meet referee will verify that the measurements are correct. Hopefully, this will eliminate one of the reasons for problems with the bulkhead measurements.

As a swimmer, when there is any doubt contact the meet director or the meet referee. One last thing: Do not tighten the lane lines once the measurements are performed