

2004 Virginia Swimming Officials' Swimposium

September 25th – 26th was the date for the fourth annual Swimposium, held at the Koger Center Select in Richmond, Virginia. The seminar was lead by facilitators Helen and Bob Brown, who sit on several national committees, and who brought a wealth of expertise to the table as well as tales of their recent experience at the Olympic Trials. Participants also had the benefit of interacting with a number of local presenters, who worked to enhance their knowledge of the rules used in officiating swimming. Participants also had the opportunity to network and learn ways to improve the way we run meets, to learn about the subtleties of officiating a swimmer with a disability, and to learn the art of “proactive officiating”. Meet safety was a focus as well as how to recruit and retain officials. A mixture of lecture and group think opportunities allowed the participants to learn in a variety of different styles, and to come away with skills, which can immediately be put into use with the upcoming swim season. Kristy Kowal, Silver Medalist in the 200 Breaststroke at the Sydney games, entertained and educated the crowd with her athlete’s perspective on officiating. Clyde Bragg, Bob Griffin, and Bill Geiszler shared tales of the good, the bad, and the ugly of officiating, and Kevin Hogan won a hotly contested round of Swim Jeopardy. Thanks to all who attended and we hope to see more of you next year!

