

Officials Committee Report
02 March 2006

- **Action Item for VSI BOD:** We have received word that USA-S will be conducting an Officials Workshop in Colorado Springs, May 27-29, 2006. The workshop is open to two LSC referees who have been certified at that level for less than two years. The registration fee is \$225 per official which covers meals and accommodations. The LSC pays the transportation costs. I'd like to request permission to send two officials to the clinic at an anticipated cost of \$625 to \$825 per individual (\$1250-\$1650 total). Final cost is highly dependent upon the airlines which might be expected to range from \$400 to \$600 per ticket.

Everyone that has attended these workshops in the past has found it to be a valuable experience, and all in recent memory continue to be very active officials.

- **National Officials Certification:** The USA-S Officials Committee has now implemented the new N1/N2/N3 certification scheme and the VSI Officials Committee is working on integrating the new requirements into our own scheme. We are also taking this opportunity to review our LSC certification requirements with the hope of producing a comprehensive package in the near future.

Evaluation at the N2/N3 level now requires the use of National Evaluators. National evaluators must meet the following criteria:

Very Experienced Officials qualified by the National Officials Committee to evaluate officials for advancement and re-certification.

Minimum requirement - several years as a N2 Referee **and** N3 S&T certification with deck experience at several National Meets.

Michael Downs and John Thompson have been approved as National Evaluators.

Senior Champs qualifies as a "Qualifying Meet" at which evaluation can be done for N2 re-certification and some of the evaluations for N3 certification and re-certification. Initial N2 certification can occur at meets other than Senior Champs (details to be worked out by VSI Officials Committee). Any meet involving evaluation must have an approved National Evaluator.

There is likely going to be a need to increase our pool of National Evaluators, to provide financial support to National Evaluators to travel throughout the LSC, and to provide financial support to allow officials to attend national level meets so as to qualify as National Evaluators. A detailed request will be prepared for the next budget cycle, but we are anticipating something on the order of \$2,000 per year.

- **Allegation of Professional Misconduct:** An allegation of professional misconduct by an official has been received and is being investigated under the authority of section N "OFFICIALS: GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR DISCIPLINE AND DE-CERTIFICATION" of the Policies and Procedures of Virginia Swimming, Inc. Upon receipt of the allegation, Jerry Hayes, Chair of the Board of Review, was consulted to determine if the allegation should be handled by the BOR as a Code of Conduct violation. It was our joint determination that the allegation should be handled by the Officials Committee as outlined in the VSI policies.
- **Housekeeping Needed for VSI Policies:** The USA-S recommended guidelines for discipline and de-certification of officials were previously adopted in whole by the HOD and incorporated into the VSI Policy Manual as Section "N". The following section was part of those guidelines but was not incorporated into Section "N". It should be inserted between the Section "N" header (which itself needs a line spacing placed before it) and the line reading "Primary Responsibility – LSC Officials Chair".

CATEGORIES

In order to organize the possible matters and issues that could arise, three categories have been chosen which should cover all matters. The three categories are Professional Qualifications, Professional Misconduct and Code of Conduct.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

This category relates to matters involving deficiencies in the professional qualifications of the official. It relates to the technical aspects of the field of officiating, such as a lack of knowledge of the rules, improper application of the rules, etc. An illustration of this category might be the following:

Official A is a certified Stroke/Turn Official with two years of experience. He never makes a call, even when it is clearly "under his nose."