

VSI Officials Committee Report

26 September 2010

Committee Members Present: Avis Aheron, Bryan Wallin, David Bihl, David Strider, George Smith, Jim Frye, John Squires, Kevin Hogan, Michael Downs, Pat Donohue, Stephanie Suhling, Tom Colasurdo, Tom Elliott, Wally Hunt

- VSI will host the Eastern Zone Region II Sectionals in Christiansburg (March 24-27). The meet will be an N3 Officials Qualifying Meet with Jamy Pfister and Joel Black serving as the national evaluators. The Application to Officiate is posted on the Eastern Zone. This is a great opportunity for VSI officials to work at a higher level meet and we need to encourage everyone to do so.
- A discussion took place on the philosophy behind our training requirements and the need for uniform enforcement of those requirements. Two issues in particular relate to minimum session length (2 h) and the fact that the required number of sessions is meant to be a floor and not a ceiling. While most trainees are expected to complete their training by working the minimum number of sessions, some trainees will require additional sessions. We need to get this word out, both in clinics, and throughout the training.

We also need to ensure that our trainees are getting a good experience during their training sessions. A couple of suggestions. (1) Make sure the trainer is comfortable with taking on a trainee. The trainer needs to be comfortable with, and willing to converse about, the rules. (2) Time can be taken during the S&T briefing to discuss selected items on the training card.

Training cards need to be issued by the District Officials Chairs and Referees need to make sure that they are valid and not just printed off of the website.

- There needs to be a uniform enforcement of our officials' uniform. Some individuals may need to be reminded of the requirements and the need to retire items that have seen better days. This is most often done in private, rather than in public. Repeat problems may need to be dealt with separately.
- Clinic status and scheduling was discussed. While there is a need to schedule clinics in advance, this also needs to be balanced against lagging attendance. There have been numerous clinics at which no or few trainees have attended. District Chairs are trying to balance this by involving the clubs in the planning phase and having them provide names of attendees.
- The SEVA Christmas Invitational and the VSTP Icebreaker Invitational meets were discussed as to their appropriateness as Officials Qualifying Meets. It was decided that they do not meet the qualifications.
- Referee candidates were discussed and will be separately notified.
- The status of non-athlete registration was discussed with respect to the upcoming requirement for criminal background checks. As a practical matter in the near term, 2011 registration cards will not be issued until changes in the SWIMS database (from which OTS draws its membership information) are made to handle the new requirement. Registration will still take place, however, and those submitting a 2011 non-athlete registration will be entered into the database. As our trainees are required to both (1) register as non-athlete members and (2) pass the applicable tests before they begin their training, we will not issue training cards until these requirements are met. The training card will then serve as the "deck pass" in place of a membership card. This is another item that we will need to advertise to our new trainees and our Meet Referees.
- We will be shifting to OTS as our primary database. Short term (through the end of 2010), the Access database will be used to track dry deck only officials who do not yet have USA-S membership. These individuals need to be encouraged to register for 2011 so that their

certifications can be transferred to OTS. Long term, the Access database will be maintained to track initial certification dates for the purposes of anniversary date pin tracking. This is a feature that has been requested in OTS so we may be able to drop this function at a future date.

We also need to clean-up the database with respect to trainees who have been training longer than one year and those who need to be upgraded to V1.

- Kevin Hogan and Michael Downs will work on a “How to Become an Official” page for website. We also need to begin updating many documents. Kevin has the master word files for the PDFs.
- Rules update from convention. Section 102 was reorganized. This also included the elimination of Recorder and Timing Judge from the list of required officials, while “Administrative Official/Referee” was added. We will need to consider how this impacts on our certified positions (this is really a reflection of the national deck). There is also now a requirement for Place Judges at all meets. Flutter was changed to alternating in the description of kicks not allowed in breaststroke.
- The Swimposium will be held Saturday, October 2. There are currently 66 registered for the full day and 3 registered for the Club Officials Chairs session. Topics and presenters were reviewed. Mary Turner and Pat Donohue will each bring an LCD projector, Pat Donohue and David Strider will each bring a screen, Kevin Hogan, George Smith, and Michael Downs will bring computers, and Bryan Wallin will bring the Dolphin watches.