



Virginia Swimming, Inc.  
Officials Committee  
**RECOMMENDED PRACTICE**



**STAFFING CHAMPIONSHIP MEETS**

## SUMMARY

This practice establishes standard qualifications and methods for officiating at championship meets conducted by or under the sanction of Virginia Swimming.

## ISSUE

Championship meets are the meets that the athletes and coaches within Virginia Swimming focus on from the outset of each season. Athletes are trained to perform at their maximum potential at championship meets and deserve nothing less than the very best in officiating that Virginia Swimming can provide.

## TRIAL

Many, but not all, championship meets in Virginia have used some protocol close to the one set forth in this practice. The ones where this protocol or a similar protocol was used were generally evaluated as more successful and better officiated.

## COMMITTEE DECISION

The Virginia Swimming Officials Committee is publishing this recommended practice to take effect throughout the LSC commencing with the 2002 Short Course season:

### **Meet Protocols:**

*To the extent possible with the staffing available, the National Championship protocols shall be utilized at all LSC and Regional Championship Meets with the following exceptions:*

- *Timing shall not be accomplished by the deck officials so two chairs behind each lane will be staffed by timers.*
- *Relay take-off judging will be assigned to Chief Judges, and “off-duty” starters and referees.*
- *Deck officials (not timers) will ring bells over each lane in distance events.*

*All lane personnel shall be provided with a chair to sit in except when actually performing their assigned function.*

*During finals sessions of LSC and Regional Championship Meets where the athletes “parade” to the blocks and/or are announced by name, all meet personnel are expected to conspicuously applaud all athletes.*

### **Training Opportunities:**

**LSC Championship Meets** (Senior Championship, Age Group Championship and similar meets) shall **not** be used for training officials except that referee apprentices may complete administrative referee training under supervision of the assigned Administrative Referee. All officials working the meet shall have satisfactorily completed any probationary period(s) for the position(s) worked. When approved in advance by the National Officials Committee, training for National Certification (initial, upgrade and renewal) shall be available to any official meeting the criteria established by USA Swimming.

**Regional Championship Meets** (A/BB Championship, B/C Championship, Summer Awards) may be used for limited training of apprentices subject to the discretion of the meet referee as follows:

- *Administrative apprentices must have completed at least four (4) training sessions with positive ratings, including the familiarization sessions at other administrative positions. Final sessions and certification may occur if all requirements are met.*
- *Stroke & Turn apprentices must have completed at least four (4) training sessions with positive ratings. Final (“whites”) sessions may **not** be accomplished, nor may final certification.*
- *Starter apprentices must have completed at least five (5) training sessions with positive ratings. Final sessions and certification may occur if all other requirements are met.*
- *Referee apprentices must have completed a significant number of sessions and have the positive recommendation of their Regional Officials Chair. Referees may complete administrative referee training.*

*Other championship-format meets run by individual host clubs provide additional opportunities for specialized training in the administrative aspects of trials and finals as well as for all other types and forms of training, including initial sessions.*

### **Referee Responsibilities:**

*The Meet Referee assigned or selected for LSC or Regional Championship Meets must ensure not only fair and equitable judging of all*

*swimmers, but also is to provide a deck populated with the exceptional competence befitting a championship meet. Given the available personnel, this may mean that the Meet Referee will have to initiate or accept minor deviations from this policy, however all such deviations should be documented in writing stating the reasons wherefore. Situationally necessary or appropriate deviations may include adopting a more restrictive approach to training or experience.*

*Deck Referees must pay particular attention to balancing the deck at LSC or Regional Championship Meets and shall make those mid-session adjustments required after consultation with the Meet Referee.*

The Officials Committee welcomes thoughts, comments, concerns, and experiences with this procedure from the VSI officiating and coaching community.

Adopted: 8 September 2002