

Virginia Swimming, Inc.
Officials Committee
RECOMMENDED PRACTICE

OFFICIALS ATTIRE

Revised 31 October 2004

SUMMARY

Effective with the 2004/2005 short course season, the recommended officials' uniform for VSI championship meets has been modified as described below.

ISSUE

The recommended officials' uniform for VSI championship meets has generally reflected that worn on National Championship decks. Current practice at national championship level meets is for the dress at finals to be of a more professional look than that used during prelims, and for all members of the officiating team to dress in a similar fashion. While recent practice in VSI has been for the officials to have a more professional look for finals, it has also been the practice to dress the referees, starters, and chief judges differently than the remainder of the officiating team.

COMMITTEE DECISION

The Virginia Swimming Officials Committee has determined that: (1) the current uniform used for non-championship meets and prelims in championship meets is appropriate and should remain the standard; (2) the practice of using a more professional level of dress for finals in comparison to prelims is appropriate and should be continued; (3) no distinction in uniform should be made for different members of the officiating team; and (4) the uniform for finals is to be as described below.

Attire for non-championship (timed finals) and prelims in championship level meets

Shirt: The shirt worn shall be plain white, with a collar, and long or short sleeve. Female officials may wear sleeveless collared shirts. Logos may appear on the shirt, however, the logo shall be restricted to the front of the shirt, and the sleeve area. The logos may not contain, or represent the following: alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, VSI member team names or logos, or suggestive/offensive messages. A Meet Shirt provided by USA Swimming, or Virginia Swimming is acceptable. The shirt shall be tucked in to the pants, shorts, or skirts, at all times while on deck.

Shorts/Pants/Skirts: These items shall be navy blue in color. Cutoffs of any type are not allowed. The length of the shorts, and skirts, shall be in keeping with the standards of acceptable attire for the sport of swimming. Jeans are not appropriate attire for officials on the deck.

Socks: Socks, if worn, should be plain white. Manufacturer's logos should be subdued.

Footwear: Athletic shoes are preferred. If they are worn, they should be as white as possible, with little or no color and avoiding to the extent possible bold and brightly colored logos and stripes. Sandals are also acceptable; however it is recommended that any sandals worn should have a heel strap to assist in keeping the sandal securely on the foot.

Attire for finals sessions in championship level meets

Shirt: Powder blue, short sleeve, oxford dress shirt. Additional provisions indicated above for shirts also apply.

Pants/Skirts: Navy blue pants (not shorts) or skirts. Jeans are not appropriate attire.

Socks and Footwear: As described above.

Deviations: Meet Referees at championship meets may establish meet-specific or session-specific dress codes that deviate from the above if he or she deems appropriate. For example, blue polo shirts might be chosen for all of the finals sessions, or Hawaiian shirts might be chosen for a particular evening.

Enforcement: Referees are expected to set an appropriate example in their personal attire and work to develop a clear understanding of the concept of uniform appearance among the officials. This practice document is intended to apply to all officials—"dry deck" and "wet deck" alike. A certain degree of latitude is available, especially if faced with a decision that pits adequate staffing against full compliance with these standards.

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

Approved: 9 June 2002
Revised: 31 October 2004