

VSI Officiating Update

No. 8

12 October 2006

Welcome Back and Welcome

If you're a returning official, welcome back. If you're a new trainee, we're glad to have you on deck. If you're thinking about becoming an official let us know and we'll get you started.

A major purpose of the Officials Committee is provide training and mentorship to all our officials and trainees. Please let us know if you have questions or suggestions on how we can better meet that goal. Contact information can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Communications (Can you hear me now?)

The officiating ranks in VSI have nearly 500 certified officials and 50-100 trainees at any given time. Good communications is frequently a challenge and this is particularly true when dealing with an all volunteer force spread out over a large geographical area.

One primary means of communications is the [VSI Website](#). In addition to a wealth of information about all aspects of swimming within our LSC, there is also a large section of the site devoted to officiating. If you're looking for information there's a good chance you'll find it here.

E-mail is another means by which we communicate, but to communicate in this fashion we must have your current e-mail address. These are kept with our roster of officials and are available on the website. If your e-mail address changes please contact [Tom Colasurdo](#) with the update.

Our communications network functions much like an old fashioned telephone tree. A key component of this network is the Club Officials Chair. Many messages are sent to the Club Officials Chair who is then responsible for forwarding the message to the club's officials and trainees. If you're the Officials Chair for your club please forward any communications that you receive.

Speaking of the Club Officials Chair...

Some of you may have volunteered to be your Club Officials Chair while others of you may have been

drafted into the position. However you came by the position it comes with some important responsibilities.

Among the responsibilities of the position are communications, recruitment of new officials, helping trainees get certified, providing updates for the officials roster, and recruiting meet officials. To help you along the way we've prepared a [Club Officials Chairs](#) bulletin that spells out the details.

Don't forget to forward this newsletter after you've finished reading it!

VSI Officials Handbook

As an aid to both our certified officials and trainees we've put together a comprehensive [VSI Officials Handbook](#) that brings together a host of information that was previously available in a number of different documents. The handbook provides an introduction to officiating, covers the certification and recertification process, and a whole lot more. Download it and give it a read. It might even answer a question you didn't know you had.

New & Improved Training Material

Updated training information is now available for a number of officiating positions and includes [Timer Certification](#), [Stroke & Turn Certification](#), [Starter Certification](#), and [Referee Certification](#).

Use of this information at clinics will help ensure that our trainees are starting with a common body of knowledge. This information will also serve as a great refresher for our certified officials. Whether you've been certified for one year or twenty, please read through the information.

Recertification

Recertification is now ongoing for the 2007 calendar year. The recertification requirements are detailed in the [VSI Officials Handbook](#). The District Officials Chairs will be in contact with you to let you know how the process will be done in their respective districts.

Three important points to remember – 1. Recertification is not automatic, it must be initiated

by the individual official. 2. Certification will lapse for any official not recertifying prior to January 1, 2007. Although renewal can be accomplished in 2007, you cannot officiate until you do so. 3. Stroke & Turn Officials, Starters, and Referees must also renew their VSI/USA Swimming membership for 2007. Officiating at these latter positions requires both certification and membership.

Referee recertification is done through the VSI Officials Chair. Details will be sent shortly.

Handling Requests for Relay Splits and Initial Splits

Occasionally requests are made at meets by swimmers or coaches for relay or initial distance splits. As there's been some confusion as to how to handle these requests we've put together an information sheet [Relay and Initial Distance Splits](#) that will be of help to Referees and Recorders.

Questions?

Do you have a question about officiating or a tip you'd like to share? Is there a rule that you'd like to have clarified? Is there something that you'd like to see the Officials Committee do? Do you have a suggestion for a future item in this newsletter?

If so, please send your questions/comments to Kevin Hogan (Chair, VSI Officials Committee, kevinhogan56@earthlink.net).

VSI Officials Committee Members

Chairperson

Kevin Hogan
434-964-1944

kevinhogan56@earthlink.net

Southeast District Co-Chairs

Mike Willard Cathy Rudolph
757-564-4480 757-496-3622

jefwilfam@cox.net clrtarheel@yahoo.com

Central District Co-Chairs

Pat Donohue George Smith
804-740-5553 804-883-1064

usdonohues@aol.com gsmithstrategicd@earthlink.net

Southwest District Co-Chairs

Avis Aheron David Strider
540-774-0010 434-973-4832

avisaheron@hotmail.com dvs7e@virginia.edu

North District Co-Chairs

Skip Gaskill
703-583-0965

gaskills@comcast.net

Wally Hunt
540-834-0415

hunt66@highstream.net

At-Large

Mary Turner
804-352-5451

myturner@nesbeonline.com

Swimposium

Tom Elliott
804-360-5001

telliott@courts.state.va.us

Masters Swimming Representative

Charles Cockrell, Jr.
757-865-6270

cockrell@usms.org

Officials Database

Tom Colasurdo
(757) 424-3943

misterconductor@verizon.net

Ex Officio

George Homewood
757-229-2688

gmhomewood@co.newkent.state.va.us