

# VSI Officiating Update

No. 10

18 May 2007

## Congratulations

The VSI House of Delegates met April 29, 2007, and elected a new Board of Directors and Board of Review. The new Board takes office on September 1 and serves a two year term. Represented among the newly elected are several officials –

General Chair – Mary Turner

Administrative Vice Chair – David Strider

Secretary – Jessica Simons

Treasurer – Bill Geiszler

Board of Review – George Homewood and Avis Aheron

A big thank you to these individuals for not only serving on deck, but behind the scenes as well.

## 2007 USA Swimming Rules & Regulations

The 2007 USA Swimming Rules & Regulations went into effect on May 15, 2007. While the technical rules of swimming did not see any changes this year, there is a surprise for those who haven't yet looked at the new rulebook.

The starting protocol which was previously part of the Starter job description has now been moved to the very beginning of the rules. That's right, it now precedes the rules for the breaststroke. The rules now start with the start (yes, there was logic involved in the move) and then go into the individual strokes and relays.

If you're used to looking for a rule in a particular place it would be good to familiarize yourself with the new layout before you need to find the reference while discussing a disqualification at a meet.

## Change in Long Course Championship Dates

Due to pool availability there have been some significant changes in the meet schedule for the long course season. Please note the following:

July 13-15: Summer Awards. There is currently only one venue for the meet. The Technical Planning Committee is still looking for a second bid.

July 19-22: Age Group Championships at Midtown Aquatic Center. (Originally scheduled for July 26-29).

July 26-29: Senior Championships at GMU-Fairfax. (Originally scheduled for July 19-22).

Application will be made to have both the Age Group meet and the Senior meet designated as Officials Qualifying meets.

Please help us provide championship level officiating at these meets!

## Swimposium Weekend Scheduled

Mark your calendars for October 6-7, 2007. This will be a busy weekend with the Swimposium, committee meetings, BOD meeting, HOD meeting, and Annual Awards Banquet.

A major component of the Swimposium will cover officiating. A Referee training clinic will also be included. Details to come...

## Advanced VSI Certifications Now Available for Administrative Positions

The current National Officials Certification Program recognizes the S&T, Starter, Chief Judge, Deck Referee, and Administrative Referee positions, but it does not recognize Timing Equipment Operator, Timing Judge, or Recorder.

To encourage officials with these latter certifications to continue to hone their skills, to reward officials for having done so, and to develop a pool of talented individuals who are qualified to perform these functions at championship level meets, we've created advanced VSI-level certifications (V2).

Advanced certification will be available at VSI meets that are designated as National Officials Qualifying Meets. The evaluation records for these certifications can be found on the [Virginia Swimming Officials Training](#) page of the VSI website.

## National Certification Requirements Simplified

The National Officials Committee recently issued revised National Certification guidelines. The new guidelines can be found on the [certifications](#) page of the USA Swimming website. These guidelines are greatly simplified in comparison to the previous guidelines.

The text of the Change Highlights document follows-

### **April 2007 – Change Highlights**

*The National Certification program remains essentially the same as published in January of 2006. The documentation has been edited to reduce the number of overlaps.*

*All “participation” requirements to advance to N3 in a position and to re-certify in all N2 and N3 positions remain the same.*

*Evaluations still remain as only part of the requirement to advance and re-certify.*

*Advancement to N3 Chief Judge, N3 Starter, N3 Deck Referee or N3 Administrative Referee still requires a candidate to work as an official in any position (usually Stroke and Turn Judge) in at least one National Championship level meet in the 5 years prior the application date (5 years was inserted as a limit). This is considered part of the “education” process for advancement to the N3 level in those positions.*

*Completion of all requirements and completion and submittal of applications for advancement and re-certification remains the responsibility of the applicant.*

### **Some requirements have been modified as follows:**

- 1. At least 4 sessions (Time Trial sessions do not count) working as an official at an approved Officials Qualifying Meet (OQM) is required for an evaluation (advancement or re-certification) to be valid regardless of the number of sessions evaluated. The graduated number of sessions at an OQM requirement has been dropped, except for National Championship Meets where attendance at all sessions, unless excused by the National Officials Chair, is required.*
- 2. At least 4 sessions (Time Trial sessions do not count) working as an official at an OQM is required for the meet to be counted as a “participation” meet. OQMs where an official is evaluated also count for participation.*

3. *National re-certification evaluation requirements have been simplified -*

- Two evaluated sessions as an Administrative Referee or Deck Referee will complete the evaluation requirements for those positions and CJ and S&T.*
- Two evaluated sessions as Chief Judge will satisfy CJ and S&T recertification evaluation requirements.*
- Two evaluated as S&T Judge will satisfy S&T recertification evaluation requirements.*
- If an N2 or N3 Starter certification is to be renewed, two evaluated Starter sessions will satisfy Starter and S&T recertification evaluation requirements.*

*See - National Officials Certification Program - Re-certification Requirements.*

4. *Evaluations for advancement to N2 may now only be done at approved OQMs, each evaluation over at least 3 sessions for each position.*

5. *All Evaluators for OQMs must be approved before the meet as part of the OQM application process. The meet approval will indicate the types of evaluations that may be offered and the authority of the Evaluators. FINAL evaluations do not have to be pre-approved by the National Officials Chair if the OQM and Evaluators are approved for FINAL evaluations and candidates are eligible.*

6. *Prior, or concurrent, N3 Chief Judge certification for advancement to N3 Deck Referee has been changed from “required” to “recommended.”*

7. *Reference to “N1” as a certification level has been changed to “LSC” certification in the position. When used as a prerequisite, LSC certification in a position assumes an experienced official capable of working without close supervision. (NOTE: The VSI Officials Committee has chosen to retain the N1 designation in our certification program)*

---

## Travel Reimbursement Available for Officiating at National Level Officials Qualifying Meets

The following policy has been adopted by the Officials Committee-

Purpose - To encourage Virginia Swimming officials to participate in Officials Qualifying Meets outside our LSC in order to improve the level of officiating within the LSC by:

- Exposing our officials to higher level meets allowing them to interact with officials from other LSCs and to learn/reinforce protocols, rules applications / interpretations, and situation resolution.
- Providing additional opportunities for advancement / sustainment within the National Officials Certification Program.
- Developing / sustaining National Evaluators and Mentors to support advancement and training opportunities at our LSC meets.

Virginia Swimming officials who officiate an Officials Qualifying Meet outside our LSC may be reimbursed actual travel-related expenses not to exceed on a per meet basis the maximal budgeted amount available to Virginia Swimming athletes attending Short Course or Long Course National Championships. In order to receive the reimbursement, a Virginia Swimming official must meet these eligibility criteria:

- Be registered with Virginia Swimming as an official for at least one year prior to the meet and be registered with USA Swimming through Virginia Swimming as an official during the time of the meet for which reimbursement is requested.
- Have worked a minimum of 8 sessions in at least 4 meets sanctioned by Virginia Swimming plus at least 3 sessions of a Virginia Swimming LSC Championships meet in the twelve months prior to the meet.
- Have worked all sessions (and have received an evaluation from a National Evaluator) of the meet for which reimbursement is requested.
- Prior to the date of the Officials Qualifying Meet, notify the VSI Officials Chair of the intent to request reimbursement.
- Submit a completed Virginia Swimming Officials Travel Expenses Reimbursement Form to the LSC Officials Chair no later than 30 days after completion of the meet for which reimbursement is requested.

Officials Qualifying Meets are those meets (other than those hosted by Virginia Swimming) approved by the National Officials Committee for National Certification evaluations. These meets include

Eastern Zone Championships, *Speedo Champions Series* (Sectional Championships), Grand Prix meets, US Open, World Cup, and USA Swimming Championships level meets identified in USA Swimming Rules and Regulations, Article 207.1.

Travel-related expenses are reasonable and customary coach air fare, hotel room, rental car, gas, and parking fees (receipts must accompany the request).

A Virginia Swimming official may receive a travel expenses reimbursement for no more than two meets per fiscal year (1 September – 31 August).

A Virginia Swimming official (in an assigned position) may not receive more than their actual expenses in travel expenses reimbursement from USA Swimming/Meet Host and Virginia Swimming combined.

All requests for reimbursement will be accumulated over the fiscal year and disbursed at the conclusion of the Long Course season, subject to the provisions indicated above.

The VSI Officials Committee may waive an eligibility criterion under special circumstances.

---

### **National Certification – Individual Follow-up Needed to Complete the Certification/Recertification Process**

The National Evaluator performing your evaluation should give you either an oral or written evaluation. The process doesn't end here though, and requires some additional effort on your part. Once you've completed all the necessary requirements the following material should be sent to the VSI Officials Chair (Kevin Hogan, 3020 Amberfield Trail, Charlottesville, VA 22911):

- Completed certification/re-certification application
- Copy of any applicable evaluation reports if they've been given to you
- Check in the amount of \$5.00 payable to USA Swimming
- Stamped, pre-addressed (Member Services, USA Swimming, 1 Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909) envelope

The Officials Chair will then review, sign, and forward the application to USA Swimming. A certification card listing the current certifications

and expiration date will then be issued by USA Swimming and will be sent directly to you.

---

## 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](mailto:kevinhogan56@earthlink.net)).

---

## VSI Officials Committee Members

### Chairperson

Kevin Hogan  
434-964-1944  
[kevinhogan56@earthlink.net](mailto:kevinhogan56@earthlink.net)

### Southeast District Co-Chairs

Mike Willard	Cathy Rudolph
757-564-4480	757-496-3622
<a href="mailto:jefwilfam@cox.net">jefwilfam@cox.net</a>	<a href="mailto:clrtarheel@yahoo.com">clrtarheel@yahoo.com</a>

### Central District Co-Chairs

Pat Donohue	George Smith
804-740-5553	804-883-1064
<a href="mailto:usdonohues@aol.com">usdonohues@aol.com</a>	<a href="mailto:gsmithstrategicd@earthlink.net">gsmithstrategicd@earthlink.net</a>

### Southwest District Co-Chairs

Avis Aheron	David Strider
540-774-0010	434-973-4832
<a href="mailto:avisaheron@hotmail.com">avisaheron@hotmail.com</a>	<a href="mailto:dvs7e@virginia.edu">dvs7e@virginia.edu</a>

### North District Co-Chairs

Jim Frye	Wally Hunt
540-582-3238	540-834-0415
<a href="mailto:jamfrye@comcast.net">jamfrye@comcast.net</a>	<a href="mailto:hunt66@highstream.net">hunt66@highstream.net</a>

### At-Large

Mary Turner  
804-352-5451  
[myturner@nesbeonline.com](mailto:myturner@nesbeonline.com)

### Swimposium

Tom Elliott  
804-360-5001  
[telliott@courts.state.va.us](mailto:telliott@courts.state.va.us)

### Masters Swimming Representative

Charles Cockrell, Jr.  
757-865-6270  
[cockrell@usms.org](mailto:cockrell@usms.org)

### Officials Database

Tom Colasurdo  
(757) 424-3943  
[misterconductor@verizon.net](mailto:misterconductor@verizon.net)

### National Certifications

Michael Downs  
757-874-8911  
[mhd@cox.net](mailto:mhd@cox.net)

### Ex Officio

George Homewood  
757-229-2688  
[gmhomewood@co.newkent.state.va.us](mailto:gmhomewood@co.newkent.state.va.us)