

VSI Officiating Update

No. #19

19 May 2009

2009 Rulebook In Effect

It's time to retire your 2008 rulebooks as the 2009 rulebook went into effect beginning 15 May 2009.

Rule 102.9.1.A now states that "swimsuits worn for all 12 & under age group defined competition shall not cover the neck, extend past the shoulder, nor past the knee." Note that this restriction only applies in 12 & under competition, a 12 year old could, for example, wear a suit that does not conform to this requirement when participating in an event listed as Senior.

The USA-S Rules & Regulations Committee has recognized that in some instances this rule might be discriminatory for medical or religious reasons. Exemptions to the rule can be granted but only by the Chair of the USA-S Rules & Regulations Committee. If an exemption is granted the committee chair will issue an exemption letter which must be provided to the Meet Referee. It is the responsibility of the swimmer to obtain the exemption; in the absence of such a letter no accommodation should be made. The details of the process can be found in the latest [interpretations](#) document.

Relay Take-off Dual Confirmation Mechanics

When determining the placement of relay take-off judges it should be remembered that the preferred placement of the judges is opposite one another rather than adjacent to one another. For example, when using two judges for a six lane pool, one judge is placed on the lane one side and the other judge is placed on the lane six side. Four judges with an eight lane pool lends itself to two pairs of judges – one set with one judge stationed adjacent to lane one and the second judge between lanes four and five; the second set with one judge stationed adjacent to lane eight and the second judge also between lanes four and five.

In some cases, such as when a diving well is adjacent to the start end of the pool, it is necessary to station the judges for the same lanes next to one another. If this has to be done the judges should not talk to one another during the event so that there is no appearance of sharing information independent of what is being individually recorded

on the relay take-off slips. Even if the take-offs are not being discussed, talking during the event can raise a question that need not be raised.

DQ Slips

Please remember that we're trying to promote uniformity in how DQ slips are filled out. Towards this end, we have a [recommended practice](#) on how to do so. It is recommended that Referees spend some time during the stroke briefing reviewing this procedure.

Meet Referee and Meet Planning

The Meet Referee is one of the key individuals involved in running a meet. The Meet Referee needs to be identified as part of the sanctioning process, but it is important to remember that during the meet planning stages the Meet Referee is more than just a name on a piece of paper.

The Meet Referee should be involved in reviewing the Meet Invitation prior to its being submitted for approval. The primary purpose of this review is to ensure that the Meet Invitation is technically correct and makes sense from the point of view of the Meet Referee. Remember, you can't enforce what you don't understand.

It is also important to involve the Meet Referee in the staffing of the meet. While the Club Officials Chair might be responsible for finding the volunteers, the Meet Referee is ultimately responsible for staffing the deck. The sooner the Meet Referee is brought into the process, the more likely things are to go smoothly at the meet.

USA-S Officials Tracking System (OTS)

For those of you who have participated in the National Officials certification process, OTS is already somewhat familiar. For those of you who are not familiar with OTS, the system is basically a massive database of officials. Among other things, OTS contains all USA-S registered officials, their national certification status, their participation in national certification meets, their participation in local meets (up until now only if added by the

individual official), and their participation in mentoring and educational activities.

OTS has now been upgraded to allow us to track Virginia Swimming level certifications (apprentice, certified, N1, V1, V2; note, where we are currently using N1 we will need to replace it with V1 as the system reserves levels beginning with "N" for national use only). Over the course of the next month we will be moving this information to the OTS database.

We are beginning to track participation in local meets with the hope that we can ultimately eliminate the use of the individual certification cards that are currently used to track sessions worked. In the meantime, don't stop using those cards!

As we implement the new system we'll keep you informed as to our progress and what it means for you.

Meet Referee Reports

As the final close-out to a meet we have been requiring Meet Referees to submit a Post-Meet Referee's Report (available in [Word](#) and [PDF](#) formats). With our shifting to the use of OTS for tracking our meets we're modifying the procedure that we've used in the past.

At the end of each meet the Meet Referee needs to submit the following (if we don't receive the information within a week of the meet we'll send you reminder messages):

Post-Meet Referee Report: Only page one needs to be filled out. The simplest thing to do is to fill it out in Word (or include the information directly in an e-mail) and send it to [Kevin Hogan](#).

List of Officials Working the Meet: Rather than providing this information on a session by session basis we will need a meet summary. For each individual working the meet we will need to know the number of sessions worked at each position (for example, 2 DR, 1 CJ, 4 ST). This information should be sent to [Tom Colasurdo](#) (with a copy to Kevin Hogan) who will enter the information. Eventually, we'd like to shift to the Meet Referee entering the information, but initially Tom has volunteered to do so. If, however, you (the Meet Referee) would like to enter the information that can be done as well, but please let Tom know if you decide to do so. Instructions for doing so are on the OTS website.

In the near future we'll post updated forms for handling the above items.

LSC Championship Meets

Senior Champs – July 23-26, Triangle Aquatic Center, Cary, NC.

Age Group Champs – July 30-August 2, Midtown Aquatics Center, Newport News.

Applications to officiate these meets will be out shortly. Staffing our long course meets is typically a bit more challenging than staffing our short course meets so please volunteer if you can.

Eastern Zone Championship Meets

Eastern Zone R1/R2 Long Course Speedo Championship – August 6-9, Buffalo, NY.

Eastern Zone Age Group Championship – August 12-15, Penn State.

Applications to officiate at these meets can be found [here](#).

Swimposium Dates

The annual Swimposium will be held October 3, 2009. We're presently looking at a day focused on "How to Run a Swim Meet." The Swimposium should be of interest to officials, meet directors, meet entry personnel, and all those who help to make our meets happen. If you have any suggested topics please let us know.

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, swim@embarqmail.com).

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