

# VSI Officiating Update

No. 6

29 December 2005

## 'Tis the Season...

...to be thankful! Thank you to each of you for volunteering your time and talents for the benefit of our athletes. It is through your efforts that we consistently provide well run meets that hold to the standard of providing fair and equitable standards of competition for all the swimmers.

Thank you!

## Recertification

If you haven't already done so it is time to recertify. All officials are certified on an annual basis with certification running through December 31. If you don't recertify prior to the end of 2005 your certification will lapse beginning January 1, 2006, and you will not be able to officiate in 2006 until you have done so. Recertification is done through your District Co-Chairs unless you are a Referee in which case recertification is done through the LSC Officials Chair. Contact information is available at the end of this newsletter.

If you're unsure of what it takes to recertify the requirements can be found in the [VSI Officials Certification/Recertification Guidelines](#). Also, please feel free to contact your District Co-Chair or the VSI Officials Chair.

## New National Officials Certification Program

As previewed in the previous newsletter, the National Officials Committee has now implemented a new national level certification program. National and National Championship designations are being replaced by N2 and N3 designations. The N1 designation is implemented at the LSC level and is basically equivalent to an experienced LSC level certification.

The major impetus behind this change is that it is viewed as a program that certifies an individual as having the skills required to work at meet at a particular level, rather than a program that recognizes an individual for having worked a meet at a particular level.

The details of the program, as well as the highlights and background of the program can be found on

the [certification section](#) of the USA-S website. The VSI Officials Committee is working towards implementing the new program and details will be provided as they become available.

## Policy and Procedures of VSI Manual

At the last VSI House of Delegates meeting the VSI Policy Manual was updated, rearranged, and renamed the "[Policy and Procedures of Virginia Swimming, Inc.](#)" manual. Many sections of this manual are an important read for Referees and a copy of the manual should be included in every Referee's reference material that is brought to a meet.

Important highlights of the manual include the following:

*Policy C.2. For each stroke and distance, the level classification of the swimmer will be that of the highest level achieved whether in a 25 yard, 25 meter, or 50 meter course.*

This means, for example, that a swimmer with a "B" time in 50 Y Free, an "NT" in 50 SCM Free, and a "A" time in 50 LCM Free is considered to be an "A" level swimmer for all three events (including the 50 Y Free and the 50 SCM). Thus, this swimmer would not be eligible to swim the 50 Y Free at a meet in which the eligibility requirements stated that the swimmer could compete in any events in which they had no faster than a "BB", "B", or "C" time. This applies not only to swimming the 50 M Freestyle in a long course meet (the event in which the swimmer has the "A" level time), but also to the 50 Y Freestyle and 50 SCM Freestyle. The swimmer would, however, be able to swim the event at a meet requiring an "A" or above time.

Also, when classifying the swimmer, the 400 M and 500 Y Free, the 800 M and 1000 Y Free, and the 1500 M Free and 1650 Y Free are considered equivalent events.

Although the above is a long standing VSI policy, it is a policy that has escaped notice by officials and coaches alike. The policy has been communicated to all the Head Coaches and Club Representatives in the past six months, and it is being communicated here to the officials. Hopefully, with increased communication, the problems associated

with non-adherence to this policy will be on the wane.

*Policy C.3. Relay Events: A swimmer may participate on a relay when the stroke and distance of his leg of the relay is not faster than the time permitted to enter that stroke and distance as an individual event in the meet. If a swimmer betters the maximum entry time in the same meet, the swimmer may still compete on the relay.*

Following from the example above, if the swimmer was not eligible to swim the 50 Y Freestyle at a meet because they had an "A" level time and the entry provisions required that they have no master than a "BB" level time, they would also be ineligible to swim the 200 Y Freestyle Relay at that same meet.

*Policy C.5. If a swimmer betters an entry time after the entries have been submitted so that it is faster than the meet permits, the swimmer shall not participate in that event. The swimmer must notify the meet director who may allow the swimmer to select an alternate event. If an alternate event is not available, the entry fee should be refunded.*

Pretty self explanatory, but the bottom line is that the swimmer and the swimmer's coach are responsible for ensuring that they are only entered in events for which they are eligible.

Policy C.6 deals with Penalties and Fines and C.6.b.ii states that *"A swimmer illegally participating in an event shall be disqualified and the event rescored and awarded."*

In practice, recent instances of such swims that have been brought before the VSI Board of Directors have been dealt with by having the swim recorded as an exhibition swim rather than a disqualification. A change to the VSI Policies is being proposed and may be adopted that will align the current policy with the current practice. The bottom line is that if the illegal swim is discovered after the competition has taken place, the results must be corrected so that the illegal swims do not take away places and awards away from legitimate swims. Until the policy is formally changed, it would be best to disqualify any known illegal swims. As a follow-up, any such swims need to be reported as per policy C.6.c which states that *"Meet officials will immediately report violations to the VSI Administrative Vice Chairman or General Chairman who will bring the issue to the VSI Board of Directors or Executive Committee."* The BOD can then determine if listing the swim as exhibition is a more appropriate penalty.

Policy I requires that coaches have their coaching credentials visible (on their person) at all meets. Prior to each meet, Louise Limerick also sends the Meet Referee a listing of all coaches with expired credentials. This policy ensures that only properly certified coaches are acting in a coaching capacity at our meets.

Policy M requires *"A minimum of two Marshals will be present at all VSI sanctioned meets. They will be responsible to the meet referee(s) and the meet director and perform duties as outlined in USA Swimming Rules and Regulations. Marshals must be current, registered non-athlete members in good standing of USA Swimming. The minimum acceptable age for Marshals will be 18 years of age."*

While not a comprehensive listing from the manual, the above policies highlight those areas that most directly impact on running a meet. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the manual so that you're ready for the above situations should they arise.

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## Championship Meet Dates

When planning your weekends for 2006 please keep the following dates in mind:

February 17-19, District Champs, 4 locations  
February 24-26, Regional Champs, 3 locations  
March 9-12, Senior Champs at UVA (note that a Thursday evening distance session has been added to this meet)  
March 16-19, Age Group Champs at Radford

Applications to officiate at Senior Champs and Age Group Champs will be out in January.

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## Computer to CTS Connection with No COM Port

Colorado Timing publishes a monthly [e-newsletter](#) (you can subscribe by following the directions on the newsletter; there is no apparent link to the newsletter on the Colorado Timing website), a recent one of which explained how to connect your computer to a CTS when your computer has a USB port but no COM port. The instructions are as follows:

*"To resolve this, Colorado Time Systems suggests the use of a USB-to-COM port adaptor. This adaptor can be found at most computer supply stores, and we recommend the Belkin brand*

*adaptors for this use. The most typical COM port settings will apply to the setup of the USB adaptor. These settings are: 9600 bits per second, 8 data bits, no parity, 1 stop bit and no flow control. Install the USB-to-COM port adaptor according to the manufacturer instructions making sure that the manufacturer supplied device drivers are loaded into the operating system to insure proper operation."*

*"Use a 9-pin RS-232 cable with a straight through pin configuration and a male end on one end and a female end on the other."*

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## 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)) .

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## VSI Officials Committee Members

### Chairperson

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### Southeast District Co-Chairs

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## Officials Database

(Probably filled now!)

## Ex Officio

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