

VSI Officiating Update

No. #22

29 March 2010

Thank You!

Four District Champs, three Regional champs, one Senior Champs, and one Age Group Champs. And that's just within our LSC. Then there's Sectionals this past weekend and Zones soon to come. Thank you to everyone who worked these meets. We can't do it without you.

Officiating Skills – Self Evaluation

For many, the end of the Championship season means no more officiating until the short course season starts anew in the Fall. For others, it signals a brief respite before the start of the long course season. No matter which category you fit in, it's a perfect time to reflect back on the past season and to evaluate your performance.

Joel Black, Officials Chair for North Carolina Swimming, and Co-Chair of the USA Swimming Officials Committee, has authored a short paper entitled "*The Swimming Official – 10 Points of Self-Evaluation.*" The complete paper can be found on the Officials Section of the VSI website. The paper is a must read for anyone wishing to improve as an official. The paper expands on the following ten questions:

1. Did I blow any calls?
2. Were there any times when it was fortunate that I didn't have to make a call?
3. Did I do everything I could to ensure a just outcome?
4. Were my calls/decisions consistent?
5. Did I fail to maintain proper control at any time?
6. When did I feel most vulnerable to outside influences?
7. Were there any situations where I avoided or usurped responsibility for a ruling at the expense of another official?
8. Was there anything about my signals, gestures or style that evoked an unexpected or unwanted response?

9. Did I uphold, defend or rationalize any improper rulings?

10. Was there a particular aspect of my performance that I could work on at the next meet?

Providing honest answers to these questions will help you to grow as an official. None of us has worked the perfect meet, but by determining where our weakness lie, we lay the foundation for improving our officiating skills.

National Certification Follow-Up Reminder

We had a large number of officials who had national certification evaluations performed at either Senior Champs or Age Group Champs. Please remember that obtaining your evaluation is only one of the steps towards national certification. An additional step, and the most forgotten one, is that you must go OTS on the USA-S website and submit an electronic application. After your application has been approved (usually 7-10 days) your new certification will show up in OTS after about an additional week for processing. Please send any questions to Kevin Hogan or Michael Downs.

2010 USA Swimming Rules and Regulations

Effective May 1, 2010, Part 1 of the rulebook goes into effect with the exception that rules in effect on the first day of a meet are used throughout the meet. This means that a meet starting on April 30 and ending on May 2 is governed by the 2009 edition of the rulebook.

On-Line Testing Break

On April 15 the online tests will be deactivated so that the annual revisions can be made to bring the tests current with the 2010 rulebook. If taking a test before April 15, continue to use the 2009 rulebook and be sure to complete any tests prior to that date. The new tests will be activated on May 1, at which time the 2010 rulebook should be used.

Officials Training

If you began your officials training at the beginning of the short course season it is important to remember that the training needs to be completed within one year of your clinic attendance date. If you're in need of additional sessions, the long course season provides a great opportunity to finish up.

Officiating Long Course Meets

Long course meets present challenges not only for the swimmers but also for officials. While many of our short course venues preclude us from walking the sides of the pool, this isn't the case with long course pools. One challenge is being fit enough to not only walk the sides, but to walk fast enough to keep up with the swimmers. Maybe this is the motivation you need to begin that fitness program you've been putting off!

Long course meets also present environmental challenges. Heat is a big factor and isn't restricted to outdoor venues. Hydrate early and often, or on the deck may mean just that.

Finally, when working at an outside venue, remember the American Cancer Society's recommendations for protection from the sun – slip, slop, slap, and wrap. *Slip* on protective clothing and cover up as much as possible. *Slop* on sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or greater. *Slap* on a hat. *Wrap* on a pair of sunglasses.

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).

VSI Officials Committee Members

Chairperson

Kevin Hogan
434-964-1944
swim@embarqmail.com

Ex Officio

David Strider
434-973-4832
dvs7e@virginia.edu

District Chairs

Southeast

Tom Colasurdo
757-424-3943
misterconductor@verizon.net

Southwest

Avis Aheron
540-774-0010
avisaheron@hotmail.com

Central

George Smith
804-883-6118
gsmithstrategiccd@earthlink.net

North

Jim Frye
540-582-3238
jfrye84584@aol.com

At-Large Representatives

Tom Elliott
804-360-5001
telliott81949@gmail.com

Stephanie Suhling
540-720-1474
ssuhling@yahoo.com

Pat Donohue
804-740-5553
usdonohues@aol.com

Wally Hunt
540-834-0415
hunt66@highstream.net

Bryan Wallin
804-389-2438
thewallin5@comcast.net

Janet Sheffer
540-433-9519
janet.sheffer@millercoorsl.com

Dave Bihl
434-817-0051
davidbihl@yahoo.com

Coach Rep

Kevin Maloy
540-775-2652
kmaloy1@verizon.net

Database

John Squires
757-548-8412
john.p.squires@uscg.mil

National Certifications

Michael Downs
757-874-8911
mhd@cox.net

Swimposium

Mike Willard
757-564-4480
jefwilfam@cox.net