

VSI Officiating Update

No. #16

04 September 2008

Officiating in 2008-2009

If you're a returning official, welcome back!

If you're thinking about officiating for the first time, we'd love to have you volunteer.

What follows is a variety of information to get us all started in the coming season.

Volunteering – A Collective Responsibility

Virginia Swimming, Inc., otherwise known as VSI, is the governing body for competitive swimming in our geographic territory (Commonwealth of Virginia, except the Counties of Arlington and Fairfax and Cities of Alexandria and Falls Church; and in the State of North Carolina, the Counties of Camden, Currituck, and Pasquotank, as well as the team OBX in Dare County). VSI is almost entirely run by volunteers. One large body of volunteers are the officials of whom we have almost 500 individuals certified in all facets of officiating.

With 500 certified officials you might assume that we have all the help we need. We certainly have more volunteers than some other areas of the country, but with an expanding base of swimmers and the ever present turnover in volunteers, we can't afford to sit back and rest or we risk seeing a decline in our numbers.

The information below will help you get started if you're interested in volunteering. There's lots of jobs at a swim meet, many of which you might not know exist. If you're not comfortable judging strokes and turns, you may find your niche in a variety of positions involved with obtaining the swimmers' times and publishing the results.

Just because your club doesn't host meets doesn't mean that we don't need you. Most of our clubs don't have enough officials to host a meet on their own. By working together and working at each other's meets, we all make sure that we have a sufficient number of officials and that no particular individual is overworked.

Likewise, small clubs as well as large clubs should place an emphasis on developing a pool of certified officials. On average, we need about one official per every ten swimmers. At this average, even ten

small clubs of twenty swimmers each would yield about twenty officials!

New Volunteers

It can be easy to get lost if you're new, but we'll try to make it easy for you. Your first point of contact is usually your Club Officials Chair. If you don't know who that individual is, you can find the listing [here](#) on the VSI website. Your Club Officials Chair can provide you with additional information on what officiating positions are available, as well as when and where training clinics are held.

If your club doesn't have a Club Officials Chair or you can't locate that person, then please contact your District Officials Chair. Who these individuals are and contact information is listed below.

We're here to help so if you've got questions we want to hear them.

Club Officials Chairs

Each club should have an Officials Chair. This individual is ordinarily an official, but the chair can be anyone dependable enough to follow through on the responsibilities.

Our currently listed Club Officials Chairs are listed [here](#) on the VSI website. The list is updated on a monthly basis. If the person named for your club needs to be updated please send the correct name and/or contact information to [Tom Colasurdo](#).

If you haven't done so already please review the [Roles and Responsibilities](#) of the Club Officials Chair. Of particular note at this time of the year is the role the Club Officials Chair plays in the recruitment of new officials. While recruiting is a year round responsibility, it is particularly important at this time of the year as this is when the majority of our training clinics are held. On this note, please pay close attention to when clinics are being held and make sure that this information makes it to potential volunteers on your club.

District Officials Chairs

Virginia Swimming territory is divided into four districts: Southeast, Central, Southwest, and North.

If you don't know which district you're in, you can find that information [here](#) (see the table at the bottom of the page).

Each of the districts has two District Co-Chairs who are primarily responsible for training of officials within the district. The names and contact information of the District Co-Chairs are listed at the end of this newsletter. We're here to help so don't be afraid to contact us.

Officials Clinics

We provide training for all our volunteers. This training usual involves a clinic component as well as on-the-job training. The District Co-Chairs will be sending this information out to you, and it is also posted on the [Officials](#) section (in the table and listed by district) of the VSI website.

Some clinics are already listed and more will be posted soon.

Swimposium

The 8th annual VSI Swimposium will be held October 4-5 at the Koger Center in Richmond. The officials component this year will be facilitated by Carol Zaleski and Jamy Pfister. Carol is a three Meet Referee at the Olympic Games and was a Deck Referee at the 2008 Olympic Games. Carol has a wealth of national and international experience. Jamy has been a Chief Judge at the last three USA-S Olympic Trials, is a current member of the USA-S Rules & Regulations Committee, and is the Eastern Zone Officials Chair.

[Announcement and Registration](#) material for the Swimposium is now available. Space is limited and registration is on a first come, first served basis. Get your registration in early to assure yourself a seat at what should prove to be a very informative event.

In conjunction with the Swimposium we will also be offering a **Referee Certification and Re-Certification Clinic** Sunday morning. You can reserve your spot with the Swimposium registration form.

Recruitment and Retention

The Officials Committee will be meeting September 14 and an ever present item on the agenda will be the Recruitment and Retention of officials.

This is your opportunity to let us know what we're doing right and what we're doing wrong. Please let any member of the committee know what ideas you have for improving recruitment and retention.

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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