

# VSI Officiating Update

No. #18

09 February 2009

## Upcoming VSI Championship Meets

Championship season is right around the corner which brings the call for all hands on deck.

District Champs will take place 20-22 February and will be hosted at four separate sites by NOVA, SEVA, PWSC, and CCA.

Regional Champs will be held 27 February to 1 March and will be hosted by CGBD, LY, and QDD.

Senior Champs will be held 5-8 March and will be hosted by GATR at UVA.

Age Group Champs will be held 19-22 March and will be hosted by SHKS at the GMU Freedom Center.

To keep things interesting the Virginia High School League AAA state meet overlaps with our District Champs and the AA state meet overlaps with our Regional Champs. Because many of our officials work both VSI and high school meets volunteers will be at a premium. If you can help we'd love to have you. Please volunteer early and often.

To help us facilitate Senior Champs and Age Group Champs we've put together an Application to Officiate for each of these meets. These applications allow you to list your availability, whether or not you desire national certification evaluation (we are no longer using a separate application for national evaluations), and whether or not you wish to purchase an officials meet event shirt. We encourage the use of these applications as they simplify our efforts at staffing the meets but we'll also take your volunteer requests in whatever other form you'd like to deliver them.

[Senior Champs Application to Officiate](#)

[Age Group Champs Application to Officiate](#)

Thank you for volunteering!

## Advanced Officiating Clinics at Senior Champs and Age Group Champs

Details will be out shortly but we'll be offering advanced officiating clinics at both Senior Champs and Age Group Champs. These clinics will cover Starter, Chief Judge, and Deck Referee expectations at the N2 and N3 levels.

The clinics will most likely take place one hour prior to the stroke briefing for Friday and Saturday finals. We hope that by getting the word out early more folks will be able to avail themselves of this opportunity.

## Eastern Zone Championship Meets

In addition to the championship meets within our LSC, there are also a number of championship meets within the Eastern Zone that are also in need of officials.

Eastern Zone Speedo Championships Region I held 12-15 March at Harvard University

Eastern Zone Speedo Championships Region II held 26-29 March in Germantown, MD

Eastern Zone Short Course Championships held 2-4 April in Webster, NY.

Applications to volunteer for these meets can be found [here](#). These meets are a great opportunity to work with a diverse group of volunteers.

## VSI Officials Well Represented at Junior National Championship

A large contingent of officials from VSI traveled to Austin, TX to officiate at the Short Course Junior National Championships. Those attending were Pat Donohue, Michael Downs, Tom Elliott, Kevin Hogan, Kim Schlimgen, Jessica Simons, Terry Randolph, Bob Rustin, and John Thompson.

Thank you all!

## Applications to Request Officials Qualifying Meet Status for a Meet

For a meet to be designated as an Officials Qualifying Meet, an application must be submitted to USA-S by the LSC Officials Chair. Applications submitted by other individuals will be returned. To our knowledge this hasn't been an issue within our LSC but it apparently has been elsewhere, and we've been asked to remind everyone of the requirement.

## 2009 Rulebook

The 2009 Rules & Regulations has been published and sent to all USA-S registered officials. Remember, although the books are out the new rules do not go into effect until 15 May 2009.

As listed in the new rulebook, here's the major changes that have been made:

1. Swimwear restrictions were put in place for those competing in 12 & under age group defined competition.
2. Meet information for sanctioned or approved competitions must state whether the pool has been certified in accordance with 104.2.2C(4).
3. A Short Course Junior Nationals will be held each winter.
4. Sexual misconduct provisions have been extended to include all members and/or nonmembers who are participating in any affairs or activities of USA Swimming or its LSCs.
5. The recruiting provision in the Code of Conduct has been expanded.
6. Part 4 has been rewritten to include LSC Hearings and Appeals.
7. Part 6 has been rewritten to include important information previously included only in the LSC Model Bylaws.

### Swimwear Restrictions for Swimmers Competing in 12 & Under Age Group Defined Competition

Rule 102.9.1.A states: "Swimsuits worn for all 12 & under age group defined competition shall not cover the neck, extend past the shoulder, nor past the knee.

Please note that the rule states "for all 12 & under age group defined competition..." To forestall any confusion at meets this does not mean 12 & unders may never wear such swimsuits. For example, the rule would not apply to a 12 year old swimming in a senior event such as would be the case at Senior Champs. Likewise, the rule would not apply to 11 and 12 year olds in an event designated for 11 & over. The bottom line is that the rule only applies to 12 & unders when they are competing in events that include only 12 & under swimmers.

The Rules & Regulations recently issued an [interpretation](#) of 102.9.1.A. The ruling deals with two unintended consequences of the rule. First, there was concern that the rule would be viewed as discriminatory by those swimmers whose religious beliefs require them to cover more of their bodies than the new rule permits. Second, there are

medical conditions that require the avoidance of direct sunlight and this rule would potentially prevent those athletes from acting in a medically prudent manner.

To deal with these unintended consequences an exemption to the rule can be obtained, but this exemption *can only be obtained from the Chair of the USA-S Rules & Regulations Committee*. If an exemption is granted, a written waiver will be issued and it will be the responsibility of the swimmer to provide a copy of the waiver to the Meet Referee of each meet at which the swimmer will participate.

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## Updated Summary of Rules Interpretations

The USA-S Rules & Regulations Committee just released a new [summary](#) of their rules interpretations. This document should be periodically reviewed in conjunction with the rule book to ensure that you remain current with the rules and their interpretations.

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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, [swim@embarqmail.com](mailto:swim@embarqmail.com)).

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