Summary from VSI Safety Meeting 9/23/2017

In attendance: John Stanley, Jessica Simons, Maureen Tolliver, Gordon Hair, and Stephanie Suhling

To make our sport safer for our swimmers we felt that education and enforcement of our policies and procedures needs to happen.

Education:

 Share with teams and coaches the following handouts and put on website under Safety:

1. *Hypoxic Training Recommendations* –USA Swimming Operational Risk Committee
2. *Racing Start Safety Certification Protocol* with the addition of the use of backstroke starts. Each team should be tracking this information and a copy of the sheet should be sent with a swimmer who is attending a meet not accompanied by their team’s coach.
3. *Concussion Information Sheet*. We recommend that teams educate their swimmers and parents and have them sign a form stating that they have received information on concussions provided to them by their team. Teams should be responsible for maintaining records.

Share with officials:

1. Requirement of racing start certification protocol for assigning unaccompanied swimmers at meets.
2. *Concussion Information Sheet*. We recommend every official read this information.

Include in meet session briefings that anytime a swimmer who is observed hitting their head during warm-ups/cool downs, competition or on a dry deck while attending a swim meet, that the meet referee be notified of the occurrence who will notify the coach. A Report of Occurrence should be filled out for each incident.

 Share with Board and all teams hosting meets and put on website under Safety:

 *Facilities Development Report by USA Swimming.*

**Air and Water Quality**

Move Best Practices (Pg 26) in *VSI Policy and Procedures* into Procedures that need to be followed.

Begin to use facility meet committee as outlined in *Facilities Development Report* to make decisions at Championship meets when there is a problem with air and water quality when a meet is in progress.

If there is a problem with air or water quality, it is clearly stated in the meet report that is sent to VSI by the meet referee.

If athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers or spectators are affected by air or water quality, a Report of Occurrence will be submitted to USA Swimming.

Safety Marshals-

 Enforce current policies and procedures. Educate teams and officials on utilizing safety marshals during meets.

 Minimum of 2 marshals at every meet. If an additional pool is being utilized for warm-up/cool down during a meet, an additional marshal is required. This might need to be addressed in VSI procedures.

 Marshals are required to meet with the meet referee 15 prior to the start of each session’s warm-ups to get a briefing, appropriate marshal vest or shirt, and laminated Marshal guidelines.

 Marshals are to observe the pools and routinely walk through the locker rooms to check for safety concerns. One Marshal must be at the start end of the pool at all times during warm-ups and competition. Report any safety concerns to meet referee.

 We recommend that all Marshals shall be USAS non athlete members and locker rooms be checked in pairs.