

Virginia Swimming

The Role of The Team Chair In VSI



Welcome to the Officials Team

What you should learn from this session

- * VSI Handbook information
- * Recruiting
- * Clinics

- * Promote your officials - Retention
- * Mentoring and your role within VSI



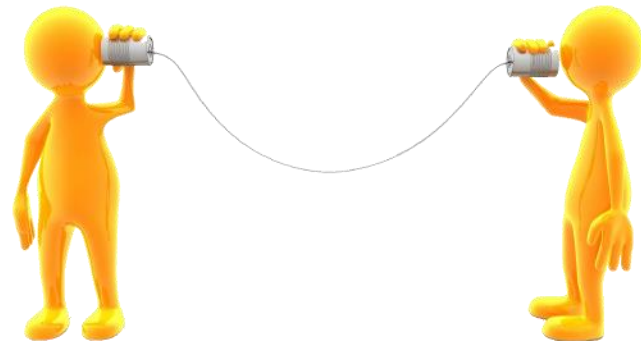
Welcome to the Officials Team

The VSI Officials Handbook

Primary Roles:

- Recruitment
- Training clinics → Track trainees progress
- Assist with scheduling training sessions
- Organizing officials for home/away meets
- Assist with transferring officials

= COMMUNICATION



The Need for Officials

Position	Local Meets	Large Meet
Meet Referee	1	1
Administrative Ref	0-1	3
Deck Referee	1	4
Starter	1	4
Chief Judge	1	5
Stroke & Turn	6-12	30
Administrative Official	1	2
Timing Equipment Operator	1	2
Recorder	1	3
Chief Timer*	1	1
Timers*	16-20	16-20
Marshalls*	3-4	5+
Meet Director*	1	4
Announcer*	1	1
Total	36-47	90+

Did you know...



- * What's the average age of an official in USA Swimming?
 - * 49.5
- * What's the average age of an N3 evaluator?
 - * 64.5
- * What's the average age of an LSC Officials Chair?
 - * Almost 55

So... what's that mean for us??

We have to be able to teach/train/lead our replacements

Recruiting

Expressing the need for officials

- Do your homework, what will attract volunteers?
 - Club volunteer hours? Comparable?
 - Does your club pay for registration & BC?
 - What else can you club/Coach offer?

- Does governance understand → Board/Owner



Recruiting

How to attract officials

- Club registration packets
- Parent meetings
- Flyers and word of mouth
- Club newsletters
- Coaches
- Club volunteer coordinator
- Former club Swimmers
- Any other suggestions from the floor?





Recruiting

Beware of impediments with recruiting

- Relying on those who will naturally seek a role in officiating
 - **Mental trap**
- Parents who have no idea where to start
 - **You're their guide**
- People reluctant because they never been trained
 - **Not required - emphasize our training program**
- Others who do not like to disqualify swimmers
 - **Whole group of officials who verify times**

Clinics

New Officials

- Communicate with your district chair
- Set them up - the earlier the better
- Best to have dates prior to parents meeting or when you send out emails for interest



Promote for Retention

- Promote your officials
 - Who wants to obtain other certs?
 - Talk to you District Chair about other clinics
 - Evaluate your teams need, gather best times to hold them from your volunteers
- CJ or Starter's Clinics
- Admin clinics – Recorder, TEO, AO

Mentoring

- Certification process
 - Stay in touch/track apprentices
 - Simple encouragement, personal contact
- Additional Certifications
 - Encourage officials to expand their capabilities
 - Additional certifications = more engaged
- Recognition
 - A simple Thank-you costs nothing!



Organizing Officials for Meets

- Process begin 2-4 weeks out from meet
 - Email visiting clubs COC & unattached officials
 - LSC Team Chairs/Roster info
- If your team is hosting, visiting officials should have 1st choice in positions
- Encourage your officials to support club in any meet you participate
- If you receive a request from another COC, fwd ASAP
- Assist with your trainee scheduling with the other COC
- Changes to COC, email VSI Database Coordinator so distribution list stays accurate



Transfers



➤ VSI Handbook

- Name and contact info of transferring official
- Listing of any certifications
- Name of LSC in which they are currently certified

➤ VSI Officials Chair

- Contact the LSC Chair of the transferring official
- Notify transferring official, district chair and COC for any conditions placed on transfer i.e., additional training
- Provides current certifications, good standing and all training has met minimal standards set forth by USA Officials Committee

Summary

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K.Spear

"I'd like to mentor you. We can start by you getting me some coffee."

➤ Become the mentor

- Effective communication with your base of officials
- Why?
 - Helps retention & recruiting
 - Give them opportunities to advance
- Provide feedback to LSC Officials Committee
 - What did we do right, what do we need to address?
 - How was the training?
 - What else can we do to help them?

Summary (cont)



- A mentor for their questions
- New Officials are coached to keep you in the loop
- ❑ Can you answer these questions:
 - ❖ Can they train outside of the LSC?
 - ❖ Can the train at a Masters meet?
 - ❖ Can the train at a High School or Summer League meets?
- Send you and district chair copy of completed training card
- Receipt of shirt, name tag, badge and pouch, if not who do they contact?
- Where can the buy more shirts or name tags?

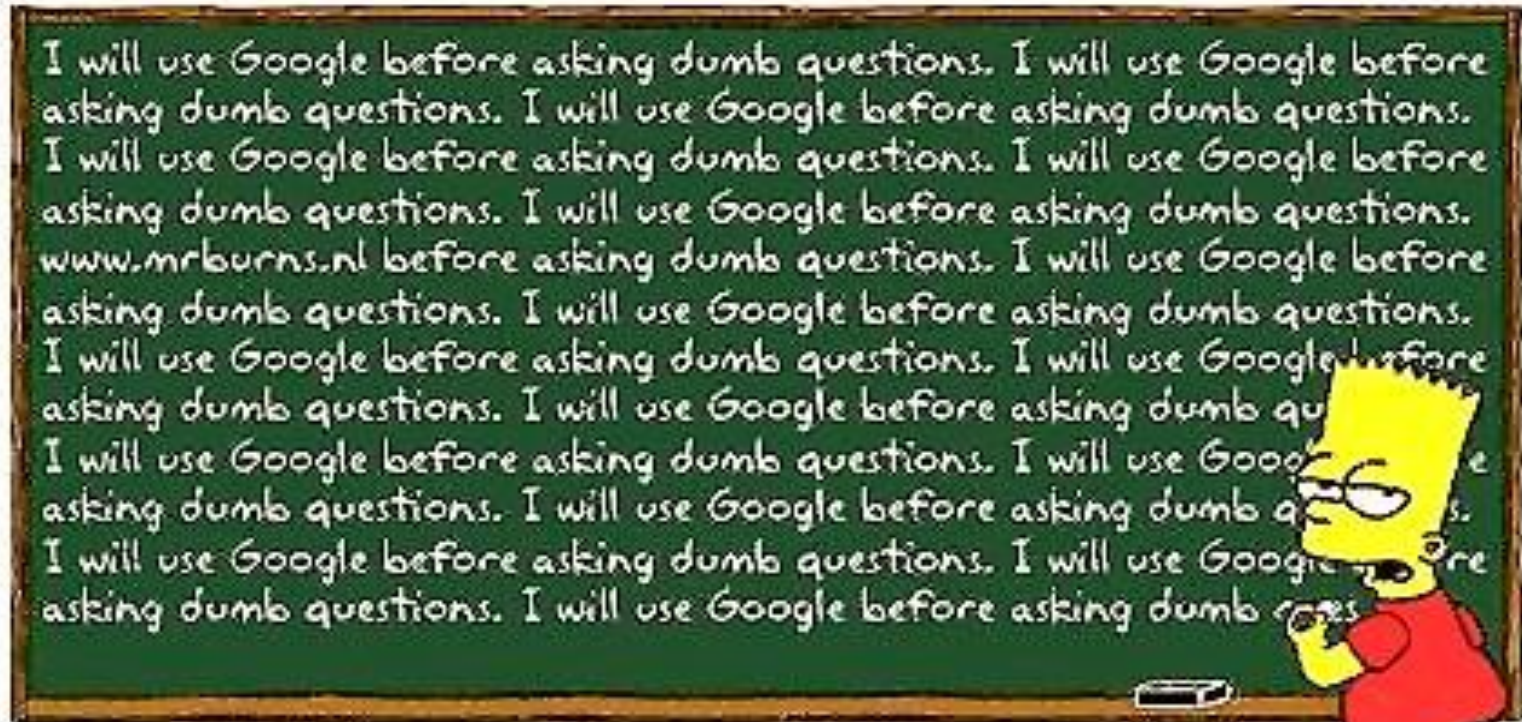
Summary (cont)

➤ Responsibilities after completed initial training

- * **Maintain current technical and philosophical understanding of the rules**
 - * **Work at least the minimal # of sessions per year**
 - * **Fulfill any education requirements – MAAPP, concussion training**
 - * **Maintain current registration & background check**
-
- When are certifications renewed and by whom?
 - Requirements to be certified or re-certified?
 - National Certification program



Questions



MATT GROENING

- There no dumb questions in Swimming