

Virginia Swimming Officials Fall Newsletter

October 14, 2019
Volume 1, Issue 3

Swimposium Highlights

On September 28, 47 officials came out to our annual VSI Swimposium. The topics we covered this year were, MAAPP Policy, The Role of the Club Officials Chair in VSI, Situations and Resolutions and the Succession Plan within VSI.

All of these documents will be posted shortly on the VSI Website, under <http://www.virginiawswimming.com/vsi/Official/Information.html>

In addition to these topics, we also handed out award pins for officials who have volunteered for 5, 10, 15 and 20 years. Also, the following were recipients of the Jim Frye Volunteer of the year. This award is based on those who were continuously helpful throughout the season last year as a volunteer and recognized by their respective Meet Referee's and District Chairs. This ranged from working additional sessions, advancing their certifications or staying an extra session to train other officials in their craft. This year the following were nominated and received a white polo noting their recognition:

Southwest – Erika DeVito

Central – Glenn West

North – Bill Fairfax

Southeast – David Hillary

VSI – Michael Hall

Please congratulate them when you see them on deck. They all make Jim Frye very proud!

MAAPP- Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAPP)

USA Swimming's top priority continues to be keeping our athletes safe. No form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, has a place in our sport. USA Swimming has enacted enhancements to our Safe Sport policy and education requirements. The U.S. Center for SafeSport, the separate, independent, organization that oversees all sexual misconduct reports in the Olympic and Paralympic Movement created the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies to set a baseline for acceptable safety standards that limit one-on-one interactions between adults and minor athletes.

Each stroke briefing & timing brief will include a statement about this Policy. Part of this new policy suggests having dedicated bathrooms/locker rooms for athletes and another shared facilities for coaches, officials and other volunteers, We realize some facilities will be constrained with limited bathrooms and locker rooms and therefore, common sense and best practices apply. If you find yourself alone with an athlete in one of these areas, please report that to the Meet Director or Meet Referee, noting the same for documentation. **We must protect ourselves as much as we must protect the athletes.**

MAAPP (Continued)

Our refresher Athlete Protection Training (APT) is no longer two years, but rather every year. With this new periodicity, APT will expire one year from the day you initially complete, or retake the APT. Prior to that expiration date, you should be receiving an email from USA Swimming notifying you of the same. So make sure you have the correct email account noted in your registration and Officials Tracking System account.

Concussion Protocol Training (CPT)

It was a matter of time and hopefully, you all noted my comments in the Spring newsletter about CPT. USA Swimming has finally adopted concussion training as a requirement for all coaches and officials effective January 1st, 2020. Recently passed in the Virginia Swimming House of Delegates, require all Meet Referees to be certified, if they are acting in that capacity prior to January 1st.

Meets after January 1st, Meet Referee's will need to check Deck Pass credentials of all officials to ensure they have completed CPT. This can be delegated to a Deck Referee or Chief Judge if they are tasked with check-in at meets. I strongly suggest that all VSI Officials download the Deck Pass App on your phone so you can show course completion when asked. The other option is bring a copy of your course completion certificate to the meet. **This may change in the future, but right now these are the two options available.**

There are two free courses that you can take to learn more about concussions and their links are below:

[CDC Concussion Course](#)

[NFHS Concussion Course](#)

I recommend you take either one of the free courses to learn more about concussions. Send copy of your course completion to businessoffice@virginiaswimming.org and Mary or Emily will enter that record into SWIMs database. Once that is done it will show up in your Deck Pass Account, see my screen shot of Deck Pass below for an example.

DAN DEMERS

CURRENT STATUS

Official

VALID TO DATE

12/31/2019

REGISTRATION DATE

9/25/2018

EXPIRATION DATE

12/31/2019

LSC AND CLUB

VA-TIDE

USAS ID

110664DANFDEME

BACKGROUND CHECK

9/30/2020 - Level 2

ATHLETE PROTECTION

TRAINING

12/31/2019

CONCUSSION PROTOCOL TRAINING (NOT REQUIRED IN ALL STATES)

Met

The Role of the Club Officials Chair (COC) in VSI

Each club should have a designated club officials chair (COC). Why? A COC plays an important role with recruiting and retention for base of VSI Officials.

Each club is different in regards to their structure as some are coach-owned others are guided by a Board of Directors. One of the main duties as COC, is to help reinforce the importance of officials to their leadership. Trust me, the need for officials it is not always the top priority on their agenda. Club leaders have a ton of other items that have higher priority to keep their teams running smoothly. The COC is in place to keep the club leadership informed of your officials base. The BOD, Head Coach or owner will be viewing your help as an asset to the team as you are providing them the need to run quality swim meets. Simply put, without officials we cannot run sanctioned swim meets, therefore your club leadership needs your input.

The COC is also the club's point of contact for organizing meet officials, setting up clinics for new officials and for current officials for advanced certifications. They mentor for both, track the progress of training and help officials navigate through any issues they may encounter.

There is a new guide that has been created by the LSC Officials Committee and posted on VSI website, that lays out strategies and easy-to-use forms that can be implemented to assist you with your very important role.

Situations and Resolutions

This session was appropriately labelled the “World of Grey,” and brought out some lively discussions on how to handle certain scenarios that could or have popped up during a swim meet. The basic thread of hosting Swimposiums each year is to discuss issues collectively, and come up with the best practices so they are applied consistently at all our swim meets within the LSC. We had situations for Meet Referees, Starters, Chief Judges and Stroke and Turn alike. At the end, I think everyone came away with learning something new and keeping an open mind to ensure we always keep “what is best for the athletes” in central focus.

The VSI Succession Plan

As noted in the Spring Newsletter, the LSC Officials Committee are often asked “How do I advance as an Official?” At a USA Swimming sponsored clinic for LSC Officials Chair, they answered that question by proposing we develop a succession plan as a guide. As a Committee we have produced such a plan and is posted on the VSI website at <http://www.virginiawimming.com/vsi/Official/OfficTrainings/TrainingInfo.html> on the bottom right.

The progression of suggested certifications was developed by input of best practices from the Committee and placed into this document as a reference. Included are suggested positions to work at Championship meets, potential National Certifications all in effort to help you gain experience. The dates you will see are not written stone, nor is the progression, however it shall be used as reference guide for your next step in development.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your Club Chair, District Chair or myself and we will be happy to help you out

Swimsuit Rules Clarification

Hopefully, you received the email concerning swimsuits from the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations Committee. If not, as you may have read in SwimSwam or other news sources, that in September 2018 a high school swimming official applied an National Federation of State High School Association (NFHS) rule at a high school contest in Alaska resulting in the disqualification of a swimmer based on nonconformance with the NFHS rule. The disqualification was subsequently overturned, and the official was sanctioned.

Following this widely discussed case, USA Swimming Rules and Regulations Committee decided this was an important opportunity to have open dialogue with USA Swimming officials, to learn from this event, and to be better informed of analogous USA Swimming rules. The following is their response:

“While USA Swimming does not have a similar swimsuit coverage rule, our staff continues to monitor the effect of and response to the NFHS rule.

USA Swimming rules require that swimsuits worn in competition conform with the current concept of the appropriate:

USA Swimming Rule 102.8.1 D requires that the swimsuit worn must conform to the current concept of the appropriate.

USA Swimming officials must only evaluate this rule as it is written and apply the “current concept of the appropriate” standard. Contrary to the guidelines used in the situation in Alaska, USA Swimming does not have a “modesty” rule related to swimsuits. USA Swimming officials must not apply a modesty standard.”

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to the LSC Officials Committee and, if needed, we will obtain further clarification from the Rules and Regulations Committee.

Your input and feedback is always appreciated

Pace Training Goggles:

With the advances in technology, along comes a new set of goggles that provide distance, stroke rate and cumulative and split times. Below is one that recently entered the market called FORMswim. These are fine for training purposes, however, they are ILLEGAL to use in competition. You will be able to identify them because a battery pack is mounted on the right hand side. More information about these goggles can be found at <https://www.formswim.com/products/form-swim-goggles>



Pro Swim Series Applications:

Applications are open for the TYR Pro Swim Series (PSS) on USA Swimming. One application allows you to apply for any or all of the PSS meets. When filling out the application, remember to select your 1st, 2nd or 3rd choice if you want to apply for more than one. The US Open and both Winter Junior National Applications are not accepting anymore entries. The dates for each meet are listed below:

<https://www.usaswimming.org/utility/landing-pages/officials/national-meet-officiating-applications>

APPLICATIONS TO OFFICIATE (CLICK ON LIGHT BLUE LINKS TO ACCESS)

TYR PRO SWIM SERIES

- ◆ Nov 6-9, 2019 - Greensboro, NC - Jim Holcomb, MR
- ◆ Jan 16-19, 2020 - Knoxville, TN - Melissa Hellervik-Bing, MR
- ◆ Mar 4-7, 2020 - Des Moines, IA - Sandy Drake, MR
- ◆ Apr 16-19, 2020 - Mission Viejo, CA (will conclude with Finals Sunday morning) - Robert Broyles, MR
- ◆ May 6-9, 2020 - Indianapolis, IN - Jim Sheehan, MR

Toyota US Open and Speedo Junior Nationals East and West (CLOSED - Not accepting any more applications)

- ◆ Toyota US Open - Atlanta, GA - Dec 4-7 - Jamie Cahn, MR
- ◆ Speedo Junior Nationals EAST - Atlanta, GA - Dec 11-14 - Jason Johnson, MR
- ◆ Speedo Junior Nationals WEST - Federal Way, WA - Dec 11-14 - Don Hougardy, MR



Spencer Quinn (Jul 9, 1960 – Aug 31, 2019)

Lastly, I have some sad news to pass along, Spencer Quinn passed away on August 31, 2019. Some of you may have worked with Spence when he was affiliated with VSI or when he transferred to Potomac Valley Swimming. A USA Swimming official since 2007 who doubled up his volunteer duties as a swim coach for clubs in both LSC's. He also coached high school swimming. If you met Spence, you would remember his bigger than life personality as he would instantly light up Officials meetings that always brought our deck camaraderie to new levels! A consummate volunteer for our sport who will be missed. Outside of swimming, Spence worked as a software developer and a pilot flying both Cessna 152 and the Skyhawk 172. Actually, he learned to fly from his Dad before he was of legal age to drive.

We will always have a special place in our heart for Spencer and we extend our deepest sympathies to his wife Jo-Anne Quinn of Manassas, Virginia, and his daughters Casey Quinn and Erin Quinn.

Thanks for all you do for our Sport!

If you have questions or comments/suggestions about the newsletter, drop us a note!

VSI LSC Official Committee

Southeast District Chair—Genny Kimbel (Gennykimbel@gmail.com)

Central District Chair—Bob Rustin (brustin55@gmail.com)

North District Chair—Michael Sizemore (MCSizemore@gmail.com)

Southwest District Chairs

North—Beth Arnold (arnoldeaa@gmail.com)

South—George Zolovick (gzolovick@gmail.com)

At-Large Representatives

Ralph Jones (Ralph.Jones@vdot.virginia.gov)

John Squires (jpsswmm1@yahoo.com)

Officials Apparel—Scott Farrar (Sfarrar@bsnsports.com)

Officials Database—Georg Fuhs (vsi.officials.rosters@gmail.com)

Will Murphy (wlmmurphy@aol.com)

Athlete: TBD

Coach: Art Anthony