

VSI Officials Chair Report April 2015

LSC Officials Chairs Qtr. Meeting(April 1)

Rules and Regulations

Deck Changing- Discussion regarding the deck changing letter that was send out. The Rules Chair has received a wide variety of methodology on how to handle athletes. The reason behind the “no changing on deck” rule is an attempt to change the paradigm that it’s acceptable behavior. Officials should be watching the pool and reporting any infractions to the coach and they are not to confront the athlete.

Task Forces

- Discuss eliminating timing correction from the rule book
- Dealing with transgender athletes
- Reworking the 120 day rule

Questions regarding the rules and interpretations should go through the LSC Officials Chair.

A reminder that the new rule book doesn’t go into effect until May 15.

Testing

Eliminating part 2 of the online testing. Instead of having the test-taker find where the rule is in the rulebook, there will be a hint installed if needed.

The testing program will shut down from April 15 until May 1 for updates.

OTS

With registration cards going the way of the dodo, they are working on adding LSC/National certifications to Deck Pass. You can always print your card from the USA-S website. *There was no negative feedback from the District Chairs regarding this.*

Future/Junior Nationals

Being the same weekend may or may not make it difficult to staff these meets especially with LSC championship meets running around the same time.

Next LSC Official Chair Committee Meeting will be May 29-31 in Minneapolis.

Championship Meets

The District and Regional meets were staffed reasonably well considering these take place during the High School Championship season. Disqualifications, during Regionals, had a similar ratio per number of athletes in all 3 meets. The Southeast did seem to have a slightly higher number most of which were False Starts. Age Groups was well staffed. Seniors was a little light based on previous years. Michael Sizemore will be the Meet Referee for LC Seniors in Richmond. Dan Demers is serving as Meet Referee at LC Age Groups in Christiansburg.

Referee Post Meet Reports

It was suggested that the host team be copied on the RPMR when the Meet Referee submits the report. The District Chairs were not in favor of this. The overall feeling was that these reports are submitted with the thought they are going to be reviewed and read with some decorum and issues brought up will be handled/reviewed by the LSC, and the Meet Referee won't be put in a position where they feel they can't be forthcoming with issues. There should be nothing in the Meet Report that hasn't been addressed with the Meet Director/Host Club and the report is a way of letting the LSC know what is going on at meets and if the LSC sees continuing issues with certain teams and or venues, the LSC should address those issues.

Recruitment

Gordon is now reaching out to potential volunteers that took clinics in the Fall/Winter and didn't complete their training. The hope is to try and figure out what the obstacles are, and attempt to reduce them. We have had 49 officials get certified this season and currently we have 418 Officials in OTS

Administrative Official/Deck Referee

Dan Demers and Laura Razzolini worked on merging the Recorder and Timing Judge into the Administrative Official position. The training draft was submitted and will be reviewed by the Committee over LC and we plan on having it finished by the beginning of SC season. At this time we are considering removing the Timing Judge prerequisite certification for becoming a Referee. With all of our meets requiring a AO to validate the times, the need for Deck Referee to be proficient in how the times should be adjusted isn't as imperative as it once was. Currently, most of the Referee's get certified as a Timing Judge, just to become a Deck Referee and they seldom go back to the dry deck side. Instead of being certified as a Timing Judge the plan is have the Referee in training continue and train during a prelim/final meet as current practice. Then add some timed final sessions where they can become familiar with timing adjustments and how the information flows. This could also allow us to certify our Meet Referee's, by requiring them to be certified as Deck Referee and an Administrative Official before being eligible to server as an Meet Referee. Like evolving the Recorder/TJ into the AO, the hope is to have the Referee (Deck/Meet) finished by SC next season.

Also, congratulations to Art Zachery for finishing his training at Deck Referee. Currently there are 3 officials training: Gerri Cole, Scott Greiner and Judy Kay Schroer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bryan C. Wallin