

VSI Officiating Update

No. #12

02 July 2007

Long Course – Good for Athletes and Officials!

- Less down time during which to forget the things you've learned
- Working through the summer provides you with additional opportunities to hone your skills
- You're more likely to work with officials from outside your district which can expose you to new ideas, procedures, and alternative ways of doing things
- Walking the sides builds endurance and burns calories

Officiating Champs

We're rapidly approaching the end of the long course season and that means championship level meets. And what's a championship level meet without championship level officiating?

Please come out and help us ensure that the athletes are afforded fair and equitable conditions of competition.

Information is provided below about each of our championship meets. Those staffing the meets would be thrilled with an early and heavy show of support. If you can help we'd love to have you. For those that don't yet have the experience level needed to work, your help is always welcome as a timer, marshal, etc.

Thank you!

Summer Awards

Who: RAYS are hosting.

What: 8 & younger regardless of time; 9-14 year old in any event in which they have a time that is slower than an Age Group Champs qualifying time; 15 and older in any event in which they have a time that is slower than a Senior Champs qualifying time.

Where: GMU-Manassas, Freedom Center.

When: July 13-15, 2007.

Why: Because we need you. Because the athletes need you.

Contact info: Wally Hunt, hunt66@peoplepc.com, 540-424-0212, by July 6.

Virginia Swimming Long Course Age Group Championships

Who: Coast Guard Blue Dolphins are hosting.

What: All 14 and younger swimmers who meet the qualifying time in each event entered.

Where: Midtown Aquatics Center, Newport News.

When: July 19-22, 2007.

Why: Because we need you. Because the athletes need you.

Contact info: Mike Willard, jefwilfam@cox.net, 757-564-4480, by July 16. Click [here](#) for an application to officiate (also serves as an order form for a meet event shirt).

Extra: Application has been made to have this meet certified as an Officials Qualifying Meet at the N2 level.

Virginia Swimming Long Course Senior Championships

Who: RAYS are hosting (sound familiar?).

What: Swimmers who meet the qualifying time in each event entered.

Where: GMU-Fairfax, Aquatic & Fitness Center

When: July 26-29, 2007.

Why: Because we need you. Because the athletes need you.

Contact info: Michael Downs, mhd@cox.net, 757-874-8911, by July 12. Click [here](#) for an application to officiate (also serves as an order form for a meet event shirt).

Extra: National evaluations will be available for V2/N2 at all positions; initial N3 for Chief Judge, Starter, Deck Referee, and Administrative Referee; and final N3 for Chief Judge, Starter, and Deck Referee may be available at the discretion of the evaluator.

Recruiting New Officials

We're nearing the end of the long course season, and the recruiting of new officials to begin training in the short course season may seem premature, but maybe not!

As a general rule of thumb, swimmers participating in the long course season may be more dedicated to the sport than those that only participate during the short course season. Consequently, the swimmer's parents may be more invested in the sport as well. The next time you're at a meet or waiting at practice to pick up your children, try talking up the positive aspects of volunteering as an official.

Short of the officials and host club volunteers at a meet, what group of parents at a swim meet most exhibits the trait of volunteerism that we look for in officials? The Timers! The next time you give a Timers' briefing, you might also want to throw in a sixty second plug for officiating. Let the timers know that we're available and willing to answer any questions they might have.

Don't forget the summer league official. How many summer league officials do we train each year and how many of them have swimmers that swim on USA-S clubs? Time spent in identifying and recruiting these parents will likely pay greater dividends than recruiting from the general parent population.

Stroke & Turn and Starter are generally the most visible and well known positions on the deck. To many, these are probably the only officials with which they are familiar. Many people, however, don't even consider officiating because they have zero comfort in believing that they can handle these positions. Let potential volunteers know that there's more to officiating than just these two positions. Clerk-of-course is great for those that want to work with young swimmers and who want to stay miles away from a DQ slip. Timing Equipment Operator and Recorder are great opportunities for those with an aptitude for computers. Of course, those who are comfortable working with numbers will be right at home with Timing Judge.

Remember, there's something for everyone and some are just waiting to be asked!

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, kevinhogan56@earthlink.net).

VSI Officials Committee Members

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