**VSI Disability Committee Report**

**April 27, 2017**

Updates on some of our VSI swimmers with a handicap are below:

1. **Samantha Tubbs** has been been training full time in the Olympic Training Course at Colorado

Springs. Samantha has joined as a member of the USA Resident Team.

1. **Joseph Peppersack**  is teaching swim lessons for children and for adults. He is planning to be

trained as a lifeguard. In May Joseph will compete in the ParaSwimming Meet in Cincinatti,

and he will enroll for the ParaSwimming world series meet in Indianapolis. Joseph also

graduates this spring, and in the Fall he will be attending the University of Mary Washington,

where he will swim on the Official U.M. W. Swim Team.

1. **Sean Harrington** still swims. He plans and swims his own sets at the YMCA Aquatic Center in

Great Bridge, in Chesapeake. He is no longer swimming competitively. Sean still works part-

time at the Chesapeake Regional Medical Center in the Materials Management Dept.

1. **Emilia Scovel** is taking two months off from swimming as she recuperates from major

surgery, involving muscle lengthening and left ankle manipulation. In late May Emilia will

begin swimming again with her summer swim team, the Dominion Valley Sharks.

There are several other swimmers in VSI who may have neurological and /or cognitive

disorders ; and VSI coaches, officials, and other athlete youth swimmers have been most

supportive of these athletes as they push the limits each day as their coach works with them ;

increasing their endurance, speed, and efficiency in the water .

Representatives from 7 LSCs in the Eastern Zone attended the **Eastern Zone Disability Swimming**

**Clinic** in March. The Facilitator, Mark Rieniets , provided several invigorating lectures and shared

an overview of USA Swimming’s challenge to “Educate, Empower, and Engage” more disabled

swimmers, parents, coaches, and officials to support programs geared for identifying those swimmers

with physical or cognitive impairments, optimizing their individual swimming training needs , and

providing meets where they can validate their improved performance. Mark is the Chair of the USA

Swimming Disability Committee . The three “Ë”s will be one of the main strategies to increase

awareness for and start programs for such swimmer s in the USA.

Mark noted that there is an estimate of between 3,000 - 7.000 disabled swimmers in the USA . The

number of swimmers actually swimming with “impaired” (physical or cognitive limitations) in the

USA is far less than expected. There is a growing interest, worldwide, in Paralympic sports.

Mark conducted the Paralympic Officials Clinic from 8 am to 1200 noon. He reviewed the

classification schema, both for starting adaptations and for stroke adaptations, based on their coding.

Mark discussed the strategy for tapping blind swimmers, hearing enhancements, access of assistants

on deck for the starts, and he explained each of the physical codes for “impaired swimmers. ”

New Jersey swimming , courtesy of LSC , hosted the afternoon swim meet at Rutgers University

pool. The other host was Children’s Specialized Hospital . Age range of athletes was 8 to 33 years. One

of the athletes, Robert Griswold, had previously competed in the Paralympics, in Rio, De Janiero, in

Sept, 2016.

The meet was from 1 pm to 4:30 pm. The Natatorium was the Sonny Werblin Rutgers University

Aquatic Center. At the conclusion of the meet , Mark Rieniets and Doug Griswold met with our official

trainee group and summarized the coding system and key officiating strategies for open Paralympic

swimming events. Doug also shared with our group other USA clinic dates and Paralympic regional

and national meets

Doug and Mark also talked about :

1. Ways to support parents of disability swimmers while not letting them get in the way of the

coach’s planned training.

1. How to set up deck (officials, Staging area for swimmers , wheelchair traffic, mats, etc.. )
2. Ways to demonstrate respect for each of the impaired swimmers on the deck

Doug and Mark provided each of the training officials with a “sample “ World Paralympic DQ

slip, the key for “Codes of Exception, “ and the text /outline for the USA Paralympics “Technical

Officials briefing.” Each of the participants at this clinic fulfilled all the Part I didactic clinical

exposure, and they received link from Doug Griswold, to enable them to register as a Level I

8Paralympic Official, for Stroke / Turn judging.

Upcoming Regional and National Paralympic Swimming Meets are listed below:

**April 21 - 23, 2017: Turnstone Endeavor Games**

Location: Ft. Wayne, IN  
**Classification:**PI National Classification Available  
**More Information:**

* [Meet Information](http://turnstone.org/endeavorgames)

**April 21 - 23, 2017: Southeastern Regional Games**

**Location:** North Myrtle Beach/Myrtle Beach, SC  
**Classification:** No classification available

**More Information:**

* [Meet Information](http://sewsagames.com/)

**May 5 - 7, 2017: Dairyland Games**

**Location:** Middleton, WI  
**Classification:** Noclassificationavailable  
**More Information:**

* [Meet Information](http://www.dairylandgames.org/)

**May 6 - 7, 2017: Cincinnati Para-Swimming Open**

**Location:** University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH  
**Classification:** PI National Classification Available

**Approval:** World Para Swimming Approved

**More Information:**

* [Meet Information](http://www.cinciparaswim.com/)
* [Development/Emerging Camp Outline](http://www.teamusa.org/~/media/CD2A57A73ED041C2AD8E7E6CA2280A82.ashx)
* [Development/Emerging Camp Application](http://www.teamusa.org/~/media/FFBD811A0A1A45E58EDC25F1EB758D93.ashx)
* [Application to Officiate](http://www.teamusa.org/US-Paralympics/Sports/Swimming/-/media/FC9452EB971B4EFA82654D8701DC679C.ashx)

**May 10 - 14, 2017: Desert Challenge Games**

**Location:** Mesa, AZ  
**Classification:** No classification available  
**More Information:**

* [Meet Information](http://www.desertchallengegames.com/)

**May 11 - 14, 2017: Dixie Games**

**Location:** Pasco County, FL  
**Classification:** No classificationavailable  
**More Information:**

* [Meet Information](http://www.dixiegames.com/)

**May 20 - 21, 2017: Gateway Games**

**Location:** St. Peters, MO  
**Classification:** PINationalClassificationAvailable  
**More Information:**

* [Meet Information](http://www.dasasports.org/Default.aspx?tabid=821651)

**June 3 - 4, 2017: Jimi Flowers Classic**

**Location:** Colorado Springs, CO  
**Classification:** PI National Classification Available

**Approval:** World Para Swimming Approved

**More Information:**

* [Meet Packet](http://www.teamusa.org/~/media/591A9106F5A14561AC3FE51DE0D929A2.ashx)
* [Athlete Entry System](https://www.simplyregister.net/register/?e=110353) - click here to register athletes
* [Staff Entry System](https://www.simplyregister.net/register/?e=110361) - click here to register staff members
* [Athlete Registration Status](https://www.simplyregister.net/status/?e=110353)
* [Application to Officiate](http://www.teamusa.org/US-Paralympics/Sports/Swimming/-/media/6C3A839095D44EBBA779516E7639709E.ashx)

**June 3 - 4, 2017: Junior Masonic Regional Meet**

**Location:** North Brunswick, NJ  
**Classification:**No classification available  
**More Information:**

* [Meet Information](http://www.tswaa.com/)

**June 3 - 4, 2017: Bee Hive Games**

**Location:** Salt Lake County, UT

**Classification:** No Classification Available

**June 8 - 11, 2017: UCO Endeavor Games**

**Location:** Edmond, OK  
**Classification:**PI National Classification Pending  
**More Information:**

* [Meet Information](http://www.endeavorgames.com/edmond/)

**June 9 - 11, 2017: Indianapolis 2017 World Para Swimming World Series**

**Location:** Indianapolis, IN  
**Classification:** PI and II International Classification Available

**Approval:** World Para Swimming Approved

**More Information:**

* [Meet Packet](http://www.teamusa.org/US-Paralympics/Sports/Swimming/-/media/CD3E3D16BEBE40D399EA30BFB9208B26.ashx)
* [Application to Officiate](http://www.teamusa.org/US-Paralympics/Sports/Swimming/-/media/EC41ECF706024F84BAFCE2B00BA2DE18.ashx)

**June 9 - 11, 2017: Great Lakes Regional Games**

**Location:** Lake Forest, IL  
**Classification:** Noclassificationavailable  
**More Information:**

* [Meet Information](http://www.glasa.org/special-events/great-lakes-regional-games/)

**June 15 - 18, 2017: Thunder in the Valley Games**

**Location:** North Brunswick, NJ  
**Classification:**No classification available  
**More Information:**

* [Meet Information](http://www.tswaa.com/)

**June 22 - 25, 2017: Angel City Games**

**Location:** Los Angeles, CA  
**Classification:** PI National Classification Available  
**More Information:**

* [Meet Information](http://angelcitysports.org/clinics-events/2017/6/22/2017-angel-city-games)

**July 15 - 22, 2017: Adaptive Sports USA Junior Nationals 2017**

**Location:** Middleton, WI  
**Classification:**PI National Classification Available  
**More Information:**

* [Meet Information](https://adaptivesportsusa.org/junior-nationals-2/)

**July 21 - 23, 2017: U.S. Paralympics Swimming World Championships Trials**

**Location:** Colorado Springs, CO  
**Classification:** No classification available

**Approval:** World Para Swimming Approved

**More Information:**

* [Meet Packet](http://www.teamusa.org/US-Paralympics/Sports/Swimming/-/media/397EC62AB9E4427694EAFEEE68A41B5F.ashx)
* Athlete Entry System - coming soon
* Staff Entry System - coming soon
* [Application to Officiate](http://www.teamusa.org/US-Paralympics/Sports/Swimming/-/media/1E2750302F41483186F4707437A26A33.ashx)

**September 9 - 10, 2017: California Classic**

**Location:** Yucaipa, CA  
**Classification:** PI National Classification Available

**Approval:** PendingWorld Para Swimming Approval

**More Information:**

* [Meet Packet](http://www.teamusa.org/~/media/BD6281637EB941F680D17A7316A6E4A7.ashx)
* [Development/Emerging Camp Outline](http://www.teamusa.org/~/media/844A881C749A412B996DF1D4490D8931.ashx)
* [Development/Emerging Camp Application](http://www.teamusa.org/~/media/4CC7B140A5414A3AA074E65C2189009A.ashx)
* [Application to Officiate](http://www.teamusa.org/US-Paralympics/Sports/Swimming/-/media/CEC21921CF0B4D12B3BD971511A18EE8.ashx)

**October 21 - 22, 2017: ASL Fred Lamback Disability Meet**

**Location:** Augusta, GA  
**Classification:** PI National Classification Available  
**More Information:**

* [Meet Information](https://www.teamunify.com/Home.jsp?team=gsasl)
* [Application to Officiate](http://www.teamusa.org/US-Paralympics/Sports/Swimming/-/media/C6FA515694F44C1381480808B4D09E5D.ashx)

**December 14 - 17, 2017: Can-Am Open**

**Other members of our VSI Disability Committee include Pat**

**Donahue, Lee Gibbs, Jessica Simons, Kim Downs, Art Anthony, Ray**

**Tubbs, John Harrington, Sandy Peppersach, Joseph Peppersach, and**

**Sean Harrington.**

Respectfully submitted,

David Strider, RN, CCRN, MSN, ACNP DNP

Chairperson – VSI Disability Committee