

VIRGINIA OFFICIALS COMMITTEE MEETING

VSI Board Meeting 2/4/18

1. Update of VSI Officials:

- i. Currently VSI has 393 Officials registered with USA Swimming
- ii. Approximately 25 officials are in training for another certification
- iii. 149 have attended new official's clinics for 2017. Based on previous year data, roughly 45% or 67 of the 149 will complete their training.
- iv. A benchmark, suggested by USA Swimming is Club to have approximately 12 officials on their team.
- v. Naturally, larger teams would have more however, if each club has 12 or more officials it will adequately staff meets.
- vi. In a broader scope, the majority of our Officials also staff high school, Y and college meets, so there is an added benefit to promoting officiating within our sport.

2. Rules/Rule book

- i. Publication of new rule book is in progress. Lots of changes/word changes to the new USA Swimming hierarchy passed at convention.
- ii. Some minor rule changes with effective date (*my notes in yellow*)
 - May 1, 2018 – 101.7.4 On relays, the second, third and fourth swimmers are prohibited from starting from the top of the adjustable backplate (*fin*). A swimmer must have at least part of one foot in contact with the starting platform in front of the adjustable back plate during a relay exchange. *The reason is if both feet are behind the fin, it violates the maximum platform height and it is a safety issue.*
 - May 1, 2018 - 103.14.3 /M/ STARTING PLATFORMS The top surface of the starting platform shall be not less than 0.50 by 0.50 meters (1 foot 8 inches square) and shall slope not more than 10 degrees from the horizontal. It may have an adjustable setting back plate. The entire surface of the platform shall be faced with permanent non-slip material. Handgrips for the forward start may be installed on the sides of the starting platforms (*An example the Paddock blocks at Christiansburg. The forward start grips cannot be used for backstroke starts*)
 - May 1, 2018 102.24B(4) TIMING RULES If only one valid button or watch time is available, the time of that button or watch shall be the time for that timing system ~~provided it is supported by other information unless that time conflicts with other information.~~ If such a conflict exists, the Administrative Official shall gather as much data as possible and determine the time. (*Added some common sense*)
 - January 1, 2018 205.3 PROGRAM AND EVENTS
With the exception of championship and open water meets, the program in all other age group competition shall be planned to allow the events for swimmers twelve (12) years and younger to be completed in four (4) hours or less ~~for a timed finals per session (prelims, finals, timed finals) or in a total of eight (8) hours or less per day for a preliminaries and finals meet.~~ Events for the same 12 & under swimmers shall be limited to one session per day, except for prelim/final meets where events for 12 & under swimmers may be offered in both prelims and finals. (*If a meet has a 12&U session in the AM and a mid-day distance session for 12 &U, the cumulative total time for both cannot be longer than 4-hours. This is part of the sanctioning process, however, if you are planning a meet together be aware of this rule*)

All of the changes can be downloaded at <https://www.usaswimming.org/utility/landing-pages/officials/officials-education-and-training-resources>
Click on 2017 Adopted Legislation 9-16-17

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- iii. Open Water Clinic – May 4th-6th Tempe, Arizona. We can send an official from VSI, we will pay for their transportation, USA Swimming will pick up hotel and other expenses. I have sent the info to the district chairs, Gordon and Stephanie. If you know of anyone, please let me know.

3. Upcoming Championship Meets & Schedule

Dates	District	Meet	Host Club	MR	OQM	Evaluators
2/9-2/10	C	District 8 & Y	NOVA	Ben Harper		
2/10-2/11	SW	District 8 & Y	LY	John Stanley		
2/16-2/18	C	District 9-12	NOVA	Glenn West		
2/16-2/18	SE	District 12 & Y	SEVA	Ken Romney		
2/16-2/18	N	District 12 & Y	PWSC	Tony Martinich		
2/23-2/25	SW/BR	District 9-12/ Region 13 & O	CCA/LY	John Stanley/Beth Arnold?		
2/23-2/25	N	Region 13 & O	Rays	Michael S – Peter O’Hara		
2/23-2/25	SE	Region 13 & O	CGBD	John Squires?		
3/1-3/4	LSC	SC Senior Champs	NOVA	Dan Demers		
3/8-3/11	LSC	SC AG Champs	HOKI	Georg Fuhs	N2	
3/23-3/25	EZ S	Sectionals	HOKI			
7/13-7/15	LSC 2 SE	Summer Awards	ODAC	Bonnie Johnson		
7/13-7/15	LSC1 N	Summer Awards	Rays	Peter O’Hara		
7/13-7/15	LSC3 SW	Summer Awards	CCA	TBD?		
7/19-7/22	LSC	LC Senior Champs	LY	Genny Kimbel		
7/26-7/29	LSC	LC AG Champs	HOKI	Ralph Jones		

For districts, the host club can select their meet referee. The Officials committee would like to suggest Deck Referees for these meets to allow them to gain experience working championship level meets. In order for planning purposes, we agreed we should set up a Meet Referees rotation as Regionals-LC Age Groups- SC-Age Groups, LC-Seniors-SC-Seniors

4. Update from previous committee meeting

- i. Concussion protocol – As review, we discussed our procedure that was sent to all DR’s in December. Gordon may have some additional comments concerning our protocol and he is reviewing this live document. We all feel this is the appropriate way to ensure our swimmer’s safety.

5. Referee Candidates:

- i. Anne VanLenten (NOVA) and Scott Farrar (PSDN-H) have successfully completed their training.
- ii. We will be starting DR training for three additional officials during the long course season.

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6. New topics

- i. On-line Clinics? Discussed the possibility of using Zoom as a platform to hold New Officials and other introductory clinics on-line as a method of attracting new officials. Some districts have a large geography and to hosts clinics at certain meets can conflict for those who desire to volunteer. Our aim to increase our Officials base without losing the quality of our training.
- ii. Symposium/HOD suggestion is to have a Meet Director's clinic to help with the process of setting up a meet, required documentation timelines and best practices.
- iii. Traditionally our trainee officials do not wear white over blues until their 4th session. I would to know from the coaches if they would have any issues with allowing us to have our trainees to wear white over blues starting with their first session. Granted only the certified official will be overserving the swimmers for rule violations. The benefit for us is that as DR and MR at smaller venues it is sometimes difficult to ensure there is interaction going on between the trainer and trainee. Without a trainee wearing white over blues, they tend to blend in with the timers at the start end of the pool.