

VSI Officials Chair Report April 2016

2016 SC Championship Meets- Attendance

Seniors- 36 Officials

Age Groups- 47 Officials

Sectinals- 18 Officials 16 in Richmond, 2 in Buffalo

2016 LSC SC Championship Meet Reports

Seniors(Michael Sizemore)Equipment – Used wiring above deck rather than installed wiring. CTS had to be replaced once, I believe. Replaced a pad or two and a relay pad or two was misfiring but all in all response time to issues was quick and minimal impact to sessions. Air Quality – Reasonable but I got congested after three days of it.

Facility – Good Hospitality – Better this time than Panera day in and day out. Kudos to the Mexican chicken for Sunday lunch. Meet Announcement – Needs a lot of work. Probably need a meeting to discuss issues encountered by meet referee and admin referee. Safety – Three incident reports filed online, facility staff handled incidents appropriately. Number of officials – a couple of lightly staffed sessions but good overall. Atmosphere – All seemed pleasant with the exception of one coach who got upset over a call. Host Club Meet Prep – Well done. Host Club Meet Staffing – Well covered.

Age Groups(Dan Demers)- This meet is traditionally scheduled on the weekend of daylight savings. After the meet invite was approved it was decided between the MD, MR and TP chair that we should modify the push back the Sunday warm-ups by 1/2 hour, starting at 0800 versus 0830. This is should be noted and changed accordingly in the meet invite.

For the Sunday 1650 recommend modifying as follows: Competition will begin 10 minutes after the published timeline or approximately 12:00 PM, whichever is later. The deep pool finished at 1140 and some coaches were asking if the 1650's were starting at 1150. I told them I could not, because the deep end finished 10 minutes ahead of the published time line. There may be some swimmers expecting it to start at 1200 as stated in the meet invite.

Under seeding, there exists a contradiction of times for positive check-in between the second bullet and 4th bullet. One states 9:30 AM, the other states 6:00 PM on Friday. It was discussed in the coaches meeting that positive check-in will be the night before for weekend events, which is the traditional protocol.

Another suggestion is to seed all of the relays. I've worked Admin and MR for this meet and I can count on my one- hand the number of scratches we received.

Other considerations for the MR's that will follow me:

- Make sure all dry deck positions are manned with AO's. They will need to understand how to bring in the dolphin watches and produce swim-offs.
- The scratch table should be manned with a Hokie volunteer and runner. Preferably with a dry-deck official and knowledgeable about scratches. Our scratch table was set up in the leisure pool which help with crowd control. The runner can bring new results out to the table and bring in the closed events. If swim-offs are needed after scratches they can run the sheets down to the applicable DR and get them set up.
- Bulkhead crowd control for prelims and finals – Suggest that a notice be sent to all coaches that they are the only personnel allowed on the bulkheads between the flags. If they need to talk to their swimmers they can do that on deck or outside of the flags
- Suggest running the relays (200's) like they are run in the Senior champ format.
- Or on Saturday, consider adding a 10-15 minute break between the end of the relays before the 500's. May have swimmers doing both and they may be in the first heat of the 500's.
- Consider changing the penalty for a no-show, failure to compete or delay of meet at finals. Currently the rules ban the swimmer for any future swims (AGC action item)
- (Admin Ref) Positive check-in should be listed by team only. It makes it much easier for the coaches to check- in their swimmers
- (Admin Ref) If relays are still positive check-in, list the times by fastest to slowest. This allows the coaches to see if they are a Top-8 seed swimming in finals.
- (Admin Ref) Leave the swimmer names off the relay cards, let the coaches fill them in and have the timers verify names. Much easier to enter into MM.
- (Admin Ref) Create a team list with a coach cell phone number. That way Admin can send the coaches a text if one of their swimmers scratch-in. This worked great and we did not have any empty lanes in finals, except one which the swimmer failed to compete.
- CAC has established no-photo zones in the stands behind the blocks of the deep end. They state this is due to the interpretation by VSI. This should be revisited and clarified as this is very difficult to control.

- We had several ETO calls during relays. Maybe we have designated lanes, later in warm-ups, for teams to practice exchanges.
- On Sunday night the timeline is 1.5 hours and we had several 10 & U competing in the 50 Freestyle and the 100 Butterfly. The events were slated to start with 9 minutes apart. My suggestion would be to adding a 5-10 minute break between 96 and 97 and announce all of the records that have been broken at the meet to give the swimmers a chance to rest.
- Remind coaches that once OME is closed, they cannot enter a swimmer without notifying the MR and AR. We had one relay team disqualified for placing a swimmer on a relay that was not in the meet
- Suggest MR send the MD an email highlighting any points that need to be discussed in a normal coaches meeting. Scott Baldwin sent out an email to the coaches that also covered just about everything that I would cover in a coaches meeting. All I had to do was introduce myself, announce the meet jury, provide them an overview of the weekend's protocol and take any of their questions. There is not much time for a normal coaches meeting because warm-ups end at 8:25 and the meet starts at 8:30 AM.
- At the coaches meeting, I also let the coaches know that if they had a late scratch (mostly on Sunday) after the event closed I would accept it. This ensures there are no empty lanes in finals, something no one wants to see. We have time to notify the coach of the alternate and provide a second swim for another swimmer.
- Set up a coach to come and talk to the officials at every briefing. They can discuss the challenges of swimming, how they teach using any disqualifications and the importance of fair and equitable swimming for our sport. I had CYAC (Pat Batemen), NOVA (Drew Hirth), Hokie (Scott Baldwin) speak to us.

TIMING ADJUSTMENT RULE CHANGE Effective May 1, 2016

A message to our MR/AR/AO's should be to reiterate that extremely important administrative skills remain:

1. Determining that a primary time is invalid – sometimes that is easy (missing) other times it takes more investigation.
2. Determining what backup time is appropriate to assign the swimmer as the official time given all of the available information.

3. Making the judgment on what the official time should be when things aren't necessarily clear. 4. System failures will be calculated in the same manner as always.

Essentially – the backup time adjustment was simply a math exercise. It was a part of the art of the admin process, but it was not where the skill really lies in that process.

Rule 102.24.4.D and E – page 40 of the rule book changes how timing adjustments are handled:

Lane Malfunction – back-up times for that lane shall be calculated according to 102.24.4B which and integrated with the accurate primary times in establishing the official time and determining results.

Entire Heat Malfunction – when, because of an early or late start or other equipment or operator malfunction, the time of the automatic or semi-automatic primary timing system is equally incorrect for all lanes in a heat, but the order of finish and thus the absolute difference of time between the swimmers is accurate, the time of the primary system shall be adjusted by calculating the average difference between the primary times and the valid back-up times and adding, or subtracting when appropriate, that difference to the primary times of each lane in that heat. (See Appendix on page 44)

Due to the above change of timing adjustments, please confirm the following are in place for your meet management software.

Hy-tek has issued an update to MM6.0 which now puts the selection of the use of timing system differential in the set up screen. Currently, the choices are (1) FINA rules or (2) USA Swimming rules prior to May 1st. After May 1st, Hy-tek plans to change this to read (1) FINA/USA Swimming rules or (2) other rules. Those using an older version of MM should go into the Run menu and click on Preferences/Backup times and (with meets that start on May 1st or later) put a dot next to the option: Do not use average differential between pads and backups to adjust times (FINA). Please be aware that the default when opening Meet Setup in Hy-tek is (2) USA rules prior to May 1st so this must be changed to (1) FINA rules.

Recognition and Recruitment

The Officials Committee went thought the list of officials that worked many sessions/meets last year and will recognizing recently certified officials that were active last year along with dry deck workers and wet deck workers. These presentations will be done at the Awards Banquet.

Currently we have 44 new officials since the beginning of this season and 432 total.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bryan C. Wallin
Officials Chair
Virginia Swimming