

VSI Officials Chair Report August 2016

2016 LC Championship Meets

Since both meets were held the same weekend for the first time in recent memory there was concern about staffing. This wasn't an issue on the surface. As mentioned in the following reports from the Meet Referee's, there were 40 and 39 officials at SR and AG compared to 36 and 40 last year.

Seniors-(John Stanley)- 40 officials attended, 6 of which obtained a national evaluation. Air quality was satisfactory until Sunday afternoon, when AC units for front of building malfunctioned, creating negative air pressure and "wind tunnel" effect leading onto pool deck. By Sunday Finals air temperature was uncomfortable, but not unbearable.

For benefit of volunteer meet staff, Meet Invitation OR Sr. Committee needs to more clearly spell out or recommend a process for awards to swimmers (yes or no), as well as expected level of recognition to swimmers (Music at Finals, parade or lineup behind blocks, etc). There seems to be divergent views from coaches re: this general topic, with various coaches claiming to represent the consensus. Music was played for 10-15 seconds between B & A Final heats while swimmers exited the pool on Friday, but not on Saturday or Sunday. No music on Saturday was due to issues with audio equipment so issue was irrelevant. One coach noted that the meet was simply a Qualifier meet, and should exclude recognition of top swimmers. Would recommend if meet is to be treated as a qualifier, that awards ceremonies be removed, that scoring be turned off, that individual medals and ribbons be distributed to the teams at the end of the meet, and that High Points and Top Team trophies be eliminated from the meet (like Summer Awards).

There was not an overabundance of DQs – 56 total, of which 36 were DFS, penalty NS, Relay ET, & FS – equating to less than a 1% rate of DQs, more or less. Nor was there a visible pattern of DQ calls or officials making calls.

Age Groups- The number of officials was typical for this meet but what lacked was those in assigned positions and experienced dry deck workers in order to run chase starts. Seniors Champs was held the same weekend and had a good number of that could or would have assisted at this meet in those assigned positions. The issue regarding the start protocol was addressed at a coaches meeting Friday morning and the meet ran well. For consideration- the Age Group Committee may want to discuss bumping the finals start times up an hour and still consider running starts. When the apparent need to have more events in finals, it may be a way to get athletes out of the facility earlier- fed and in bed.

USA-S Championship Series Meets- 17 officials attended either Futures, Arena Pro Series, Junior Nationals, Nationals, US Open or Trials this year. VSI officials served as Administrative Referee and Assistant Admin at Winter Juniors, Meet Referee at EZ-North Sectional plus numerous assigned positions at other meets. Hopefully those experiences can be brought back to the LSC and used to educate and entice others to attend those higher level meets.

2017 LSC Championship Meets

Meet Referee appointments will be discussed during the Officials Committee meeting September 11th.

Recruitment

Currently we have 451 officials with 69 certified this past season compared to 2014-15 when we had 421 and 52. Of those 451, 231 worked 10 sessions or more which is down from last years number of 258. The training program we modified last year brought us in some higher numbers, especially in a year when the cycle should be down. Still some bugs we need to work out.

Current Clinics- NOVA- October 4th.

Officials Committee meeting will be held September 11th, 12:00 in Richmond

Respectfully Submitted,

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Officials Chair
Virginia Swimming