

VSI Officials Committee Meeting September 12, 2015

Attending: Beth Jones, Dan Demers, Jim Frye, Georg Fuhs, Gordon Hair, Bob Rustin, Michael Sizemore, John Stanley and Bryan Wallin

2014-2015 Season Recap

Membership- We currently have 421 officials in the OTS system. In the Central District there are 121 officials, the North has 76. In the Southeast we have 120 officials and in the Southwest there are 104. There were 52 new officials certified this past year. The system that Georg set up for us to track officials from clinic to certification last year worked fine as long as the information was passed along from clinic to final walks. The District Chairs are going to work directly with Georg this year in an attempt to make the information flow quickly and accurately. Georg's new email address is vsi.officials.rosters@gmail.com

Championships- Attendance at LC Championships meets was down this past year but VA officials participating at the EZ Age Group meet was up. LCSR- The only issue at this meet was the setup of the 18 and under D-Final. There was miscommunication between what the Senior Committee expected, what the Administrative Referee could do with the software and how the Meet Announcement was written. LCAG was also well staffed except for the 10 and under sessions. Chase starts were run during the prelim sessions.

Championship Meet Progression- The committee was asked their opinion of the current SC championship format. Realizing that the need for trying a new format for these qualifier meets was driven by maintaining a reasonable number at the season end Championship meet. It is the OC opinion that we have unintentionally left out some of the most important members, the developing 12 and under athlete. Just like there is a need for more localized meets at Sectional, Future levels there is a need for the 10 year old that doesn't have an Age Group cut. There should be B/C Championship meet in our LSC at the District level. It could be run the week prior, as a last chance meet, to the 12 and under qualifier or still locally in the Districts the week of Senior Champs. Something should be done to support these athletes.

While each District/Region has their own issues to deal with and giving them the ability to work around those issues is important, moving forward VSI should continue to keep making these meets mirror images of each other. If we continue to assign teams to these meets they should be executed identically. It doesn't seem equitable that in one area of the state District and Regionals are run the same weekend while in another area of the state families are forced to travel on two separate weekends. If we continue to run the same events but different formats at these qualifiers, teams should be allowed to travel to whatever meet best services their program.

Clinics-Training

Emails have been sent out to the Team Officials Chairs (TOC) to let them know what is available at this time and inviting them to set up clinics with the District Chair as needed. Michael Sizemore is going to contract the TOC's in the North and starting setting up clinics with the teams.

Referee Training

Currently Gerri Cole, Bonnie Johnson, Judy Kay Schroer and Scott Greiner are still working on their certification. Ben Harper, Ralph Jones Pete O'hara and Richard Owen were extended and accepted invitations to begin their training as Deck Referee's.

Given the way our meets are conducted, Administrative Officials (AO) being required, the committee has decided to remove the Timing Judge Certification requirement for becoming a Deck Referee and add administrative sessions to their training. The committee is formulating a process for Referee's that go through this new system also become AO's before being considered for Meet Referee.

Referee's LSC Championships Meets 2016

SC Seniors- Michael Sizemore

SC Age Group- Dan Demers

LC Seniors- John Stanley

SC Age Groups- TBD

Training Cards

Stroke and Turn Apprentice Record- Has been updated to make the card match better with what is being expected. Some confusion last year regarding the number of sessions and the way the card was numbered. That and hopefully the way the card is now configured on the back will make it easier to understand what is expected and what is needed to be covered during each walk.

Administrative Official- The position of Recorder and Timing Judge has been merged into the Administrative Official and the new apprentice card is now online for training.

Swimposium 2015

Michael Downs will be facilitating the Referee's Clinic at the Swimposium on September 19.

Rules Update

The USA-S Rule 101.5.2—Freestyle—Medley Relay and Individual Medley was the only real discussion. Based on the recent FINA Technical Committee interpretation and fact that the same interpretation that was done in 1997 is still in force, this shouldn't be an issue since the rule hasn't changed they are just clarifying that what Ryan Lochte did in Kazan is illegal. We will continue to judge the stroke the same way, observing the shoulders and making sure they are in the correct position, not toward the back, when the athlete leaves the wall in freestyle.

Virginia Officials Standards of Conduct

The committee agreed that we needed to add a section regarding using social media. While we are adding a social media part to this, it was recommended we reorganize what is already there, so what is expected from the officials are listed first and what is prohibited will follow that. Laura Razzolini said she would work on this.

Reimbursement Policy

Gordon Hair will be working on a fee reimbursement policy for officials that are unattached.

Multiple Meet Referee

The question was posed to the committee if it was possible for a meet to have two meet referees. The committee doesn't endorse the idea of having multiple meet referee's at a meet. If the MR listed on the Meet Announcement can't be there for a session, or a day, there is precedent that there be an interim Referee. The Meet Referee listed on the MA is responsible in making sure the meet is executed as prescribed and accountable for any issues that may occur. They also need to be the one that sets up the protocols, submits the post-referee reports and makes sure OTS is updated. If they want to appoint a designee for certain sessions, that is acceptable.

Meet Referee Reports

The Post-Meet Referee Report will be modified with specific question regarding facility, air quality, safety protocols, hospitality, meet announcements, host clubs participation/volunteering etc... The referee will be asked to select from three different levels of quality/concerns.. and then asked to further explain any areas that had deficiencies. This page will be passed along to the Technical Planning Chair and Admin Vice Chair for future planning. The second page information regarding the officials will remain with the LSC officials chair and the district chairs.

Chase Starts

In an attempt to have a guideline as to how to setup/run chase start meets the officials committee is putting together a document. Dan Demers and Bob Rustin will work on this during SC season.

Respectfully submitted,
Bryan C. Wallin
Officials Chair
Virginia Swimming