

# VIRGINIA OFFICIALS NEWS AND NOTES

## NEW TIMING ADJUSTMENT PROCEDURE

The time has come to no longer adjust times based on differentials. At the USA-S convention last year the decision was made to use averages without using any adjustment factor. Here is a Timing Document (with screen shots) that will help us comply with the rule change effective May 1, 2016. [CLICK HERE](#)



## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

### Maxwell Excellence Award

An award given by USA-S to honor an outstanding LSC official for their contributions to local swimming. A bio and picture will be in May edition of Swimming World.

Congratulations Terry Randolph for being prestigious recognition

At VSI's Annual Awards banquet there were some officials that were recognized for their efforts over the past LC2015-SC2016 Seasons.

Many officials go above and beyond when it comes to working meets, mentoring and running clinics. These officials worked over 20 USA-S meets this season. Not including High School, College, Summer League and other events that aren't USA-S sponsored: Ralph Jones, Genny Kimbel, Dan Demers, Michael Downs, Bob Rustin, Kim Downs, Bryan Wallin, Georg Fuhs, Tommy Lovell, Ken Romney, Pat Donohue, Connie Pryor and John Stanley.

The following people were recognized for their service and dedication to our LSC; regularly working meets, looking for opportunities to advance or volunteer, getting additional certifications for different jobs around the deck and always being one of the first to step up when a call for officials goes out.

On the Wet Deck Side-

Judy Kay Schroer- VSTP, Mike Gaffney- QSTS, Sue Munson- CCA



On the Dry Deck Side-

Leah Oberley- ODAC, Chris Roakes-CCA

Multi-Purpose- Both Dry and Wet Deck-

Aki Harada- NOVA

Team Chair

Laura Razzolini-NOVA

Newcomers-

Stephanie Pennington-RPST, Laura Ross-PSDN, Zsuzsa Fox-Gator and Phil Gibbs-QSTS

The Volunteers of the Year

When adding up meets, championships and local, and sessions worked, along with continuing education in helping mentoring new officials. In recognition of their outstanding efforts in furthering our LSC and our athletes development.

Congratulations to George Zolovick-HOKI's and Bob Rustin-PSDN

## **LONG COURSE SENIOR AND AGE GROUP CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Every four years our sport shines during the Olympics, where the best of the best get to compete for glory. Long Course Season is a busy time because there are only so many meets due to lake of pools and a shorter season compared to Short Course.

Because of the way the schedule falls this year, and to give our athletes opportunity to perform their best at the meet they choose to be their "goal meet" of the season, Virginia Swimming made the decision to host both Seniors and Age Groups the same weekend.

This will certainly increase the need for volunteers at those meets and open up opportunities for many to have an assigned position at Chief Judge, Starter, Deck or Administrative Referee.

Both meets are the weekend of July 21-24.

Senior Championships will be at the Collegiate School Aquatic Center in Richmond VA

[Here is the Application to Officiate](#)

Age Group Championships will be at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center in Christiansburg VA

[Here is the Application to Officiate](#)

Also if anyone is interested in working on a National Deck, the applications are still open on the USA-S website. [Here is the LINK](#) As mentioned before with so many meets, nationally not just within our LSC, there will be opportunities to attend those meets as an official.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Getting selected to attend the Olympic Trials is a “by invitation only” event for officials. Trials and The Duel In the Pool are the only meets like this within USA-S. How do you get invited? Good question... The National Officials Chair and the Vice President of Program Operations, will review officials for all USA-S Championship meets. Those specified meets are Futures, Juniors, Arena Pro Swim Series, Nationals, and team selection events such Olympic Team Trials and World Team Trials. These meets have an application process. In working these meets you get rated based on the level of meet and what assignments you may receive. Between working those meets your also required to work regularly within your LSC and mentor others as well. It takes dedication, and some vacation time, in order to be recognized and invited to attend Trials. Virginia Swimming was lucky to have two of our own be asked to come to Omaha this summer.... congratulations to Michael and Kim Downs. It will be exciting to hear what stories they bring back.



## IN MEMORY OF

Recently, Bruce Buscaglia passed away. Bruce was an official for almost 10 years and actively volunteered where ever his daughter and son swam. He was the Team Chair at Quest for years, and both he and his wife Caycee have been active within the swimming community.

Please keep his family in your thoughts. [Richmond Times Dispatch](#)

## YOUR RULE BOOK - IT TELLS A STORY

BY JAY THOMAS // CHAIR, USA SWIMMING RULES AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

I truly enjoy working with officials from all around the country. As the Rules Committee Chairman, I receive questions via email, phone and sometimes in person. Almost without exception, when I am answering a rules question, I get out my rulebook. I read the applicable rule carefully, I search the rule book for other rules that may be related and might affect the answer to the inquiry. Sometimes I have the pleasure of answering questions in person. When we delve into the question at hand, I almost always ask the official to get out their rule book so we can discuss the issue together.

Our rule book is published and distributed each January. Most of the rules are effective May 1 of that year. In many years, there are rules published that are effective either immediately after the House of Delegates meeting or on some date prior to the normal May 1, effective date (look inside the front cover for the section “Major Legislation and Rule Changes”.) When that rule book comes out of the official’s bag, what it looks like and how the official handles it tells a story. So here is the story our exchange might tell;

1. If it is January - April and the official pulls out the next years rule book and they don't have the current years book, chances are they were never told how our rules process works.
2. If it is January – April and they pull out the current years book, I sometimes ask of they have next year's book to see if they are aware that there may be some rules changes that are effective earlier than the May 1 normal effective date.
3. Throughout the year, the rule book tells a story. What is the condition of this official's book? Later in the year - Is the book worn and tattered, perhaps being held together by a couple of rubber bands or duct tape? Is it filled with notes and highlights (good signs!) Or, does it look like the day it came in the mail.
4. When we begin the discussion, does the official turn promptly to the appropriate section of the rules? Or do they fumble and stumble demonstrating a lack of familiarity with the layout of the book.

When I am working a meet of any level, I spend some time just prior ensuring I am refreshed on the rules that apply to my role in the meet and the type of meet that I am officiating at. Many of us work meets from other organizations (NCAA, NFHS, summer recreation leagues, etc.). There are numerous variations in the rules and application of those rules and we need to carefully review and refresh our understanding of the rules for the meet at hand. Get out the book and read. Make sure you understand the rule. Periodically go to the USA Swimming website and read through the Situations and Resolutions so that you have a more complete understanding of how to apply those rules. Use the Rules and Regulations section of the website. Look at the top navigation bar – ABOUT/RULES AND REGULATIONS.

When at a meet, use the rule book. Even at the highest level meets, I almost always get out my rule book and review the text prior to ruling on complex issues. Never once have I ever been criticized by a coach or other official for getting out the book. You are not likely to get the look of “doesn't he know the rule?” rather, you will probably get the look – “that official cares enough to want to make sure he/she gets it right.”

The worse thing we can do as officials is to make a bad call or misapply a rule. Our rule book is an important document. Read it, get to know it, use it. Thanks again for everything you do for our sport.

***Virginia Swimming  
Moving Forward  
Swimming Fast***