



VIRGINIA OFFICIALS NEWS AND NOTES

January-February 2016

Championship Season Is Here

It's the most wonderful time of the year (after Christmas) - the time when our LSC Championship meets are happening all around the state. The athletes are winning medals, qualifying for next level and just generally having a great time with the sport we all love. This is the best time to be an Official at a meet.

Qualified to Volunteer?

Anyone certified is qualified for our progression meets. Those championship level meets (District Champs, Regional Champs, and Summer Awards) provide ideal opportunities for new officials to gain experience in a championship environment.

Age Group Champs and Senior Champs are our highest level meets and we have the highest expectation of officiating at these meets. For these meets a V1 level (1year) is required to officiate. All things being equal, the more experienced official will generally get an assignment over a newly certified official. We recognize though, that experience in terms of number of sessions worked does not always translate to a more competent official. Some individuals with a minimal amount of experience can rapidly grasp the nuances of the rules, deck procedures, etc., and

in these circumstances competence is the overriding measure.

When possible, our goal is to utilize a combination of more senior level officials with more junior level officials so that mentorship can take place at all levels of the meet.

How Do I Sign Up

Age Groups and Seniors have an application process that is found on the website under the meet's or you can go to the documents here.

1. [Va LSC Senior Champs](#)
2. [Va LSC Age Group Champs](#)

To sign up for Districts and Regionals just contact the host clubs official's coordinator.

Districts

Richmond

- Laura Razzolini
- lrizzolini@vcu.edu

Warrenton

- Beth Jones
- beth@tricordhomes.com

Newport News

- Ellen Bollinger-Tinney
- ellen.bollinger@chkd.org

Regionals

Manassas

- Pete O'Hara
- pwoharajr@verizon.net

Newport News

- Genny Kimbel
- gennykimbel@verizon.net

Southwest District/Regional

Christiansburg

- John Stanley
- jfstanley@cox.net



Senior Championships

Richmond- March 3-6
Meet Referee-Michael Sizemore
[Application to Officiate](#)

Age Group Championships

Christiansburg- March 10-13
Meet Referee-Dan Demers
[Application to Officiate](#)

Speedo Sectional Championships

Richmond- March 31- April 3
Meet Referee-Catherine McCauley
[Application to Officiate](#)

National Certification

I keep hearing about N2 and N3 certifications. What is this?

The National Officials Certification Program provides education of officials through mentoring, participation and evaluation as well recognizing those officials who have demonstrated their knowledge of swim officiating at each level and position. One step in becoming nationally certified at a position is to complete an evaluation at a designated meet.

One of the main elements of an evaluation is learning what is expected of a certain position at your current level and the next level of meets.

An N2 certification is the first national level for a position. It shows that an official is experienced and has been evaluated as understanding what is expected at that position for a Zone or Sectional meet. An N2 certification is required at Stroke and Turns before any other wet deck N2 certifications can be obtained. The same goes for an N3 certification, a Stroke and Turn must be obtained first. An N3 certification is the second national level. This shows that the official has the experience, skills and knowledge to be considered for selection to work National Championship level meets in that position.

All N2 certifications and Stroke and Turn N3 certifications can be achieved by attending an Officials Qualifying Meet. Certain educational components may

also be required. N3 evaluations for all other wet deck positions require two separate evaluations and attending a National Championship meet.

Officials wishing to be evaluated at either Age Groups, Seniors or Sectionals may apply for an evaluation by completing an application form (page 1).



Congratulations to Ginny Kimble and Dan Demers. After working Stroke and Turns at Junior Nationals in Atlanta this December Ginny was able to apply for her N3 certification as a Starter and Chief Judge, while Dan was able to N3 Chief Judge.

Did You Know?

Niagara Falls has enough water to fill up all the swimming pools in the United States in less than three days...

swimmingpool.com

Reimbursement for Travel Expenses

Virginia Swimming officials who officiate an Officials Qualifying Meet outside our LSC may be reimbursed actual travel-related expenses not to exceed on a per meet basis the maximum budgeted amount available to Virginia Swimming athletes attending Short Course, Long Course National Championships or Olympic Trials. In order to receive the reimbursement, a Virginia Swimming official must meet these eligibility criteria:

- Be registered with Virginia Swimming as an official for at least one year prior to the meet and be registered with USA Swimming through Virginia Swimming as an official during the time of the meet for which reimbursement is requested.
- Have worked a minimum of 8 sessions in at least 4 meets sanctioned by Virginia Swimming plus at least 3 sessions of a Virginia Swimming LSC Championships meet in the twelve months prior to the meet.
- Have worked all sessions (and have received an evaluation from a National Evaluator) of the meet for which reimbursement is requested.

- Submit a completed Virginia Swimming Officials Travel Expenses Reimbursement Form to the LSC Officials Chair no later than 30 days after completion of the meet for which reimbursement is requested.

Officials Qualifying Meets are those meets (other than those hosted by Virginia Swimming) approved by the National Officials Committee for National Certification evaluations.

Travel-related expenses are reasonable and customary coach air fare, hotel room, rental car, gas, and parking fees (receipts must accompany the request).

A Virginia Swimming official may receive a travel expenses reimbursement for no more than two meets (includes meets reimbursed under the Officials Qualifying Meet Reimbursement Policy) per fiscal year (1 September – 31 August).



Masters Meet

U.S. Masters Swimming will be holding their 2016 Spring National Championships this year in Greensboro, NC. The event is expected to draw large numbers of Masters Swimmers - many probably from your own LMSC.

This event will be designated as N2/N3 Evaluation meet.

This is an excellent opportunity for the officials in your LMSC to work a USMS National Championship and be evaluated for renewal or advancement at the N2 or N3 level.

If you plan on attending the event as a swimmer - please consider working the deck between events or on your off day to give relief to those who will be working all day.

Here are the details:

Spring Nationals – Greensboro, NC April 28 – March 1, 2015 (SCY)

These are a set of fast pools and the facility has played host to numerous big meets.

A large variety of moderately priced hotels are located a short distance from the pool.

Here is the [Application to Officiate](#) for the USMS Spring Nationals.

Masters a little closer to home

Our Virginia Masters Winter Meet is scheduled for February 6th and 7th at NOVA Aquatic Center in Richmond. This is one of our longest-running and most successful meets and we really appreciate the support from

Virginia Swimming officials in the past to make this a great event. We are looking for volunteers at all of the deck positions. Bob Rustin will be the meet referee.

On Saturday, February 6th, the meet will start at 2:00 p.m. and we normally finish by 6:00 p.m. On Sunday, February 7th, we will start at 8:00 a.m. and we normally finish around mid-day.

We are also planning a one-day meet at the College of William of Mary on Saturday, March 19th. This is a new event for us. The meet will start at 3:00 p.m. and should last around 4 hours or so. We know this date might be a challenge since there are already meets scheduled at Midtown Aquatic Center and NOVA on that date. But, perhaps there are a few people not involved in those meets who would be willing to volunteer. Janet Law has agreed to be the meet referee for this meet.

Please remind folks that sessions worked at USMS sanctioned meets will count towards your USA-Swimming/Virginia Swimming re-certification requirements. Plus, we try to have fun!



NEW OFFICIALS AND ADVANCEMENTS

We've had many new officials come on board this year, as well as many officials obtain new certifications during the Short Course Season. All of this information as well as information regarding new clinics starting in the Spring can be found on the [VSI Website](#) in the Officials section.



To Adjust Times or to Not Adjust Times That is the question.....

Many people have been asking this question.. "I've heard we aren't doing adjustments anymore". This fall, at the Annual Convention in Kansas City, USA-S voted to remove the timing adjustment practice and procedures from the rulebook, saying that resolving a pad malfunction on a lane will no longer require further adjustments to backup times. Many of you have already received your new 2016 USA-S Rulebook (reminder: not to be used at meets until May 1st) and noticed the changes to 102.24 Timing Rules. A thumb nail of these changes is we will only be using the average of the back-ups and no longer doing adjustments based on previous data. The USA-S Officials Committee will be putting out more information in regards to how we should be doing adjustments to issues and the functionality within Hy-Tech's Meet Manager program ie...what's defaulted and what options will need to be used "clicked". A guideline for this will be posted in April, closer to the date of implementation. There is concern if it goes out earlier, then people will start using the practice ahead of time.

VIRGINIA SWIMMING

MOVING FORWARD, SWIMMING FAST