



### **POTOMAC VALLEY SWIMMING MISSION STATEMENT**

*Potomac Valley Swimming (PVS) shall promote swimming and foster equal access for competitive opportunities for the benefit of swimmers of all ages and abilities, in accordance with the standards, rules, regulations, policies and procedures of the Federation Internationale de Natation (FINA), USA Swimming (USA-S) and PVS and its Articles of Incorporation. The objectives and primary purpose of PVS shall be the education and assurance of instruction and training of individuals to develop and improve their capabilities in the sport of swimming.*



**From the Chairman**  
**PVS Officials Committee Chair Tim Husson**



Welcome to the new swim season! If your officials' certification expires this year, or if you want to find out if your certification expires, read the article below by committee member Kelly Rowell. The Officials Committee has already scheduled a full slate of clinics for the fall to help you recertify or attain a new certification.

2016 USA Swimming Registration will be available soon and I will have more information in the next newsletter and in an email to the Officials Email List. Remember that your 2015 registration is valid through the end of December so there is no urgency to reregister at this time. If you aren't on the PVS Officials Email List, go to <http://www.pvswim.org/official> to sign yourself up.

Be sure to read Jack Neill's column below where he put our sport in perspective and reminds us why we love it so much.

Next month I will have some fun statistics about our group of officials. Did you know that almost  $\frac{3}{4}$  of our current officials have been doing it fewer than five years. That is why we emphasize training and recruiting officials.

I hope to see you at a clinic or meet this fall. Email me your comments and questions anytime.

Tim Husson  
[OfficialsChair@pvswim.org](mailto:OfficialsChair@pvswim.org)



DEAFLYMPICS

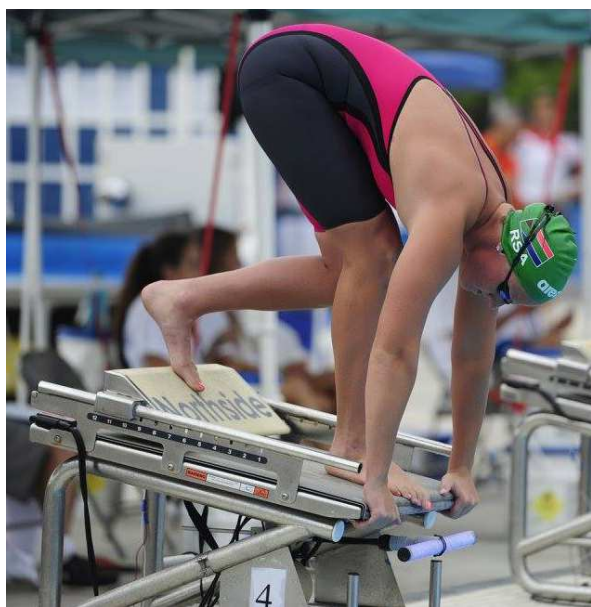
## World Deaf Swimming Championships by Bob Vincent



For those of you that have attended a coaches meeting prior to the start of a meet you know how crazy some of these meetings can be at our meets during the year. Imagine that you are the Meet Referee. You are standing in front of a room full of coaches from all the teams swimming in the meet. Now imagine that each team is from a different country, very few of which speak English. Now imagine that the coaches can't hear anything you are saying and are using sign language. Then imagine that they are using two different types of sign language, American and International. You can stop imagining now, because it was real.



This year I had the pleasure of being invited to officiate at the World Deaf Swimming Championships. It was an honor and an experience that I will never forget. I had the privilege of being the team Lead Chief Judge at this meet. Not only was it my first experience with deaf swimmers, but it was also my first international experience with FINA protocol.



As many of us have learned how to use hand signals as a starter and referee for the deaf swimmers, this meet many of the swimmers, as well as most of the officials, were introduced to a new starting system. The system used lights at each block. Not just a strobe to start, but flashing red lights to simulate the "ready" whistle, a solid red light to simulate the long whistle, and a purple light indicating when to "take your mark." As you can guess, the light turned green for the start of the race. To make these lights work the referee used a button, just like our timers do, and pushed it multiple times

to create the “ready” whistle lights. The starter also used a button to create the “take your mark” light. Once the race was started the system created the green “go” lights at each block. It was amazing to see these swimmers getting the chance to start this way. If you look closely at the picture on the right of Denice Wepasnick you will see the plunger in her left hand. You can also see in the picture below the light just in front of the block.

There were many world records, as well as record set for each of the participating countries. The swimming looked the same, but the noise at the meet was gone. No more screaming coaches or parents, just a lot of hands waiving in the air, which is the sign equivalent to applause. By the end of the meet many of us began to pick up some of the universal sign language.

It was a real honor to help provide an environment where these swimmers had the opportunity for quality starts, quality officiating, and a meet that was hosted at a world-class facility. The staff and volunteers at the Northside Aquatics Center in San Antonio, TX should be very proud of the job they did hosting Juniors, Seniors, and then the World Deaf Swimming Championships.

## You Make the Call!



**Situation:** A visiting nationally known college coach is in attendance at an LSC Junior Olympic meet to observe some local swimmers. He is videotaping several events. A stroke disqualification is called in an event, and it is accepted by the referee but eventually protested in writing by another coach. The college coach tells the disqualified swimmer’s coach that he has the swim on tape and it probably will show that there was no DQ. The protesting coach demands that the referee review the tape and change his decision.

**Question:** What should the referee do?

## Is It Recertification Time for You? by Kelly Rowell, HACC Officials Chair



It’s the cusp of a new swim season - coaches are planning new practice drills, team administrators are selecting the trendiest new apparel, swimmers are enjoying the last few days of sleeping in, and officials are ... reviewing the status of their PVS

certifications! Are you one of the 30% of PVS officials who need to recertify by 12/31/2015? Not sure? Did you attend a PVS clinic last year? If not, odds are good you are among those needing to recertify. The definitive answer is found in [USA Swimming's Officials Tracking System \(OTS\)](#) under *My Certification Card* – if any of the **Expires** dates listed in the LSC section are 12/31/2015 or earlier, it's time to recertify. A reminder to officials with National certification, your LSC certification must be kept current in order to recertify at the National level.

Requirements for [recertification](#) vary from position to position, but the basics are the same. In order to recertify, you must:

- have been previously certified in the position
- have a current non-athlete membership in USA Swimming (note, this includes current APT and Background Check)
- have worked a minimum number of sessions in each year since last certification/recertification at PVS-sanctioned, non-Officials' Qualifying meets (observed and approved meets, i.e., high school and masters meets, are not included)
- attend a [clinic](#)
- pass the appropriate recertification tests (not required for Hy-Tek Operators and Electronic Timing System Operators)
- submit the online PVS Officials Recertification Request

If you aren't sure if you've worked the minimum number of sessions – 6 for Referees, 4 for other positions - that information is available in OTS under *View My History*. Only sessions with an **LSC** of PV, a **Meet Type** that isn't Observed/Approved, and a Level of **LSC** count toward the minimum. If you need additional sessions this year, [opportunities](#) abound!

The PVS Officials Committee has scheduled at least 30 [clinics](#) in the next 4 months, including some on-line options and some new re-certification only options, to make completing the clinic attendance requirement easy for all.

If you've been certified in your current position(s) for a year or more, consider expanding your abilities by [certifying](#) in a new position. [Requirements](#) for certification vary from position to position, but the basics are the same. The process should be familiar since you've already completed it at least once. In order to certify in a new position for the first time you must:

- meet minimum age requirements
- have a current non-athlete membership in USA Swimming (note, this includes current APT and Background Check)
- meet the prior experience requirements of the position
- attend a [clinic](#)
- work a minimum of 5 apprentice sessions in the position (6 for Referee)
- pass the appropriate certification tests (not required for Hy-Tek Operators and Electronic Timing System Operators)

- be favorably observed at your last apprentice session by a PVS Evaluator for the position
- send your completed training card and evaluation to the PVS Certification Officer

Confused? Have questions? Contact your club [officials' chair](#).

## Upcoming Clinics



Date	Clinic	Location	Time	Who's Attending
Wednesday September 16	<a href="#">Stroke &amp; Turn</a>	<a href="#">Univ. of MD</a>	6:30 - 9:00 PM	<a href="#">list</a>
Saturday September 19	<a href="#">Stroke &amp; Turn</a>	<a href="#">Madeira School</a>	8:00 - 10:30 AM	<a href="#">list</a>
Saturday September 19	<a href="#">Starter</a>	<a href="#">Madeira School</a>	10:30 AM - 12:30 PM	<a href="#">list</a>
Sunday September 20	<a href="#">Stroke &amp; Turn</a>	<a href="#">MLK Swim Center</a>	8:00 - 10:30 AM	<a href="#">list</a>
Sunday September 20	<a href="#">Starter</a>	<a href="#">MLK Swim Center</a>	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	<a href="#">list</a>
Sunday September 20	<a href="#">Stroke &amp; Turn</a> <b>(Recert Only)</b>	<a href="#">MLK Swim Center</a>	1:00 - 3:00 PM	<a href="#">list</a>
Sunday September 20	<a href="#">Chief Judge</a>	<a href="#">MLK Swim Center</a>	3:00 - 5:00 PM	<a href="#">list</a>
Saturday September 26	<a href="#">Stroke &amp; Turn</a>	<a href="#">GMU</a>	8:00 - 10:30 AM	<a href="#">list</a>
Saturday September 26	<a href="#">Chief Judge</a>	<a href="#">GMU</a>	10:30 AM - 12:30 PM	<a href="#">list</a>
Saturday September 26	<a href="#">New Referee</a> <b>(By Invitation Only)</b>	<a href="#">Overlee</a>	9:30 - 11:30 AM	By Invitation
Saturday September 26	<a href="#">Referee</a>	<a href="#">Overlee</a>	NOON - 2:00 PM	<a href="#">list</a>
Sunday September 27	<a href="#">Hy-Tek Computer Operator</a>	<a href="#">Univ. of MD</a>	8:00 - 10:00 AM	<a href="#">list</a>
Sunday September 27	<a href="#">Colorado Timing System Operator</a>	<a href="#">Univ. of MD</a>	10:00 AM - NOON	<a href="#">list</a>
Sunday September 27	<a href="#">Administrative Official</a>	<a href="#">Univ. of MD</a>	1:00 - 3:00 PM	<a href="#">list</a>
Sunday September 27	<a href="#">Administrative Official</a> <b>(Recert Only)</b>	<a href="#">Univ. of MD</a>	3:00 - 5:00 PM	<a href="#">list</a>
Thursday October 8	<a href="#">Stroke &amp; Turn</a>	On-Line Clinic	7:00 - 9:30 PM	
Saturday October 10	<a href="#">Starter</a>	<a href="#">Herndon Community Center</a>	8:00 - 10:00 AM	<a href="#">list</a>
Saturday October 10	<a href="#">Stroke and Turn</a>	<a href="#">Herndon Community Center</a>	10:00 AM - 12:30 PM	<a href="#">list</a>
Saturday October 10	<a href="#">Chief Judge</a>	<a href="#">Herndon Community Center</a>	1:00 - 3:00 PM	<a href="#">list</a>

Saturday October 10	<a href="#">Stroke &amp; Turn (Recert Only)</a>	<a href="#">Herndon Community Center</a>	3:00 - 5:00 PM	<a href="#">list</a>
Sunday October 11	<a href="#">Colorado Timing System Operator</a>	<a href="#">Herndon Community Center</a>	9:00 - 11:00 AM	<a href="#">list</a>
Sunday October 11	<a href="#">Hy-Tek Computer Operator</a>	<a href="#">Herndon Community Center</a>	NOON - 2:00 PM	<a href="#">list</a>
Sunday October 11	<a href="#">Administrative Official</a>	<a href="#">Herndon Community Center</a>	2:30 - 4:30 PM	<a href="#">list</a>
Thursday October 15	<a href="#">Administrative Official (Recert Only)</a>	On-Line Clinic	7:00 - 9:00 PM	
Thursday October 22	<a href="#">Referee Recertification (Recert Only)</a>	On-Line Clinic	7:00 - 9:00 PM	
Thursday November 12	<a href="#">Stroke &amp; Turn</a>	On-Line Clinic	7:00 - 9:30 PM	
Wednesday November 18	<a href="#">Stroke &amp; Turn</a>	<a href="#">MLK Swim Center</a>	7:00 - 9:30 PM	<a href="#">list</a>
Saturday November 21	<a href="#">Starter</a>	<a href="#">TBD</a>	8:00 - 10:00 AM	<a href="#">list</a>
Saturday November 21	<a href="#">Stroke and Turn</a>	<a href="#">TBD</a>	10:00 AM - NOON	<a href="#">list</a>

## You Make the Call Resolution



**Recommended Resolution:** The disqualification should stand, disallowing the protest. A Technical Jury cannot adjudicate judgment decisions -- only the referee may adjudicate judgment decisions. In addition, USA Swimming has not approved any videotape devices or the use of them to resolve such protests. The referee may view the tape for educational purposes; however, there is no obligation to do so.

**Applicable Rules 102.13.1, 102.11.1**

## Upcoming Meets



### SEPTEMBER

Date	Meet	Host	Location
18	UMAC Relay Meet	UMAC	<a href="#">Univ. of MD</a>
26-27	MAKO Fall Invitational	MAKO	<a href="#">GMU</a>
27	PAC Freestyle Meet	PAC	<a href="#">Fairland</a>

### OCTOBER

Date	Meet	Host	Location
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3-4	Freestyle Fall Festival	MSSC	<a href="#">Fairland</a>
9-11	RMSC October Kickoff (by invitation)	RMSC	<a href="#">Germantown</a>
9-10	Red & Black Invitational (by invitation)	UMAC	<a href="#">Univ. of MD</a>
9-10	Snow Pumpkin Invitational (by invitation)	SNOW	<a href="#">Claude Moore</a>
10-11	Harvest Moon	HACC	<a href="#">Herndon</a>
10-11	Harvest Moon PVS October Open	HACC	Herndon
16-18		TBD	<a href="#">Lee District</a>
		TBD	<a href="#">Fairland</a>
		TBD	<a href="#">TBD</a>
24-25	Fall Gator Mini Meet	AAC	<a href="#">Wakefield HS</a>
24-25	SDS Monster Mash (by invitation)	SDS	<a href="#">South Run</a>



### **It's All About the Culture**

I suspect that many of us have seen (and been disgusted by) the video showing two Texas high school football players viciously attacking an official on the field during an early September game. Unfortunately, this type of behavior is not rare in youth sports these days. There have been far too many stories of athletes and spectators physically attacking game officials in recent years, sometimes resulting in serious injury. Some say this violence reflects a less civil, disrespectful, more aggressive society, and that the culture of sports simply mirrors American culture as a whole.

But then, there is swimming.

Swimming has a culture that is unique in modern American sports. It's a culture that embraces accountability, responsibility, and good old fashioned sportsmanship. Swimmers are expected to be humble and gracious whether they win or lose. There occasionally are exceptions and mistakes, but this is a critical part of the values that are instilled by coaches and reinforced by the example of elite swimmers. Too often kids see their sports heroes on TV engaging in trash talking and humiliating their opponents. There are no "end zone dances" at the finish of a 100-yard Butterfly. Instead there are handshakes, smiles, and respect for the opponent. I can't imagine a scene on a pool deck similar to the one that took place on that Texas football field. It would be utterly foreign to the culture of our sport.

Swim teams are made up of both boys and girls, and supervised by both male and female coaches. They practice together and compete at the same meets. The boys see girls—and the girls see boys—as teammates, as fellow athletes, as friends. This

bi-gender culture stands in stark contrast to a lot of male-only teams that I've played on or watched, teams on which there is a macho culture, where the testosterone runs unchecked, where boys are encouraged to view girls as inferior. I've heard coaches in other sports tell boys "You play like a girl." There are lots of boys who wish they could swim like Katie Ledecky or Missy Franklin and aren't afraid to admit it. Both male and female swimmers know how to be competitive and spirited without being bloodthirsty and cruel. It's just a part of the culture.

George Orwell once wrote: "Serious sport has nothing to do with fair play. It is bound up with hatred, jealousy, boastfulness, disregard of all rules, and sadistic pleasure in violence. In other words, it is war without shooting." Apparently he never attended a swim meet



**BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT GOES TO THE SWIMMER!**

Call what you see and see what you call

