

## UPDATE ON NATIONAL EVALUATIONS



★ ★  
JUNE

# Around the Deck

Potomac Valley Swimming

## Officials Newsletter

★ ★  
2016



## RULE CLARIFICATION ON USING TAPE

### **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**



This is one of the most exciting times for swimming with the Olympic Trials just ahead of us and the Olympic Games following in early August. There will be significant television coverage of our sport, including live, prime-time finals from the Olympic Trials on NBC. I hope you get to watch some of the best swimming competition in the world.

Following the Olympic Trials in July will be the PVS long course championship meets. Applications to officiate these meets are now available: <http://www.pvswim.org/official/applications.html>.

I hope to see you at one of the championship meets in July. Email me with your comments and questions anytime.

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

## **National Evaluation Update** by USAS Officials Committee



**National Officials Certification Program Update - June 2016**

The current National Certification Program is now more than 11 years old! And like anything that's been around for a while, a review was due. The National Officials Committee decided to revamp the explanation documents and to modify the program just a little. The revised documents have been posted on the website, so please keep a look out for them. The main changes in the program are:

- **Before REQUESTING an N2 evaluation in a position**, an official must have worked at least 16 sessions\* in the position since full LSC certification in that position. N2 ST certification is now required before an N2 evaluation can be requested for all other positions. (N2 AO will be an exception, when it is available.)
- Application for N2 Certification can be made once a "recommend for advancement" evaluation is recorded in OTS and all other requirements are met. There are exceptions for CJ and Administrative Referee – Please see the new documents.
- **Before requesting an N3 evaluation in any position**, a candidate must have worked at least 8 sessions\* in that position since N2 certification in that position. Also, N3 ST certification is required **before requesting an initial N3 evaluation for CJ, DR, SR and AR.**  
For positions requiring an initial and a final N3 evaluation, 8 sessions\* must be worked in the position before the next, or another, evaluation may be requested. **"Another evaluation" may be requested if the previous evaluation suggested more experience was needed.**
- In the near future, the requirement of a year since N2 certification in a position before N3 certification can be applied for, will be eliminated. Until the necessary programming changes are made, a filter will prevent applications until one year has elapsed.

Remember: there are other things, in addition to successful N3 final evaluations, that must be accomplished before an N3 certification application will be considered "complete". These include:

- LSC participation,
- participating in teaching and mentoring, and learning activities and,
- for CJ, Starter, Deck Referee and Admin Referee, working at an "in pool" USA Swimming National Championship level meet (National Championships, Junior National Championships, US Open, some FINA meets in the USA, and Arena Pro Series) as a deck official.

Only Arena Pro Series Meets that take place in, or after November 2015 satisfy this requirement. (Arena Pro Series/Grand Prix meets, prior to November 2015, do not meet the requirement!)

Along with these revisions the "Professional Official" documents have been revised to reflect the National Certification program modifications. The Professional Administrative Referee document was also edited to accommodate the recent changes in the way official times are determined.

- \* Sessions worked, certification dates and prior evaluation dates will be determined by what is recorded in OTS! All LSCs are using OTS to track meets and sessions worked, and LSC certifications. If your records are not up to date contact your LSC Officials Chair.

**You Make the Call!**



The starter and deck referee are both counting the number of lengths swum in the 1650 freestyle and they believe that the swimmer in lane 2 has swum two fewer lengths that her counter is showing.

**Question:** What should be done?

## PVS Officiating Fun Facts

by Tim Husson & Kelly Rowell



With the Olympic Trials just around the corner, this month's article has some fun facts about that meet. As of June 14, there were approximately 1800 qualifiers for the 2016 Olympic Trials. Despite significantly faster qualifying times, this is approximately the same number of qualifiers as 2012.

Swimmers from 49 of the 50 states are qualified. Fifty seven of the 59 LSCs will be represented with the most swimmers from the Southern California, Pacific and North Carolina LSCs.

Potomac Valley's Nations Capital Swim Club (NCAP) has more swimmers qualified than any other club team with 25 qualifiers. NCAP also has the most 17&U qualifiers. The youngest qualifier is 13 years old and the oldest qualifier is 38 years old.

## Rule on Athletes Using Tape

by Jay Thomas



Please read this interpretation from Jay Thomas about the use of tape. It differs from the rules of NCAA and NFHS. Two things to particularly note:

1. "Common sense should prevail"
2. The types of tape that are never allowed by USA Swimming

This has been sent to all coach members in USA Swimming for their education as well.



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Date: June 13, 2016

To: General Chairs Board of Directors, USA Swimming  
Officials Chairs (please distribute to all officials in your LSC) USA Swimming Coach Members  
Rules & Regulations Committee

From: Jay Thomas, Chair, Rules & Regulations Committee

Re: USA Swimming Rule 102.8.1E- The use of Tape.

The NCAA and NFHS have adopted rules which permit the use of tape under certain circumstances. There now appears to be some confusion regarding the application of USA Swimming Rule 102.8.1E. The following interpretation of 102.8.1.E is presented to provide clarity to the use of tape in USA Swimming competitions.

Article 102.8.1E states in part, ...**"Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the Referee."**

Common sense should prevail. The following uses of tape are generally permitted in competition:

1. Wound protection and closure. Band-Aids, dressings, "Butterfly" type, etc. are normally permitted with no advanced notification to the Referee. When the tape to hold a dressing in place completely circles a major limb or the dressing is exceptionally large in size, advanced notification to the Referee is recommended.
2. Taping of fingers or toes. "Buddy Taping" no more than two (2) injured fingers or toes together should be permitted. Advanced notification to the Referee is recommended.
3. Tape to secure medical alert bracelets and pendants, religious objects, etc. should be permitted. Advanced notification to the Referee is recommended.
4. Tape to secure medical devices. Example – insulin pumps, ostomy bags, etc. should be permitted. Advanced notification to the Referee is required.

The following uses of tape are **not permitted** in competition – irrespective of whether a Doctor's note has been presented.

1. Elastic Therapeutic Tape is never permitted.
2. Kinesio Taping is never permitted.
3. Any other taping intentioned to provide compression or support to muscles, ligaments, tendons or joints (except as stated above) is never permitted.

Jay Thomas  
Chair, USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee

## You Make the Call Resolution



**Recommended Resolution:** The deck referee should take action to be sure of the lap count for each swimmer. This can include checking with the console operator to see what the timing console shows, checking with timers, other officials and even coaches, if necessary. This is a good reason for the deck referee and the starter to avoid "shooting the breeze" during the 1650 or any other event for that matter. If the referee and starter are sure they are correct, the referee could check with the swimmer's coach (presuming enough time is left in the race) and advise him that the counter for his swimmer may have the incorrect count. The referee could also advise the coach that the swimmer is responsible to swim the correct distance even if the counter or an official makes an error.



## **Jack's Corner**

### **Thoughts to Ponder by Jack Neill**



#### **Top Twelve Things Officials Want to Say to the Parents in the Stands**

12. The times on the scoreboard are not official times. The times in Meet Mobile are likewise not official times.
11. No, I honestly don't know where the results are posted.
10. There are good reasons why you can't be on the deck unless you're an active volunteer: safety, insurance regulations, crowd control, swimmers' independence and personal responsibility, etc.
9. Officials are volunteers. Swimming depends upon the time and energy of involved parents and other volunteers.
8. A disqualification is not the end of the world.
7. We sometimes overhear your conversations with your child. Most times we smile at what we hear. Occasionally we're shocked at what we hear.
6. Swimming is not a linear calendar of progress. Your child will drop time, your child will add time. And you never know when the swim of his/her life will occur.
5. Please police your own ranks: Work with the other parents to ensure that all parents behave appropriately at the meet.
4. Leave the coaching to the coaches. Leave the officiating to the officials.
3. Nearly all of us have—or at one time had—swimmers in the pool, so we understand how tough it can be to hide your disappointment when things aren't going well for your child. Heck, many of us have DQ'd our own children. We've had to learn to choose acceptance over judgment regardless of the results, and try to turn a negative into a positive for the sake of our children. Always try to provide a healthy perspective to help our kids understand success and failure.
2. The great thing about swimming is that you're competing against yourself more than against anyone else. The principal goal is to beat your previous time, not necessarily to beat the other swimmers.
1. Come join us! We've got the best seat in the house. The camaraderie among officials is unparalleled. And the hospitality is always first-rate.

# Upcoming Meets



## JUNE

| Date | Meet   | Host                     | Location                     |
|------|--|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 25   | <a href="#">Eastern Zone Open Water Meet</a> | Middle Atlantic Swimming | Atlantic City, NJ            |
| 26   | <a href="#">PVS LC Open 2</a>                | FBST                     | <a href="#">Lee District</a> |
|      |  | FAST                     | <a href="#">Fairland</a>     |
|      |  | PM                       | <a href="#">Audrey Moore</a> |
| 26-3 | <a href="#">US Olympic Trials</a>            | USA Swimming             | Omaha, NE                    |

## JULY

| Date  | Meet   | Host | Location                          |
|-------|--|------|-----------------------------------|
| 3     | DCPR LC Meet                                   | DCPR | <a href="#">East Potomac Park</a> |
| 14-17 | <a href="#">PVS LC Senior Championships</a>    | TBD  | <a href="#">UMD</a>               |
| 14-17 | <a href="#">PVS LC Junior Championships</a>    | TBD  | <a href="#">UMD</a>               |
| 21-24 | <a href="#">PVS LC Age Group Championships</a> | FBST | <a href="#">UMD</a>               |

## AUGUST

| Date | Meet                                 | Host         | Location            |
|------|--------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| 2-6  | <i>US Open</i>                       | USA Swimming | Minneapolis, MN     |
| 3-6  | <i>Eastern Zone LC Championships</i> | METRO        | East Meadow, NY     |
| 4-7  | Futures Championships                | USA Swimming | <a href="#">UMD</a> |
| 8-12 | <i>Speedo Junior Nationals</i>       | USA Swimming | Minneapolis, MN     |



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

Call what you see and see what you call

