

----- OFFICIALS' CELEBRATION – YOUR'RE INVITED! -----

POTOMAC VALLEY SWIMMING

APRIL 2017



OFFICIALS NEWSLETTER

----- JACK IS BACK! -----

POTOMAC VALLEY SWIMMING MISSION STATEMENT

PVS supports and promotes excellence for all through competition, education, innovation and leadership.

POTOMAC VALLEY SWIMMING VISION STATEMENT

PVS: Leadership and excellence in and out of the pool



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



The March championship month is now behind us. There were 10 meets in PVS in March and over 36,000 times were loaded into the USA Swimming database. These meets required a lot of officials and once again the PVS officials answered the call. Thank you!

Most of you have probably seen the new USA Swimming website by now. I know it will take a while to find your way around the site. In addition to registration information, DeckPass on the new site now includes certification and work history. This is information that was previously in OTS.

In preparation for the 2017 rulebook going into effect on May 1st, the USA Swimming tests will be taken off line on April 14th. If you started a test, you need to complete it before the 14th or you will have to start it over after May 1st.

Potomac Valley Swimming is throwing an end-of-season party for all PVS Officials. See the details below and use the sign-up form to let us know you are coming. Food and drinks will be provided.

I hope to see you at the officials' party or a meet real soon!

Tim Husson
OfficialsChair@pvswim.org

News from the Officials Committee

by: Tim Husson



The primary task of the PVS Officials Committee is to recruit, train, test, evaluate and certify officials in Potomac Valley Swimming. USA Swimming provides [Minimum Standards](#) for certification. From these minimum standards the Committee then develops the [Certification Requirements](#) for PVS. The Committee also arranges the clinics and instructors and selects evaluators. The tests, except for the Chief Judge test, are provided by the USA Swimming Officials Committee.

Another task of the PVS Officials Committee is to staff the PVS championship meets. This includes inviting national evaluators, if the meet is an Officials Qualifying Meet, and selecting the Meet Referee and Administrative Referee/Administrative Official for those meets.

The PVS Officials Committee also recommends Policy and Procedures changes to the PVS Board. Examples of some of these changes in the past include the PVS Officials Education Travel Reimbursement Program, the PVS Officials Online Registration, and the PVS Officials Background Screen Reimbursement Program.

Like PVS Board Meetings, PVS Officials Committee Meetings are open to any member of PVS. You are welcome at any time to one of the meetings to present an idea or just to listen. Minutes of all PVS Officials Committee Meetings are posted on the PVS website. Some of the policy changes or new initiatives that have been done this season include:

- An online, self-paced Electronic Timing System (ETS) Operator clinic
- Online recertification clinics for Referees and Administrative Officials
- A recognition program for PVS officials
- A policy change to require certified Meet Referees for PVS meets

At the March 2017 PVS Board meeting, a policy change was made to require a certified Meet Referee for all PVS sanctioned meets beginning in September 2017. This policy change was made in recognition of the fact that the responsibilities of a Meet Referee are far greater – and broader in scope – than those of a Deck Referee. As part of this policy change, the Committee developed a certification program for Meet Referees.

Any current Referee that has been a Meet Referee will be grandfathered into this certification. For others, the certification will require the following steps. No clinic or test will be required.

- Be a PVS-certified Deck Referee
- Work at least 10 sessions at a minimum of 4 PVS-sanctioned meets as a Deck Referee
- Apprentice with a certified Meet Referee at one meet (at least three) sessions, including per-meet planning and post-meet responsibilities
- Receive a recommendation from the mentoring Meet Referee to the Officials Chair. This recommendation can be sent by email.

Starting Hearing Impaired Swimmers

by: Tim Husson



105.3 DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

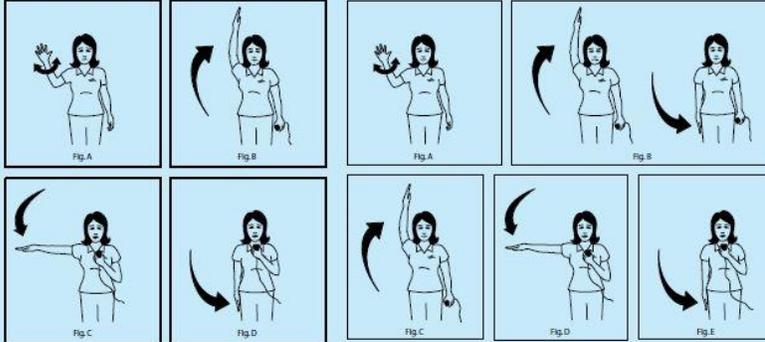


FIGURE 1: FORWARD START

A. Twist hand at chin level — short whistles
B. Arm overhead — swimmer steps onto starting block
C. Arm moves to shoulder level — signal to "take your mark"
D. Arm moves to side of body — starting signal

FIGURE 2: BACKSTROKE START

A. Twist hand at chin level — short whistles
B. Arm overhead — swimmer enters water, drop arm to side while swimmer enters water
C. Arm overhead — swimmer returns to backstroke start position
D. Arm moves to shoulder level — signal to "take your mark"
E. Arm moves to side of body — starting signal

The standard set of arm signals, as described by Rule 105.3, is not the sole accommodation that may be requested or made for a hearing impaired swimmer. Rule 105.1 gives the Referee the authority to modify the rules for a swimmer with a disability.

This process generally begins with the swimmer, or the swimmer's coach, discussing any desired accommodations with the Referee and Starter prior to the meet/session.

Accommodations may include:

- The swimmer wishes to be moved to a particular lane to be closer to the starting system. The Referee and Starter will work with the Administrative Official to make that happen.
- The swimmer wants the Starter to stand in a certain spot where his/her arm signals are more easily seen.
- The swimmer requests the use of an external strobe. The strobe, which is identical to the strobe on the starting unit, is placed next to the starting block of the hearing impaired swimmer. This accommodation needs to be arranged in advance of the meet as not all facilities have an external strobe. PVS has an external strobe that is available to any meet director. Advance notice to the PVS Equipment Manager is required to borrow this strobe.



No matter what accommodations are requested, the Starter should attempt to make eye contact with the Swimmer as they are getting ready behind the starting blocks. This lets the Swimmer know that the Starter is prepared to use the agreed upon starting protocol. The arm signals in 105.3 should also be practiced by all starters on a regular basis.



Officiating Milestones

by: PVS Swimming Officials Committee



CONGRATS
TO
MARK HARRIS
(FBST)
FOR
5 Years of Service
to
USA Swimming


**KEEP
 CALM
 AND
 OFFICIAL
 ON!!!**

#OfficiallyAwesome



New Certifications (Includes Transfers)



S&T Judges

Brett Bagshaw (TOLL)
 Mike Byrd (MACH)
 Michael Estes (MACH)
 Elsa Fraser (DCPR)
 Lisa Gillen (FXFX)
 Heather Jackson (MAKO)
 Vivian Lewy (RMSC)
 Tori Scoffield (SNOW)
 Katy Slater (RY)
 Jarid Smith (DCPR)
 Chongmin Wang (MSSC)

Computer Operators

Kelly Curran (ASA)
 James Smith (RMSC)

Chief Judges

Starters

Andrew Ament (RMSC)
 Mitchell Jung (DCPR)
 Harry Tun (RMSC)
 Fred Turner (RMSC)

Referees

Nathan Dean (FISH)
 Courtney Johnston (MACH)

Electronic Timing System Operators

Tom Lang (RMSC)
 Kim Smith (RMSC)
 Fred Turner (RMSC)

Administrative Official

Bill McMahon (PAC)
 Kim McMillen (NCAP)

Sean Trench (MACH)

Tricia Peny (OCCS)
Dean Schroeder (OCCS)



Officials' Thank You Celebration



OFFICIALS' THANK YOU CELEBRATION 2017

**Saturday, April 22, 2017
6 p.m. – 9:30 p. m.**

**Overlee Community Pool
6030 Lee Highway, Arlington, VA 22205**

The PVS Official's Committee cordially invites you and a guest to an Evening of fun, refreshments, and dinner in appreciation of your many Volunteer hours on behalf of the swimmers of PVS.

A chance to socialize without horns or whistles

White over blue uniform and white sneakers ~~optional~~ discouraged!

[Please reply by April 15](#)

We look forward to seeing you on the 22nd!

SOCIAL DIRECTORS

David Merkin
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and

Dave DiNardo
Dave.dinardo@gmail.com

#OfficiallyAwesome



Jack's Corner

Thoughts to Ponder by Jack Neill



Raise Your Hand!

Pardon me while I vent, but I've heard a couple of things in recent briefings that really bother me.

The first is: "If you're not sure (about a DQ) and you have a question, raise your hand and the Chief Judge will come and talk with you." I don't know where this comes from, but it seems to me this notion trivializes the disqualification procedure. Article 102.22.1 says that the judge, "... upon observing an infraction, shall immediately raise one hand overhead." This makes it clear to coaches and officials that a raised hand is the signal that a possible rules violation has occurred—not a sign that the judge simply wants to chat. Certainly a judge can rescind a call. Certainly a judge can describe an infraction and the CJ can help clarify precisely what rule was violated. But the raised hand should not be used to request a conference. Sorry, but if a judge is not sure about the rules, perhaps he/she shouldn't be on deck. And if there is a genuine doubt regarding an infraction, we all know where the benefit goes.

Can you imagine a scenario where, for instance, a football official throws a penalty flag in order to initiate a conversation with colleagues regarding a particular rule? This type of discussion rightfully belongs off the field, or in our case off the deck.

The other statement that gets under my skin goes something like this: "Your jurisdiction is half the pool. But if you see something egregious at the other end, raise your hand." Well, then I guess your jurisdiction isn't half the pool. Again from Article 102.22.1: "A disqualification can be made only by the official within whose jurisdiction the infraction has been committed." So for a Referee to accept a disqualification at the opposite end of the pool from the judge making the call, the jurisdiction would have to be wall-to-wall. And that's troublesome in many respects.

There. I feel much better now.

Upcoming Clinics



Date	Clinic	Location	Time
Computer-Based Training	Timing System Operator	Register for this clinic	Any time

Upcoming Meets



****Click on the Upcoming Meets Banner to see the latest information*

APRIL 2017	MAY 2017
1-2 – FISH Spring Fever LC Invitational (FISH) 8 – 10&U Spring Penguin Meet (PAC) 13 – 15 – Arena Pro Swim Series (USA Swimming) – Mesa, AZ 22-23 – Spring Sprints Invitational (SDS) 29 – Dive into Spring LC Meet (PAC)	4-7 – Arena Pro Swim Series – Atlanta, GA 5-7 – SNOW Classic (SNOW) 5-7 – Spring LC Classic (RMSC) 6-7 – FISH LC Derby (FISH) 6-7 Early Bird LC Invitational (MSSC) 6-7 – Speedo Spring Splash LC Meet (OCCS) 12-14 – Machine LC Classic (MACH) 13-14 – Mini Olympics (MACH) 26-28 – Virginia State LC Championship (PM) 26-28 – NCAP Spring Invitational (NCAP)



BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT GOES TO THE SWIMMER!

Call what you see and see what you call

