

----- USING DECK PASS -----

POTOMAC VALLEY SWIMMING

MAY 2017



OFFICIALS NEWSLETTER

----- LEAD / LAG COVERAGE -----

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 long course season is already well underway. If you're new to officiating at long course meets, or are looking for a refresher, please review:

- Lead/Lag Coverage for Stroke Judges, included below.
- [The Stroke Judge](#)

Two important updates from USA Swimming:

- USA Swimming has a new background check (BGC) vendor. The process is pretty much the same as before, however, the first time you renew your BGC with the new vendor, the cost will be the same as an initial BGC (\$38). The [PVS reimbursement program](#) is still in effect for active officials – PVS will reimburse you for your full cost if you meet the program's requirements.
- With the launch of the new USA Swimming website, USA Swimming Registration cards and Certification cards for officials have been combined into one USA Swimming Registration/ Certification card. While an electronic version of your card is accepted (via DeckPass), if you would like to print a copy the Deck Pass article below provides instructions.

Lastly, the PVS Officials have a voting representative on the PVS Board of Directors. The position has a term of two years and an official is limited to two terms. The position is up for election this year. This summer during our championship meets we will be holding an online election. The incumbent, Jack Neill, is running for a second term. If you'd like to nominate yourself for this volunteer position, please let me know.

Tim Husson
OfficialsChair@pvs swim.org

Lead/Lag Coverage for Stroke Judges

by: Joel Black



Editor's Note: This is the "standard" protocol for butterfly and breaststroke, but it's not uncommon to modify the protocol for freestyle and backstroke ... an important reason to attend - and pay attention at - the officials briefing before each session

At swim meets conducted in a fifty meter venue we may hear the remark, "The stroke judges are using "Lead/Lag" coverage." What is this, and how does it work?

"Lead/Lag" is a method of coordinating the actions of two stroke judges on the same side of a fifty meter pool, in an effort to obtain consistent observation of all competitors in their jurisdiction during a race. Typically, prior to a race which involves the 15-meter mark, one judge is positioned on the lane 1 side of the pool at the 15-meter mark. Let's call him or her judge "A". A second judge is positioned on the same side of the pool between the 15-meter mark and the start end of the pool. Let's call him or her judge "B". There are also two stroke judges in the same positions on the lane 8 side of the pool.

Once the race has started and the swimmers are in the water, judge "B" observes the initial elements of the swim for conformity with the rules and within the jurisdiction instructed by the referee. As the swimmers pass, judge "B" turns and follows walking slightly behind the field toward the 15-meter mark. As the swimmers approach the 15-meter mark judge "B" begins to slow his/her walk.

Judge "A" is in position to observe that all swimmers have conformed to the rules of the swim concerning the mark and as they pass, turns and follows them down the course toward the turn end walking ahead (Lead) of judge "B"(Lag). As the swimmers and judges approach the turn end of the pool, judge "B" stops at the turn end 15-meter mark, while judge "A" continues the observation into the turn.

Judge "A" observes all swimmers through the turn and the initial action of the second length toward the 15-meter mark. As the swimmers pass the 15-meter mark of the turn end, judge "B" falls in slightly behind the swimmers and assumes the "Lead" ahead of judge "A" who now becomes "Lag." This type of coordinated action continues until the race is over. At the end of the race the "Lag" judge has followed the trailing swimmers up to the position of the "Lead" judge and the race finishes.

Frequently in the 200 meter races and the 400 meter Individual Medley, the swimmers will separate to a considerable extent. This separation is also noted with younger and inexperienced swimmers in the 50 and 100 meter distances. When swimmer separation occurs, the stroke judges will also separate from each other in order to maintain consistently balanced observation of the field. When this occurs we must remember to continue scanning all lanes, even the empty ones, so that we do not narrow our focus upon only one or two swimmers. Slight modifications are also made for breaststroke events when the 15-meter mark is not a consideration (both judges continue down the pool to observe the turns), and freestyle events when judges do not walk along the side of the pool.

With experience, "Lead/Lag" becomes a comfortable method of officiating for two officials. The real "fun" begins when a television camera and dolly on a track with a three or four person crew shares one of the sides of the pool!! Coordination of movements between all parties is imperative. However, this discussion must be saved for another time.

Joel Black is the former Vice Chair of USA Swimming Officials Committee and the former LSC Officials Chair of NC Swimming.



Officiating Milestones

by: PVS Swimming Officials Committee



5 Years of Service to PVS
Mark Hollis (MACH)
Christopher Nicolai (OCCS)

10 Years of Service to PVS
Bill Pritchard (ASA)

15 Years of Service to PVS
Anne Akers-Smith (PM)



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

#OfficiallyAwesome

Deck Pass for Officials

by: Tim Husson & Kelly Rowell



By now, you've probably seen the new USA Swimming website. One of the goals of the new design was to make the site responsive to displays of various sizes including smartphones and tablets.

Some applications, such as the Officials Tracking System (OTS), have not yet been updated, but are available from the new site. Much of the information from your OTS account may be accessed using the new Deck Pass function on the website. In order to access your Deck Pass, you must first **Sign In** to your USA Swimming website account.



SIGN IN

Username

thusson

Password

SIGN IN

Once you Sign In, you will be returned to the USA Swimming home page. Additional options will have been added to the top menu bar.

Certification Status

Your LSC and National Certifications and their expiration dates are listed. If not all your certifications are visible, you can select **ALL CERTIFICATIONS** at the bottom of the section or **CERTIFICATIONS** from the menu on the far right.

OTS Details

Access the details of your OTS record, including your meet and activity history and USA Swimming online tests, from these options.

Registration Status

The dates when your Registration, USA Swimming Background Check, and Athlete Protection Training expire are listed.

MEMBERSHIP CARD

USA Swimming has switched from having separate registration and certification cards for officials to a single, combined card. Your Membership Card includes all your registration and certification expiration dates. You can print out or download your card using this link.

Print

Mouse over this window to access option to Print your Membership Card

Download

Click to download your Membership Card.

National	Level	Expiration	End	LSC	Level	Expiration	End
Stroke & Turn	N2	2020-02-18	N2	Stroke & Turn	L1	2020-02-18	
Chief Judge	N2	2020-02-18	-	Chief Judge	L1	2020-02-18	
Starter	N2	2020-02-18	-	Starter	L1	2020-02-18	
Referee/Deck Referee	N2	2020-02-18	N2	Referee/Deck Referee	L1	2020-02-18	
Administrative Referee	N2	2020-02-18	N2	Administrative Referee	L1	2020-02-18	
				Meet Referee	L1	2020-02-18	
				Competition Operator	L1	2020-02-18	



New Certifications (Includes Transfers)



Chief Judges

Scott Christofferson (MACH)
Peter Nguyen (NCAP)

Starters

Laura Keeler (RMSC)
Steven Strazza (MACH)

Administrative Official

Chris Bowman (FAST)

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

MAY 2017

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)

JUNE 2017

1-4 – Arena Pro Series – Santa Clara, CA
 2-4 – NCAP June LC Invitational (NCAP)
 2-4 – Maryland State LC Champs (RMSC)
 3-4 – DPR LC Classic (DCPR)
 10-11 – June LC Invitational (FISH)
 11 – PVS LC Open 1 (PVS)
 16-18 – SNOW LC Invitational (SNOW)
 17-18 – PVS LC Distance Meet (PVS)
 25 – PVS LC Open 2 (PVS)
 27 –Jul 1 – Phillips 66 National Championships
 – Indianapolis, IN

New Email Address?

by: Kelly Rowell & Tim Husson



Has your email address changed recently – or since you first registered with USA Swimming? If you don't receive the USA Swimming Officials Newsletter, USA Swimming may have an old email address on file for you. If you have a new email address, there are 3 places it needs to be updated:

1. USA Swimming Registration

This email is used for all official correspondence from USA Swimming such as your test scores and communications to all officials.

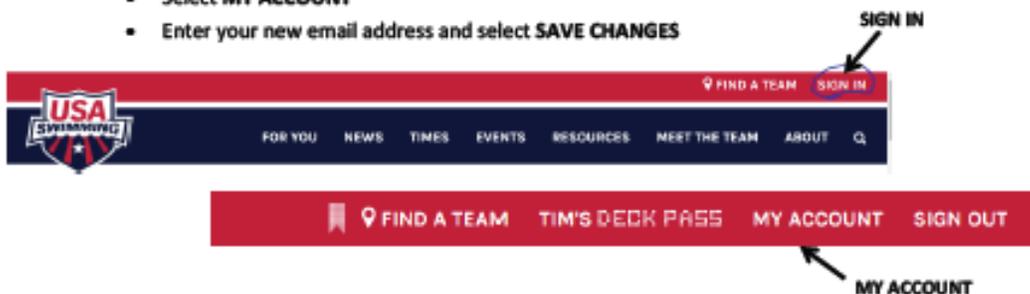
At this time, there is no way to self-maintain your USA Swimming registration. To update it, contact the PVS Registrar <terripvs@gmail.com> or the PVS Officials Chair <OfficialsChair@pvsweb.org>.

2. USA Swimming Website

This is not the USA Swimming Registration email referenced above. It is the email associated with your USA Swimming website account.

To update it:

- SIGN IN to the USA Swimming website
- Select MY ACCOUNT
- Enter your new email address and select SAVE CHANGES



3. PVS Officials Email List

This email list is used to communicate with PVS Officials, including PVS Officials Newsletters and requests for officials from Meet Referees and Club Officials Chairs.

This is an opt-in list, so to update it (or add yourself to the PVS Officials Email List), from the [PVS Officials page](#), enter your new email address and select **Subscribe**.



PVS Officials at Georgia Tech Arena Pro

Left to right: Spencer Quinn, Dave DiNardo, Jack Neill, Paul Jampole and Robert Stevens.



BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT GOES TO THE SWIMMER!

Call what you see and see what you call

