

PVS Officials Committee Report

May, 2012

The PVS Officials Committee currently consists of 20 appointed members and 2 *ex officio* members. The Committee is specifically charged with:

- Recruiting and training officials;
- Planning and conducting the certification program;
- Monitoring and raising the overall quality of officiating;
- Staffing National Certification meets for which PVS is responsible.

Notable Statistics

- Current number of certified PVS officials – **477** (see Appendix 1 for more detail)
- Number of officials clinics held this season (since September, 2011) – **33**
- Officials Qualifying Meets within our LSC (since this time last year) – **4**
- **78** PVS officials currently hold National Certification (N2 or N3).
- **41** PVS officials successfully underwent formal evaluation this year under the national certification program; many officials were evaluated for more than one position, for a total of **65** evaluations.
- **5** PVS officials were selected to work National Championship meets during the past year, one in a leadership position (Administrative Referee).

Of Note

- PVS officials elected Mike Rubin as the Officials Representative to the PVS Board of Directors.
- The Officials Committee developed a Session Report (see Appendix 2) in an effort to track the number of officials at each session, to document any equipment issues, and to note any other types of issues occurring during the session. The Deck Referee at each session completes this report and submits it to the Officials Chair shortly after the meet.
- The Officials Committee developed a “Recommended Minimum Number of Officials” (see Appendix 3). The Committee believes that an adequate number of certified officials is essential to providing safe, fair and equitable conditions of competition. The Committee recognizes that the configuration of the pool plays a part in determining the number of officials needed to ensure these conditions. Please note that these numbers should include certified officials only (**not** trainees), and are considered minimal, not ideal or optimal.
- 17 officials were invited by the Committee this year to start the process for certification as a PVS referee. This is a rigorous process of study, practice, and evaluation; it includes certification in all officiating positions, including timing system and HyTek operator. 12 accepted the Committee’s invitation. Several of these officials have already completed the process, and many have made significant progress at fulfilling all the requirements.

- 2 PVS officials attended USA Swimming's Officials Workshop in Dallas during the Fall.
- The use of radios is becoming increasingly common on PVS pool decks. Radios are used to more effectively conduct meet business including disqualifications, safety incidents, injuries, equipment issues, and other information critical to the operation of the meet.
- The Officials Committee continues to emphasize timely communication with all PVS officials through the monthly Officials Newsletter (which is available on the website) as well as frequent email messages.

A Concern

- The Officials Committee continues to be concerned about the availability of volunteer timers at many of our sessions. Many clubs mistakenly believe that the deck officials are responsible for recruiting timers. Article 102.24.1D states that the Meet Director is responsible for providing the appropriate timing systems so that swimmers can expect to achieve official times that will satisfy the requirements of 102.24.1C. This includes the Manual timing system consisting of individual lane timers that is required for all sessions. Some clubs address this critical requirement prior to the meet, but all clubs must emphasize to parents that their volunteer efforts are required. Timers must be recruited by host clubs prior to the start of the meet, as is the practice at other LSCs.

Finally

- Please take the time to thank your club's officials. PVS officials are extraordinarily dedicated volunteers. Standing on deck for hours is just one part of it: officials attend clinics and workshops; they conscientiously review the rules before each and every session; they regularly take tests on the rules and interpretations; they undergo frequent evaluations; they actively mentor new officials. These folks are dedicated and committed: please let them know they're appreciated.

Appendix 1

Certified Officials by Club

Club	No. of Officials	No. of Referees
All Star Aquatics	6	
An Nam Swim Club		
Aquatic Beyond Club		
Arlington Aquatic	12	1
Blue Wave	9	1
Best Times Swim Club		
Central Chesapeake (PEAK)	2	
CODS		
Curl-Burke	81	11
DCPR	11	
Dream Sharks		
Elite Rays	4	
Fairland Aquatic	10	
FISH	17	
Flying Gull	5	2
Fort Belvoir	9	1
Herndon Aquatic	10	2
Hydro-Sonic Tiburones	4	2
JCC Waves		
Joe Flaherty Dolphins	3	
Machine Aquatics	43	6
Mason Makos	13	1
MSSC	14	2
Occoquan Swimming	20	
Patuxent Aquatics Club	4	1
PG Kings		
Potomac Marlins	26	4
Riptide	1	
RMSC	87	14
Sea Devils Swimming	21	2
Shark Tank	3	
Snow Swimming	19	1
Streamline Swimming		
Tollefson Swimming		
York Swim Club	20	2
Unattached	18	11
TOTAL	477	66

Appendix 2



Potomac Valley Swimming Session Report

Meet _____ Date _____

Session _____ Deck Referee _____

Location _____ Radios Used? Yes
No

Warm-Ups: Open
Assigned Length of Session _____

No. of Lanes Used _____

Number of Certified Officials:

S & T Judges _____	Deck Referees _____
Chief Judges _____	Table Personnel _____
Starters _____	Marshals _____

Describe any equipment issues, unusual occurrences, decisions, etc.:

Appendix 3

Recommended Minimum Number of Officials

Potomac Valley Swimming's *Policies and Procedures* states: "Except at Distance meets, it is the expectation of the PVS Board of Directors that all PVS sanctioned meets be conducted with **no less than** 4 certified deck Officials (Referee, Starter, 2 Stroke & Turn Judges), as well as sufficient table workers and the required number of Timers, which depends upon the timing equipment being used." The Officials Committee believes that an adequate number of certified officials is essential to providing safe, fair and equitable conditions of competition. The Committee recognizes that the configuration of the pool plays a part in determining the number of officials needed to ensure these conditions. The following minimum number of certified officials is recommended for sessions at PVS sanctioned meets, excluding all-Freestyle meets.

Short Course:

8 Lane Pool	10 Lane Pool
Deck Referee - 1	Deck Referee - 1
Starter - 1	Starter - 1
Stroke & Turn Judges - 4	Stroke & Turn Judges - 6
ETS Operator - 1	ETS Operator - 1
HyTek Operator - 1	HyTek Operator - 1

Long Course:

8 Lane Pool	10 Lane Pool
Deck Referee - 1	Deck Referee - 1
Starter - 1	Starter - 1
Turn Judges - 4	Turn Judges - 6
Stroke Judges - 2	Stroke Judges - 2
Chief Judge - 1	Chief Judge - 1
ETS Operator - 1	ETS Operator - 1
HyTek Operator - 1	HyTek Operator - 1

Please note that these are recommended minimum numbers, and do not include trainee officials. As per Article 102.10.2: "All officials acting in the capacity of Referee, Starter, or Stroke and/or Turn Judge at a swimming meet shall be certified in such position by their LSC prior to being assigned to officiate in that capacity. Uncertified trainees may perform the duties of such positions when they are under the direct supervision of a certified official."