



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 month's theme is Chief Judge. Several articles about that below.

The new online 2016 USA Swimming registration process is going well. 242 current registered officials were notified in early November that they qualified for PVS to pay their 2016 registration because they had worked at least 10 sessions at PVS-sanctioned meets this year. If you reach that mark in November, you will be notified at the end of November. And, if you reach that mark in December, you will be notified around Dec. 22. There are still plenty of meets this year to work.

If you don't reach the level for PVS to pay your registration and you want to continue officiating in 2016, you can register and pay the registration fee at http://www.teamunify.com/MemRegStart.jsp?team=ezipvslsc&event_id=0.

There are still over 100 PVS officials whose certifications expire at the end of 2015. If you are one of them (you can check your status in OTS) and you want to re-certify, see the requirements at http://www.pvswim.org/official/recertification_requirements.html. If you've completed all the requirements you still need to request recertification <http://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/TQ50bCeke3w>.

Email me your comments and questions anytime.

Tim Husson
OfficialsChair@pvswim.org

Position of the Month - Chief Judge by Dave DiNardo



USA Swimming refers to the Chief Judge as the 'Assistant and Mentor to all Officials'. I believe this is a great way to describe this Position that is integral to a successful Meet. Of course, many of us have worked at Meets that did not have Chief Judges available, but when possible it is preferred to have at least one CJ assigned to the Team of Officials on deck.

CJ's have also been referred to as the, "eyes and ears of the Deck Referee." CJ's do act as an extension of the Deck Referee, conferring with Stroke and Turn Judges to investigate calls that are made and recommending to the Deck Referee whether or not a call should be accepted. In this role, the CJ works with the S&T Judge to insure that the Athlete is given the benefit of the doubt before a Disqualification is issued.

Working as a Chief Judge usually means you will be one of the first to arrive and most likely will be one of the last to leave the pool. CJ's will typically handle many pre-Meet duties, including but not limited to: working out the assignments for the S&T Officials, conducting the pre-session stroke briefing, assembling all equipment needed for the session (lap counters, bells, timer clipboards, etc.), and instructing the Team on the protocol for the session. At a Prelims/Finals Meet, CJ's may also be asked to assist with Declared False Start (DFS) paperwork during warm-ups.

Once the Session gets underway, a CJ's primary responsibility is to monitor the S&T Officials within his/her area of responsibility. Depending on available personnel, this may be a quadrant, one-half or even the entire pool. Once a CJ observes a raised hand, the CJ radios in the location of the potential DQ, then more specifically the lane in question. After discussing the call with the Judge, the CJ radios in the details of the call along with a recommendation that the call be accepted or an indication that the CJ does not believe the call should be accepted. If accepted by the Deck Referee, the DQ is then written up by the CJ and presented to the Deck Referee for signature prior to submission to the Admin Referee or Admin Official for processing.

Other duties during competition may include distributing/collecting lap counters for Distance Events, Distributing Heat Sheets when the Meet includes re-seeds or positive check-in events, and radioing in results from Relay Take-Off (RTO) Judges if the Meet includes Relays. The Start-End CJ may also be asked to handle No-Show Slips, as well as Declared False Start (DFS) paperwork during the actual competition, if requested by the Admin Official/Referee.

After the Meet, CJ's will be expected to monitor their area of responsibility until the Meet Referee or Deck Referee dismisses all Officials. This is especially important in the event that there is a swim-off needed to determine qualifiers for Finals. CJ's may also be expected to tidy up and get things in order for the next Session, be it another prelim or finals.

Working as a Chief Judge can be daunting, but with experience can be one of the most rewarding jobs on the Deck. If you have been a PVS-Certified Stroke & Turn Judge for two (2) years, you are eligible to advance to CJ. Please consider becoming Certified as a Chief Judge, you will enjoy the journey.

Printing Your Certification Card



Last month, I showed you how to print your USA Swimming Registration Card from the USA Swimming website. This month, I will show you how to print your Certification Card. Your Certification Card shows all your Officials Certifications as well as their expiration dated. It also includes the expiration dates of your registration, background screen and athlete protection training.

First, log into your USA Swimming online account as described in last month's article.

Then go to the Officials Tracking System Page (see below). The direct link is <https://www.usaswimming.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabId=1516>.

Then select My Certification Card from the left side navigation menu (see below). Your certifications will be shown on the screen and a PDF of your certification card will be shown.

- ▶ Programs & Services
- ▶ Swimmers
- ▶ Parents
- ▶ Coaches
- ▶ Swim Clubs
- ▼ Officials
 - ▶ Officials Tracking System
 - Meets and Evaluations
 - Activities
 - National Certification Application
 - View My History
 - My Certification Card**
 - Reports
 - LSC Certifications
 - LSC Admin
 - ▶ Online Testing
 - ▶ The Official Blog
 - ▶ Education & Training
 - ▶ Applications & Forms
 - Recruitment, Retention & Reciprocity
 - Recognition Programs
 - Admin for Online Tests
 - ▶ NCAA Officials
 - National Certification
 - ▶ Governance & LSCs
 - ▶ Volunteers

OFFICIALS TRACKING SYSTEM - MY CERTIFICATION CARD

▶ Help Text

Official: Husson, Timothy Ray
LSC: POTOMAC VALLEY SWIMMING
Registration Expires: 12/31/9999

CERTIFICATION SUMMARY

Position	LSC Certification Level	LSC Instructor Evaluator Level	Effective	Expires	National Cert Level	National Evaluator Level	Effective	Expires
Stroke & Turn	L1		2/1/1996	12/31/2016	N3	N3	12/31/2005	6/30/2018
Chief Judge	L1		1/20/2002	12/31/2016	N3		1/22/2011	6/30/2018
Starter	L1		12/16/2000	12/31/2016	N3		1/23/2012	6/30/2018
Referee/Deck Referee	L1		1/20/2002	12/31/2016	N3		4/6/2009	6/30/2018
Administrative Referee					N3	N3f	3/16/2009	6/30/2018
Administrative Official	L1		5/1/2013	12/31/2016				
Computer Operator	L1		9/25/1999	12/31/2016				
Timing Equipment Operator	L1		10/7/2000	12/31/2016				

OFFICIALS CARD

Note: If your card displays 'Invalid' for your B/C Exp, this indicates that you took a Level 1 background check. A Level 2 background check is required for officials.

[Send me an Officials Certification Card Email to Print](#)

Output Type: Adobe PDF ▼

Tim Husson POTOMAC VALLEY SWIMMING			Tim Husson usa swimming			
B/C Exp: 01/01/17 Reg Exp: 12/31/16 APF Exp: 12/31/17			B/C Exp: 01/01/17 Reg Exp: 12/31/16 APF Exp: 12/31/17			
LSC	Level	Expires	National	Level	Expires	Eval
Stroke & Turn	L1	12/31/2016	Stroke & Turn	N3	06/30/2018	N3
Chief Judge	L1	12/31/2016	Chief Judge	N3	06/30/2018	-
Starter	L1	12/31/2016	Starter	N3	06/30/2018	-
Referee/Deck Referee	L1	12/31/2016	Referee/Deck Referee	N3	06/30/2018	-
Administrative Official	L1	12/31/2016	Administrative Referee	N3	06/30/2018	N3f
Computer Operator	L1	12/31/2016				
Timing Equipment Operator	L1	12/31/2016				

You can download or print your certification card from there.

Arena Pro Series in Minneapolis by Bob Vincent



Last week in Minneapolis was the first of the Arena Pro Series Swim Meets. This competition was filled with a field of Olympians. The meet was a three-day format with prize money for the top three athletes in each event. While many of the athletes were not tapered, there was plenty of fast swimming and racing. Four of our PVS officials worked the meet. Denice Wepasnick served as the Team Lead Starter, Jan Van Nimwegen was a Chief Judge, John Byrnes served as a Stroke and Turn Judge and I got my first assignment on the National Deck as a Deck Referee.



The first event was the 400 Individual Medley and I must say I was more than a little nervous. I kept saying to myself “just get the first call under your belt and you will be fine.” Sometimes you have to be careful what you wish for because I had three calls during two back-to-back heats. While it was a little stressful, each one came in and was accepted, written up, and the athletes were notified. Before I could even sign the slips, all three coaches were waiting for to talk to me.

At this point it was nice to have another Deck Referee step in so that I could talk to the coaches. Each call was explained and scrutinized by the coaches. In two cases I had further discussion with the judges that made the calls so that I could describe to each coach exactly what was observed. Each coach, while not very happy, appreciated my explanation and I returned to the deck. It was very nice to have Denice, Jan, and John on the deck because it made me feel like I was at one of our local meets. The experience was fantastic and I can't wait to do it again.

You Make the Call!



Question: What are the major categories of disabilities as described in USA Swimming rules?

My First Chief Judge Experience by Dave DiNardo



Back in the 1930's, the old 'Lone Ranger' Radio Show used to open with the phrase, "Return with us now to those thrilling days of yesteryear..." I am going ask you to

return to the days before PVS had a Chief Judge Certification/Training Program. At that time, CJ Training was 'on the job' and we did not use radios at many of our local Meets. Therefore, many of us got our first opportunity to work as a CJ at the Speedo Sectional Meets.

In the Spring of 2007 I was asked to work as a Chief Judge at the Sectional Meet at the Germantown Indoor Swim Center in Montgomery County. I was excited to have my first opportunity work an 'Assigned' position at a level above our local PVS Meets.

I thought I knew what was expected of me as a Chief Judge. After all, I had been a PVS Referee since 2004, had worked two Sectional Meets as a Stroke & Turn Judge and had observed the CJ's (all way more experienced than me) in action. I arrived at the Pool and was immediately informed that due to several other Meets being held at the same time we would be working with a minimal number of Stroke & Turn Judges. In fact, we CJ's would be 'walking stroke' for many of the Sessions. In addition to myself, this was also the first CJ experience for several of our crew at a Prelims and Finals Meet. I guess this should have been my first warning that things wouldn't be a smooth as I had anticipated.

The first Session was Distance and went fairly well. After all, who DQ's in freestyle? The next day was a different story. I was assigned to the far side turn end and it didn't take long for the first hand to go up. I walked over to the S&T Judge and began discussing the call. I didn't know that I was supposed to immediately radio in the lane in question (so that the other Officials could hold the swimmer and inform him/her in the event the call was accepted). I then fumbled my way through describing the DQ over the radio, ultimately getting the necessary information to the Deck Referee.

I'll never forget what happened a few heats later when I did another poor job handling a call. Here came the Team Lead Referee, who was from another LSC and unfamiliar to me. He was not happy. "Dave, you need to get us the lane in question immediately after the call comes in!", he demanded. I sheepishly replied that, "I was never taught to do that." To his credit, the Referee (who has since become a good friend) took the opportunity to mentor this obviously green CJ, explaining to me the importance of communicating the information in a timely manner in order to properly notify the athlete, as well as the way to describe the potential DQ so the Deck Referee could make a decision on the call.

By the end of the Meet, our CJ Team was firing on all cylinders, and the Deck Referees complimented us on our ability to adapt. My N2 Evaluation said, "Needs more experience." I took the lessons learned at that Meet back to our PVS Meets and earned my N2 Chief Judge Certification at next Spring's Sectional Meet.

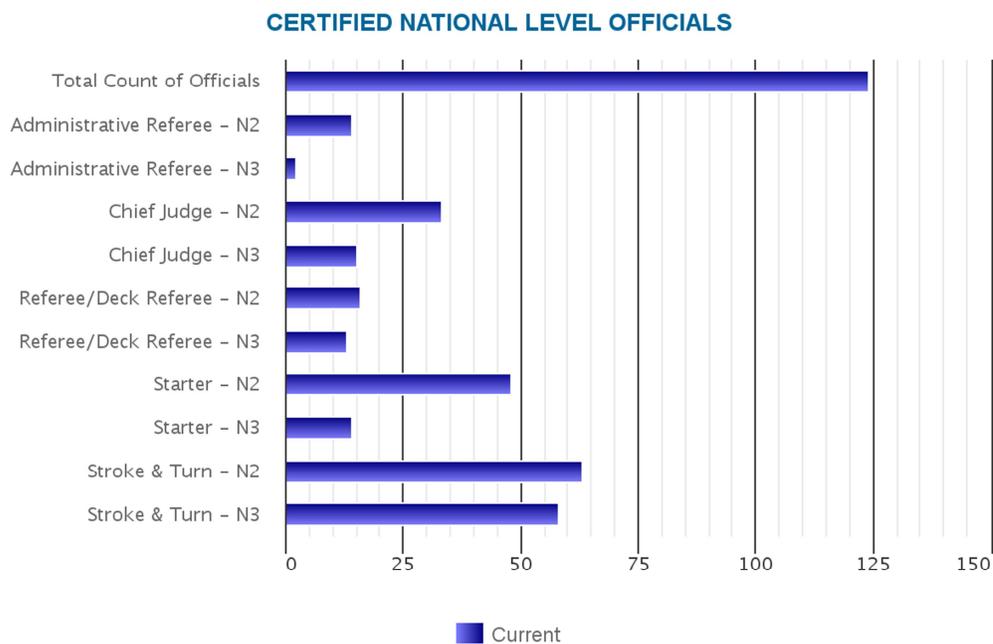
Since that time, PVS has started the first LSC Level CJ Certification in USA Swimming

and it has become a model for other LSC's. This Certification allows our people to get a chance to handle the CJ Duties at the local level and learn the position before heading to higher level Meets. I'm glad others won't have to take my route to becoming a Chief Judge, but at least I've got a good story to tell!

PVS Officiating Fun Facts by Tim Husson & Kelly Rowell



Officials Continuing Education



Nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ of PVS Officials are certified at the National level. Are you among them? If not, and you have been a certified Stroke & Turn Judge or Starter for at least a year, consider advancing your knowledge of officiating by requesting an N2 Evaluation. "National Certification" and "N2 Evaluation" may sound intimidating but in reality the process is educational. Participating in the National Certification process at an Officials Qualifying Meet (OQM), particularly at the N2 level, provides you the opportunity to experience first-hand the protocols used at national meets and to receive additional mentoring and experience to increase your knowledge of officiating. The PVS Officials Clinic you attended provided an excellent foundation to becoming an official – consider it Officiating 101. Your experience on deck has built upon that foundation. An N2 Evaluation is like Officiating 201 – continuing education for the experienced official.

Your first local opportunity this season is next month at the first of four OQMs

hosted in PVS during the 2015-2016 season. If you are interested, complete the [Application to Officiate & Request for Evaluation](#) for the NCAP Invitational by December 1, 2015. Additional OQMs in PVS this season are SC Senior Champs (Mar 2-6), Junior Olympic Champs (Mar 10-13) and LC Senior Champs (July 14-17).

Upcoming Clinics



Date	Clinic	Location	Time	Who's Attending
Saturday November 21	Starter	Oak Marr	8:00 - 10:00 AM	list
Saturday November 21	Stroke and Turn	Oak Marr	10:15 AM - 12:45 PM	list

You Make the Call Resolution



Recommended Resolution: There are four major categories of disabilities:

Blind and Visually Impaired
Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Mentally Impaired
Physical Disabilities

Applicable Rules: part 105

Upcoming Meets



NOVEMBER

Date	Meet	Host	Location
20-22	Swim & Rock (By Invitation)	SDS	Oak Marr
20-22	RMSC November Invitational (by invitation)	RMSC	MLK
21-22	Odd Ball Challenge	FAST	Fairland
21-22	Speedo Eastern States	OCCS	Freedom Center

	Senior Circuit #2		
21	Speedo Holiday Kick-Off Mini Meet	OCCS	Freedom Center
22	Pilgrim Mini Meet	NCAP	Claude Moore
DECEMBER			
Date	Meet	Host	Location
3-5	AT&T Winter National Championships	USA Swimming	Federal Way, WA
3-6	Turkey Claus Showdown	MACH	Univ. of MD
4-6	Christmas Championships	MSSC	Fairland
5-6	MAKO Holiday Invitational	MAKO	GMU
5-6	Reindeer Mini Meet	YORK	Providence
9-12	Speedo Winter Junior Nationals	USA Swimming	Atlanta, GA
10-13	Nation's Capital Invitational	NCAP	UMD
10-13	Holiday Invitational	RMSC	Germantown
10-13	Sport Fair Winter Classic (by Invitation)	PM	GMU
13	Frozen Five Mini Meet	MACH	Fairland
19	Candy Cane Mini Meet	NCAP	Freedom Center
19	Splash and Dash	FAST	Fairland



The LSC Chief Judge

Potomac Valley Swimming trains and certifies referees, starters, and S&T judges according to the needs of its local competitions. But the stated purpose of the PVS training program for chief judges is to prepare officials for higher-level meets. CJs are trained primarily to serve the needs of Sectional, Zone and other championship meets. And while many of those procedures translate to the November Open, our meets usually require a more flexible mind-set and a slightly different skill-set. So how can a CJ better focus on the needs of the typical PVS meet?

Begin by recalling the beginning of the *PVS Chief Judge's Manual*: "The Chief Judge is an assistant to the referee. The Chief Judge is the stroke and turn judges' mentor. He/she is one of the keys to the smooth running of a swim meet." This is the basis of the position, regardless whether or not the meet is using radios, chairs, or "No Show" slips. It underscores the fact that the CJ position is one of service to swimmers, coaches, and other officials.

Consult with the Meet Referee and Deck Referee to determine exactly what your

role is at this session. Will the CJ deliver the stroke briefing? Who will make the assignments? What jurisdictions have been established by the Referee? Will radios be used? If so, what does the Referee want to hear over the radio? How will DQs be vetted? Who will write the DQ report? What other issues should be noted?

At an age group meet or a mini-meet, the DQs can come fast and frequently. Often the Referee will ask the CJ to debrief the S&T judge with a disqualification as usual. But, to limit the amount of chatter on radios, the Referee might ask the CJ to continue the typical “radio script” only if there is an issue with the call. Or to shorten the communication in other ways. Vetting a DQ is a crucial skill for the CJ, requiring a thorough knowledge of the rules and excellent communication skills. This is even more critical at a non-championship meet where often there may be limited opportunity for follow-up by the Referee, due to the number of DQs, time constraints, limited staffing, lack of radios, etc.

The Chief Judge needs to be flexible enough to throw out what he/she has learned as “proper procedure” in order to ensure that the session runs smoothly. For instance, the manual says that judges should have “hands free of all papers.” But what happens when the judges are writing their own DQ slips and there is no scoreboard? As a Referee, I want the DQ slip completed accurately and legibly; if this requires the S&T to have a heat sheet and other papers in his/her hands, so be it. The manual says that CJs notify the swimmer of a disqualification. But we typically do not notify swimmers at age group meets and mini-meets. The manual says that the CJ delivers the stroke briefing. But I often prefer to do this myself when I’m the Referee—after all, the rulebook says the Referee “shall have full authority over all officials and shall assign and instruct them.” The manual goes into detail regarding proper deck protocol, jurisdiction, and radio protocol. But it’s the Referee who determines deck protocol, jurisdiction, and radio protocol.

The Chief Judge position is not rules-based; it is skills-based and service-oriented. The skills and the type of service can—and must—vary from meet to meet. The key is flexibility and common sense.



BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT GOES TO THE SWIMMER!

Call what you see and see what you call

