



Around the Deck

Potomac Valley Swimming

Officials Newsletter

★ ★
JULY

★ ★
2016



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**



I had the fortune to attend this year's US Olympic Trials in Omaha. What a fast and exciting meet! Since there are so many great swimmers in the U.S. and only two can go to the Olympics in each event, I witnessed in person Jim McKay's "the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat". US Olympic Trials resulted in a team headed to Rio that includes a good mix of newcomers and veterans – I look forward to following along with their successes in Rio!

While the final PVS meet for the 2015-2016 season has come to an end, many of you will be officiating at a USA Swimming Futures, US Open, or Junior Nationals meet. In addition, if you are attending the Eastern Zone Long Course Age Group or Senior Zone Championship meets, the meet referees welcome any additional volunteers!

I look forward to seeing you at a swim meet in the Fall!

Tim Husson
OfficialsChair@pvswim.org

Mentoring by Boots Hall



October is fast approaching and with it the October and November meets. New officials will be doing their apprentice sessions and will need experienced officials to mentor them. Some of these apprentices come with great experience in local summer leagues—others with considerably less. What does that mean for you? First of all, welcome them with a smile! Then ask them about their previous experience.

You will be a partner to the apprentice. You must cultivate patience. You must recognize that they too are volunteers and need encouragement not anxiety. They need your close attention. You can ask “how can I help you?” When they see an infraction, give them time to get the description right. You can repeat the call using preferred wording. When you have a question, you should frame it in a positive way.

If this is either the first or second training session, go over how the calls are transmitted on a radio via the chief judge. Explain that this requires clear wording of the infraction.

It is very important, not only to give immediate feedback after a call, but also at the end of the session. Be sure to acknowledge any infractions they saw without coaching. Mention things they might want to work on such as wording of calls. Be sure and tell them that it gets easier the more meets one works. Thank them for coming.

You Make the Call!



Situation #1: On the second day of a three-day prelim/finals meet, the start time of the morning session is moved from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Unaware of the change, a 13-year-old swimmer coming from out-of-town misses the 100 breaststroke. The referee allows the swimmer to fill an empty lane in the 15 & over event. The time the 13-year-old achieves while swimming in the wrong age group would place her in the championship heat of the 13-14 age group. The swimmer is placed in the championship final, displacing swimmers who thought they were in finals or consolation finals. The late swimmer ends up placing in the top three.

Question: Was the situation rectified properly?

Situation #2: At a local championship meet, Coach Smith noticed that many swimmers during the breaststroke were dropping their shoulders after the final arm pull and prior to the touch. Coach Smith taught his swimmers to keep their shoulders level with the water until the touch was made. He went to the Deck Referee to protest the lack of action from the stroke and turn officials.

Question: What should the Deck Referee tell Coach Smith?

PVS Officiating Fun Facts

by Tim Husson & Kelly Rowell



THANK YOU!

The final PVS sanctioned meet has come to an end for the 2015-2016 swim season. During the course of the season, 586 certified officials and at least 24 apprentices continuing to work towards certification contributed to the successful operation of 131 PVS meets. PVS officials and apprentices combined for a total of 9,820 sessions worked at PVS meets during the 2015-2016 swim season – an average of 16 sessions/PVS official; a median of 12 sessions/PVS official. Thank you for your time and commitment to the athletes of PVS!

Managing Your Officiating Career

by Bob Vincent



With the new evaluation procedures in place it now becomes necessary to manage your OTS sessions. At many of our meets officials have the opportunity to work multiple positions during a single session. With the new requirements of working 16 sessions in many of the positions before even requesting an evaluation it is now necessary to make sure that you get credit for working the appropriate position. Obviously, it would not be appropriate to request that you get credit for starting a session if you only stepped in a had a couple of starts. However, if you are rotating positions, it would be appropriate to request that the Meet Referee, or whomever is responsible for the OTS entries, give you credit for the positions you are working towards advancement in. This has become so much more important with the new evaluation requirements. Remember, you are responsible for managing your career, so take a little time and do some planning.

Potomac Valley Officials at USA Olympic Trials



Congratulations to the Potomac Valley Swimming "Fab 5" for their outstanding work at USA Swimming Olympic Trials in Omaha, NE. From left to right: Tim Husson, Jack Neill, Denice Wepasnick,

Jan Van Nimwegen, and Tony Rongione



You Make the Call Resolution



Situation #1 Recommended Resolution: As the missed swim was not the swimmer's fault the decision to let the swimmer into a subsequent heat was proper. The real lesson is to make sure that you do not change the schedule unless all affected clubs and swimmers can be notified in advance.

Applicable Rules: 102.8.2, 102.8.3

Situation #2 Recommended Resolution: The Referee could explain to the coach that the officials understand the rules of the breaststroke and that the rules don't address the position of the shoulders during the swim or the finish and then refer him to the appropriate section of the rulebook.

Applicable Rules: 101.2.2, 101.2.4

Upcoming Meets



AUGUST

Date	Meet	Host	Location
2-6	<u>US Open</u>	USA Swimming	Minneapolis, MN
3-6	<u>Eastern Zone LC Championships</u>	METRO	East Meadow, NY
4-7	<u>LC Senior Zone Championships</u>	STAR	Buffalo, NY
4-7	<u>Futures Championships</u>	USA Swimming	<u>UMD</u>
8-12	<u>Speedo Junior Nationals</u>	USA Swimming	Minneapolis, MN



BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT GOES TO THE SWIMMER!

Call what you see and see what you call

