

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

POTOMAC VALLEY SWIMMING

MARCH 2017



OFFICIALS NEWSLETTER

----- BEYOND THE RULEBOOK -----

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



Even in this day of computers, we still use a lot of paper forms to run swim meets. There is a page on the PVS website dedicated to forms for officials <http://www.pvswim.org/official/forms.html>. USA Swimming has a similar page of forms for us to use.

I want to highlight some new and revised forms on that site. The first one is a log that Administrative Officials can use to keep track of the events that are completed and processed <http://www.pvswim.org/official/forms/PVS_AO_Log.xlsx>. An AO can even fill it in with event names and numbers ahead of time.

One of the forms that has been revised is the Officials Sign-In Sheet we see at every meet <<http://www.pvswim.org/official/forms/sign-in.pdf>>. It is a form-fillable PDF that can be populated with officials' names before the meet.

The other revised forms are Timer Sign-In Sheets for 8 lanes <<http://www.pvswim.org/official/forms/TimerSignInWithMarshals-8lanes.pdf>> and 10 lanes <<http://www.pvswim.org/official/forms/TimerSignInWithMarshals-10lanes.pdf>>. These forms now include a place for Marshals to sign in.

If you have a form that you think is useful but is not on the website, send it to me. If the Officials Committee thinks it would be useful to other officials, it will be put on the website.

I hope to see you at a meet real soon!

Tim Husson
OfficialsChair@pvswim.org

Fun Facts

by: Tim Husson & Kelly Rowell



This month hosts the championship meets for the short course season. Here are a few facts about those meets.

MEET	NUMBER OF			
	Teams	Athletes	Splashes	Officials
Senior Champs	30	806	2808	67
Junior Champs	29	897	2374	41
Junior Olympics	32	1872	6399	100+

In addition, the Senior Champs and Junior Olympics meets were Officials Qualifying Meets where PVS officials could further their skill with mentoring and evaluation by National Evaluators. Seventeen evaluations were done at Senior Championships and 28 evaluations were done at Junior Olympics. Those that took advantage of this opportunity are to be commended for furthering their education as officials.

These championship meets have kept PVS officials busy these past two weekends! Additional officials supported our youngest swimmers at two separate mini meets the weekend of Junior/Senior Champs. Thank you to everyone for your dedication to all our swimmers!

Beyond the Rulebook

by: Jack Neill



As swim officials we rightfully consider the USA Swimming rulebook as the final word when providing fair and equitable competition at meets. The rulebook is updated annually, based on changes made by FINA (the international governing body of swimming) and changes approved by the USA Swimming's Rules and Regulations Committee and the House of Delegates. The "wet rules" of the USA Swimming rulebook are required to coincide exactly with FINA rules—otherwise our country's athletes would not be eligible to hold world records and could not compete in the Olympics, World Championships, and other international meets.

But there are some rules that require further elaboration or interpretation. For these we need to consult the official interpretations of USA Swimming as well as the pronouncements of the Rules and Regulations Committee. When noteworthy decisions are made by the R&R Committee, memos are sent to the LSCs who publicize them on their websites. And they often appear in the USA-S Officials Newsletters. Let's take a look at some of these interpretations.

All swimmers are on their block except lane five who is missing. The Starter gives the "take your mark" command and, when all swimmers are stationary, sounds the device to start the race. Immediately thereafter an athlete jumps up on the empty lane five block and dives into the pool. The swimmer is, indeed, the one who had been seeded into lane five. What should the Deck Referee do? This exact scenario was cited in the July, 2014 Officials Newsletter: "The penalty is to treat the athlete as a 'no show.' Clearly, he was not at the blocks ready to swim when the race was started. The administrative penalty for a 'no show' means that for this athlete the swim never occurred. Thus, no time would be recorded for the swim, and any administrative penalties for a 'no show' would also be applicable."

http://www.pvswim.org/official/newsletters/USA_Swimming_Officials_Newsletter-July2014.html

The rulebook clearly states that a swimmer may not wear a pacing device during competition. Many young swimmers wear a wristwatch while competing—is this a pacing device? Not according to the minutes of the Committee's May, 2008 meeting: "A watch, in and of itself is not a pacing device. The Referee has the authority to determine if an athlete was using the watch as a pacing device." They said the same about a heart rate monitor in June, 2015.

<https://www.usaswimming.org/Rainbow/Documents/2e8fc1c5-f1c0-43b8-b731-46b87657c22b/2008%20May%2030%20RULES%20Minutes.pdf>

A seeming contradiction exists where the rulebook says a swimmer may turn in any manner, but then 102.22.5 says that "standing on the bottom during any other stroke (than Freestyle) shall result in disqualification." A long-standing (June 5, 1999) interpretation for Butterfly, Breaststroke, and Backstroke specifically states: "standing on the bottom after a legal touch has been made and prior to pushing off the wall should be considered part of the turn and no disqualification should be called."

<https://www.usaswimming.org/Rainbow/Documents/a77ac9f8-d7f7-45bf-a77c-c3cb73df8825/Interpretations%20Made%20by%20the%20Rules%20Regs%20Comte%20Rev%20Aug%202015.pdf>

There are quite a few similar interpretations and clarifications that Referees should be aware of. All officials should try to familiarize themselves with them as well. Because sometimes we need to go beyond the rulebook to ensure that we're all on the same page.



Officiating Milestones

by: PVS Swimming Officials Committee



5 Years of Service to USA Swimming

Brian Boyle (RIPS)
Alan Goldblatt (NCAP)
Chris Reed (RMSC)
Karl Stumpf (ASA)

15 Years of Service to USA Swimming

Amy Hsu (UMAC)

20 Years of Service to USA Swimming

Jim Thompson (HACC)

KEEP
CALM
AND
OFFICIAL
ON!!!

#OfficiallyAwesome



New Certifications (Includes Transfers)



S&T Judges

Grace Barkovic (NCAP)
Olga Chandran (RMSC)
Jeffrey Cundiff (SNOW)
Sarah Flick (PAC)
Robert Garrett (MACH)
Laura Hutchcroft (PAC)
Debbie Wischmann (FAST)
Yuken Wong (RMSC)

Chief Judges

Stewart Gordon (MACH)
Erika Livingston (DCPR)
Chris Reed (RMSC)
Bill Romine (OCCS)

Starters

Tammy Arbogast (RMSC)
Jeff Klein (NCAP)
Peter Mott (DCPR)
Linda Tucker (UMAC)

Referees

Robert Stevens (OCCS)

Computer Operators

Mary Ann Caron (OCCS)

Electronic Timing System Operators

Tracie Dickson (DCPR)
John Heidenreich (NCAP)



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

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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*

March 2017	April 2017
2-5 – PVS Short Course Championships (PVS) 2-5 - PVS SC Junior Championships (PVS) 4-5 - Mini Championships (RMSC) 9-12 - PVS 14&U Junior Olympic Championships (PVS) 17-19 - RMSC Spring Finale (RMSC) 18-19 - MAKO Spring Invitational (MAKO) 24-26 - Spring Championships (MSSC) 24-26 - March Madness (YORK) 30-2 - Eastern Zone Short Course Championships (Fairport Swimming) - Webster, NY 30-2 - Speedo Sectionals Eastern Zone South Region (Virginia Swimming) - Christiansburg, VA	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)



BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT GOES TO THE SWIMMER!

Call what you see and see what you call

