



### **WELCOME BACK**

Welcome back to the 2014-2015 swimming season. We had a very successful season in 2013-2014 with a 10% increase in the number of officials. We certified fifteen new Administrative Officials in the first year of that program. But we can't sit back and rest on last year's success. The number of swimmers and the number of meets in PVS is still increasing every year. So, encourage your fellow parents to attend an officials' clinic and become certified. If you've been a Stroke & Turn Judge for more than a year, consider training to become a Starter or Chief Judge. If you certify in either of these positions, it automatically renews your S&T certification. You can find a list of scheduled officials' clinics below, and we are adding more, so check back on the PVS website.

With the number of clinics at this time of the season, we see a lot of apprentice officials on deck at our meets. Make them feel welcome and if you are asked to be a mentor to an apprentice official at a session, take the time to share your knowledge and experience. The only way we get good new officials is if we all help to train them. Remember, we were all in that position at one time not so long ago.

If you plan to be at a meet and want to help officiate, please contact the officials chair or meet referee listed in the meet announcement to let them know of your intentions. While we accept walk-on officials at most non-championship meets, the meet referee can sleep easier the night before the meet if he/she knows that they have a full complement of officials already lined up.

Nineteen PVS Officials worked the Eastern Zone LC Age Group Championship meet at the CSAC pool in Richmond last month. It was great to see such a good representation from our officials. The meet had four National Age Group records broken and many more good races. I encourage you to work these higher level meets and other meets outside of Potomac Valley. Meeting new officials and finding out how others run meets will make us better officials.

PVS will be hosting a Swimposium on Saturday, September 27 at the University of Maryland. Details and registration forms will be available on the PVS website this week. The Officials Track will include a Safe Sport presentations and a presentation on Paralympic Swimming from the swimmer, parent and officials viewpoints. We will also offer certification/recertification clinics for all deck officials and administrative officials.

### **REGISTRATION**

Your 2014 registration is valid until December 31<sup>st</sup> but it is not too early to start thinking about the 2015 registration as there are a few changes this year.

As many of you know, PVS pays the re-registration for those officials that work a minimum of ten sessions

the previous calendar year. The sessions that count towards this total are PVS-sanctioned meets and do not count approved meets, observed meets and meets outside of Potomac Valley. If you have already met the minimum sessions, you will receive an email soon telling you that you can register for 2015. Do not try to register until you receive that notice. If you haven't yet worked ten sessions in 2014, you have plenty of chances to reach that mark. There will be at least thirty more meets in PVS before the end of the year.

I got good news recently from USA Swimming when they announced that Athlete Protection Training (APT) would be moved to a two-year cycle instead of every year. So, every one's APT date has been changed to 12/31/2015. You can verify that in the Officials Tracking System (OTS). If your background screening expires before the end of this year, please take care of that before re-registering.

USA Swimming has implemented this year an Apprentice Officials category. All apprentice officials must sign up before beginning their on-deck apprentice sessions. The on-line form is on the PVS website. An apprentice can remain in this category for up to 60 days as they begin their apprenticeship. But they must complete the USA Swimming registration by 60 days or before they complete their certification, whichever comes first.

Another change that PVS had implemented for this year is the requirement that all non-deck officials must be registered with USA Swimming. If you are a Hy-Tek or Timing System Operator, you must register for 2015 by December 31. Check with your club registrar and/or officials chair as many clubs pay the first year membership for their officials.

I hope to see you at the Swimposium, a clinic or meet soon!

Tim Husson

[OfficialsChair@pvs swim.org](mailto:OfficialsChair@pvs swim.org)



The PVS Officials Committee will offer an online clinic on October 7 from 7:00 - 9:30 PM. The clinic can be used to satisfy the clinic requirement for certification or recertification in the stroke and turn position. The clinic can be accessed from any computer that has an internet connection. Attendees will be able to watch a presentation, view videos, and ask questions. Pre-registration is required. For more information, see <http://www.pvswim.org/official/officialsclinics.html>. The registration link will be posted a few weeks before the clinic.



The National Capital area is hosting the 2015 World Police and Fire Games from June 26th to July 5th, 2015. Over 12,000 athletes, who are active duty or retired police officers, firefighters, customs and correction officers, from 60 countries are expected to compete in 61 sports. Some of the sports are like those in the Summer Olympics, Archery, Basketball, Soccer, Swimming, Triathlon and Track and Field. There are, however, some events unique to this competition like Muster, Stair Race and Police Service Dogs. Here is the website for the Games <http://fairfax2015.com/>.

Open Water competition will be held on June 28th at Lake Audubon in Reston, Virginia. Indoor Swimming competition will run from June 30th to July 2nd at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.

As with any swim meet, volunteers are needed to support the competition. According to the organizers, they will need officials for all positions, deck and table, including Timers. This is a wonderful opportunity to show our support and thanks to some of the first responders who risk their lives to help us in an emergency. As you make your 2015 summer plans, please keep this opportunity in mind.

Additional details will come out as we learn more about the Swimming competition



**Situation:** Three stroke and turn judges are positioned at each end of a 100-yard breaststroke event. During Heat 2 the stroke and turn judge having jurisdiction over lanes 1-2 disqualifies the swimmer in lane 2 for a scissors kick. Subsequent calls are made for the same violation by the same judge in heats 3 and 4. This particular official was recently certified as a stroke and turn judge.

**Questions:** Should you do anything? What should you do if you subsequently determine that the scissors kick call being made by this judge was, in fact, a legal kick?



Upcoming Clinics				
Date	Clinic	Location	Time	Who's Attending
Wednesday September 17	<a href="#">Stroke &amp; Turn</a>	<a href="#">Univ. of MD</a>	6:30 - 9:00 PM	<a href="#">list</a>
Saturday September 20	<a href="#">Stroke &amp; Turn</a>	<a href="#">Madeira School</a>	8:00 - 10:30 AM	<a href="#">list</a>
Thursday September 25	<a href="#">New Referee</a>	<a href="#">Overlee</a>	7:00 - 9:00 PM	By Invitation
Saturday September 27	<a href="#">Stroke &amp; Turn</a>	<a href="#">Univ. of MD at Swimposium</a>	1:00 - 3:30 PM	<a href="#">list</a>
Saturday September 27	<a href="#">Starter</a>	<a href="#">Univ. of MD at Swimposium</a>	1:00 - 3:00 PM	<a href="#">list</a>
Saturday September	<a href="#">Chief Judge</a>	<a href="#">Univ. of MD at Swimposium</a>	1:00 - 3:00 PM	<a href="#">list</a>

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Saturday September 27	<a href="#">Referee</a>	<a href="#">Univ. of MD at Swimposium</a>	1:00 - 3:00 PM	<a href="#">list</a>
Saturday September 27	<a href="#">Administrative Official</a>	<a href="#">Univ. of MD at Swimposium</a>	1:00 - 3:00 PM	<a href="#">list</a>
Sunday September 28	<a href="#">Hy-Tek Computer Operator</a>	<a href="#">MLK Swim Center</a>	8:00 - 10:00 AM	<a href="#">list</a>
Sunday September 28	<a href="#">Colorado Timing System Operator</a>	<a href="#">MLK Swim Center</a>	10:30 AM - 12:30 PM	<a href="#">list</a>
Sunday September 28	<a href="#">Administrative Official</a>	<a href="#">MLK Swim Center</a>	1:00 - 3:00 PM	<a href="#">list</a>
Saturday October 4	<a href="#">Stroke &amp; Turn</a>	<a href="#">Life Time Fitness Center</a>	8:00 - 10:30 AM	<a href="#">list</a>
Saturday October 4	<a href="#">Hy-Tek Computer Operator</a>	<a href="#">Life Time Fitness Center</a>	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	<a href="#">list</a>
Sunday October 5	<a href="#">Stroke &amp; Turn</a>	<a href="#">MLK Swim Center</a>	8:00 - 10:30 AM	<a href="#">list</a>
Sunday October 5	<a href="#">Chief Judge</a>	<a href="#">MLK Swim Center</a>	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	<a href="#">list</a>
Sunday October 5	<a href="#">Starter</a>	<a href="#">MLK Swim Center</a>	1:30 - 3:30 PM	<a href="#">list</a>
Tuesday October 7	<a href="#">Stroke &amp; Turn</a>	On-Line Clinic	7:00 - 9:30 PM	
Saturday October 11	<a href="#">Starter</a>	<a href="#">Herndon Community Center</a>	8:00 - 10:00 AM	<a href="#">list</a>
Saturday October 11	<a href="#">Stroke and Turn</a>	<a href="#">Herndon Community Center</a>	10:00 AM - 12:30 PM	<a href="#">list</a>
Saturday October 11	<a href="#">Chief Judge</a>	<a href="#">Herndon Community Center</a>	1:00 - 3:00 PM	<a href="#">list</a>
Sunday October 12	<a href="#">Colorado Timing System Operator</a>	<a href="#">Herndon Community Center</a>	9:00 - 11:00 AM	<a href="#">list</a>
Sunday October 12	<a href="#">Hy-Tek Computer Operator</a>	<a href="#">Herndon Community Center</a>	NOON - 2:00 PM	<a href="#">list</a>
Saturday October 25	<a href="#">Stroke &amp; Turn</a>	<a href="#">Takoma</a>	10:00 - 12:30 PM	<a href="#">list</a>
Saturday November 22	<a href="#">Starter</a>	<a href="#">Oak Marr</a>	TBA	<a href="#">list</a>
Saturday November 22	<a href="#">Stroke and Turn</a>	<a href="#">Oak Marr</a>	TBA	<a href="#">list</a>

# ★ HOW MANY MEETS DO WE RUN IN PVS? ★

A REPORT BY JIM THOMPSON, TECHNICAL PLANNING CHAIR



In all sports, an athlete achieves top performance by measuring different aspects of their performance over time. In swimming the most important measure is the time to complete an event. Other key numbers of interest are reaction time (the time it takes a swimmer to leave the starting block), intermediate distance split times, stroke count for backstroke turns and turn-over rate (number of strokes in a unit of time). Coaches and swimmers use these measures to guide training and racing strategy.

From a swim official's perspective we have our own set of key measures. One such measure is the number of meets in a season. This number drives how often we, as officials, have to be on the pool deck and whether we can sleep in late on the weekend.

A [recent report](#) for the PVS Officials Committee looked at the change in number of meets<sup>i</sup> for each season. The report covers period from 1996-1997 through 2013-2014.

A PVS season runs from October to July of the following year. Each season the PVS meet schedule is determined by the Competition Committee, which is made up of one representative from each team. In addition to the regularly scheduled meets determined by the Competition Committee, it is possible for two or three teams to request a sanction for Dual or Tri-Meet. In the few that I've been involved, these Dual or Tri-Meets come about at the last minute because the teams in question are not able to enter a meet on the PVS schedule because of over subscription, i.e., the regular scheduled meet has reached its limit of swimmers.

Here are some of the [report's](#) key points:

- In the 1996-1997, PVS held 48 meets. During the last season (2013-2014), PVS held 98 meets, an increase of 104%. If Fairland Aquatic Center did not experience a pool equipment problem forcing the cancellation of 4 meets last season, PVS would have held 102 meets.
- The PVS season has 45 weekends. During the first 11 seasons, only 5 out of the 495 weekends during this period held 5 or more meets.
- Three weekends in the 2007-2008 held 5 or more meets. Each subsequent season since then had between 3 to 6 weekends of 5 or more meets.
- Over a period of eighteen seasons, the average number of meets in a weekend doubled from 1.4 to 2.8 meets.
- The most number of meets we ran in a weekend is seven. This occurred twice, once each in 2007-2008 and 2009-2010 seasons.
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Although past performance is no guarantee of future performance, the past is highly suggestive of what we can expect. While we cannot predict when, there will be a season in the near future with 100 or more meets and there will be a weekend with eight meets. The numbers we have in PVS show strong demand for swim competition in the Washington, D.C. area. This means continued demand for our services as swim officials.

There is a saying, "Many hands make for light work." Our swim meets are dependent on volunteers. If we can get more parents out to help, we can make each person's workload a little lighter. Please encourage new parents, and even the old-time parents, who sit in the stands to help out at a meet. There are many ways to help out. If they are willing to make the time commitment for training they can serve as a certified official (Referee,

Starter, Stroke & Turn, Admin Official, Computer Operator, or Timing System Operator). Or they can provide support by volunteering to be a Timer, fill a meet support role, such as Runner or Hospitality staff, or just be an extra pair of hands to help.

<sup>1</sup> Meet count includes those on the PVS schedule and Dual and Tri meets. Each site of a multi-site meet, e.g., PVS Open meets, is counted as a separate meet because each site is staffed by a separate set of officials and volunteers. Cancelled meets are not included in the analysis.



I have just returned from Junior Nationals in Irvine, California. While this was my third Junior National Meet, it was my first Long Course National Championship Meet. The major difference (other than the length of the walk when Stroke Judging) was the length of the Meet. Five full days vs. the three days I spent at Ohio State in 2009 and Georgia Tech in 2010.

I arrived in California on Sunday and spent a couple of days visiting a friend in Los Angeles. On Tuesday afternoon I drove down "the 405 to the 5" and arrived at the William Woollett Aquatics Center in time for the General Meeting. Walking into the Pool was unlike anything I have experienced in over 15 years on the Deck. This was the largest outdoor facility I had ever seen. There were two 50-meter pools, with the Competition Pool surrounded by huge stands. This was certainly a change from our local venues.

The General Meeting was a chance to say hello to some people who I had met at other National Championship and Sectional Meets, as well as meet some new officials. I was glad to see PVS colleagues Jack Neill (one of the Deck Referees), Bill Pritchard, Dan Seliskar, Jan Van Nimwigen and Al Betts on the crew working the Meet. I also saw a few PVS coaches and athletes around the pool.

The Meet started with a 7:30 am Stroke Briefing on Wednesday and ran through Sunday night. As the event progressed, I was able to work nearly all of the five S&T positions (left, center and right chair at the start end; turn end judge, and stroke judge). I also was selected to be a Starter and Referee for two of the five Time Trials Sessions (a benefit of being an N3 Referee and Starter). Another highlight was participating in the Officials 'Streamline' during a break in the action before Relays. SwimSwam.com and other web sites picked up that photo.

By the way, when you go to a National Championship Meet expect to work Time Trials. Fortunately they were only about an hour each day. As the TT Meet Referee said, "You are being 'voluntold' to work Time Trials."

The weather was unseasonably warm and we were fortunate to have relief that allowed us to get out of the sun and rehydrate. I had been warned that Irvine mornings and evenings could be chilly, but I never had to use the jacket I packed. Hospitality was fantastic. Fresh fruit and healthy alternatives ruled the day.

A side benefit was the time spent before and after the Sessions with the other Officials. Sometimes we fail to realize how lucky we are in PVS. One person from Montana spoke about having to drive over 90 miles to the nearest suitable competition pool. Others spoke about traveling for many weekend Meets with the attendant expense. I also picked up some other valuable tips on how to staff meets and other ideas.

All in all, Junior Nationals was a great experience. If you have not had a chance to work one of these Meets and you are an N2 or higher Stroke & Turn Judge, please consider volunteering. PVS will help with a travel

stipend for approved Meets. I am confident that you will have a great time.



**Recommended Resolution:** A number of questions need to be asked. Are the other judges making similar calls at the same frequency? If not, it would be a good idea to have someone observe the official during subsequent races. This is where a chief judge can be of great benefit. If the referee finds that the scissors kick being called was actually a legal kick, the referee should overrule the disqualifications.

**Applicable Rules:** 102.13.1, 102.13.4



SEPTEMBER				
Date	Meet	Host	Location	
26	UMAC Relay Meet	UMAC	<a href="#">Univ. of MD</a>	
28	<a href="#">PAC Freestyle Meet</a>	PAC	<a href="#">PGS&amp;LC</a>	
OCTOBER				
Date	Meet	Host	Location	
5	MSSC Freestyle Meet	MSSC	<a href="#">Fairland</a>	
10-11	<a href="#">MAKO Fall Invitational</a>	MAKO	<a href="#">GMU</a>	
10-11	Red & Black Invitational (by invitation)	UMAC	<a href="#">Univ. of MD</a>	
10-11	Snow Pumpkin Invitational (by invitation)	SNOW	<a href="#">Claude Moore</a>	
10-12	RMSC October Kickoff (by invitation)	RMSC	<a href="#">Germantown</a>	
11-12	Harvest Moon	HACC	<a href="#">Herndon</a>	
		PM	<a href="#">Lee District</a>	
17-19	<a href="#">PVS October Open</a>	NCAP	<a href="#">Fairland</a>	
		FBST	<a href="#">Fairland</a>	
25-26	SDS Monster Mash (by invitation)	SDS	<a href="#">South Run</a>	
25-26	MSSC Fall Senior Meet	MSSC	<a href="#">Fairland</a>	
25-26	Fall Gator Mini Meet	AAC	<a href="#">Wakefield HS</a>	

# **BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT GOES TO THE SWIMMER**

Call what you see and see what you call



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