



2015 Registration

Thus far, 295 PVS Officials have worked enough sessions in 2014 to qualify for PVS to pay for their 2015 registration. Those not yet achieving that mark were notified by email. There are still a large number of meets in December that need your help and can get you the sessions required. If you don't qualify and want to pay for your own registration, you are welcome to do so now.

Re-Certification

PVS Official's Certifications are valid for two years. You can check your certification status in the USA Swimming Officials Tracking System (OTS). If your certification expires 12/31/2014, there are three things you must do to re-certify:

- Attend a PVS clinic <http://www.pvswim.org/official/officialsclinics.html>
- Take the required USA-S re-certification tests http://www.pvswim.org/official/cert_tests.html
- Submit the recertification application <http://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/TQ50bCeke3w>

If you did not attend one of the 31 clinics PVS offered this fall, there will be clinic opportunities in January.

USA Swimming Background Check

The USA Swimming background check, which is a requirement of membership, must be renewed every two years. There are a large number of PVS officials that are up for renewal in December, January and February. You can check you status in OTS and please leave at least two weeks for the renewal so you membership does not get suspended.

E-Mail Addresses

It is important that if you change email addresses, you let the PVS Non-Athlete Registrar know so she can update your record in the USA Swimming database. You can contact Terri Marlin at terripvs@gmail.com . You should also sign up for the PVS Officials Newsletter with your new address.

December 2014 Meets

There will be another nine PVS meets in December. Of these, five are prelims/finals type meet. They all need officials so I hope everyone can support one or more of these meets.

Have a great December and I hope to see you on deck at a PVS meet soon!

Tim Husson

OfficialsChair@pvswim.org

NEW BREAST STROKE RULE



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Date: November 30, 2014

To: General Chairs Board of Directors, USA Swimming
Officials Chairs USA Swimming Officials
Rules & Regulations Committee USA Swimming Coach Members

From: Jay Thomas, Chair, Rules & Regulations Committee

Re: Breaststroke - Timing of Permissible Butterfly Kick After the Start and Turns.

1. On November 29, 2014, FINA convened an Extraordinary Congress in Doha, Qatar and adopted changes to FINA rules.
2. The Rules and Regulations Committee acting pursuant to the provisions of Rule 511.1, hereby amends the following rule to conform to the rules of FINA.
3. Rule 101.2.3 is amended – the underlined passage indicates the affected wording.

“101.2.3 Kick – After the start and each turn, at any time prior to the first breaststroke kick a single butterfly kick is permitted. Following which, all movements of the legs shall be simultaneous and in the same horizontal plane without alternating movement.

The feet must be turned outwards during the propulsive part of the kick. Scissors, alternating movements or downward butterfly kicks are not permitted except as provided herein. Breaking the surface of the water with the feet is allowed unless followed by a downward butterfly kick.”

4. The rule, as amended, is effective immediately.

Digitally signed by John F.
Thomas IV
DN: cn=John F. Thomas IV, o, ou,
email=jaythomas@gmail.com,
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Date: 2014.11.30 10:11:52 -0500

Jay Thomas
Chair, USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee

cc. Mickey Smythe, USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee

YOU MAKE THE CALL



Situation: During the 1000-yard freestyle the turn judge, having been given the jurisdiction to sound the warning signal, rings the bell over the leader in Lane #4 at 900 yards. The leader and the swimmer in second place, Lane #5, continue beyond 950 yards and complete the race. The coach of the swimmer in Lane #4 files a written protest stating that his swimmer visibly increased his pace to a sprint at the sound of the warning bell. Realizing that he was not done and having nothing left, he was only able to finish third instead of second, causing his team to lose the meet team championship.

Questions: What decision should be made with regard to the protest?



Any discussion of officiating and a manual to assist with that activity must be based on a sound understanding of the rules of the sport. The basis for the rules of swimming are found in the rules used by the Federation Internationale de Natation Amateur (FINA). FINA governs the international competitions.

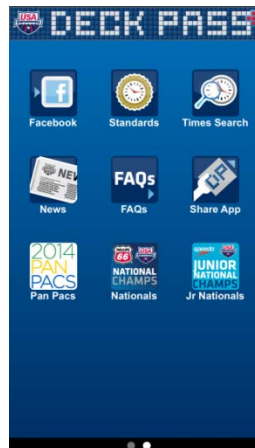
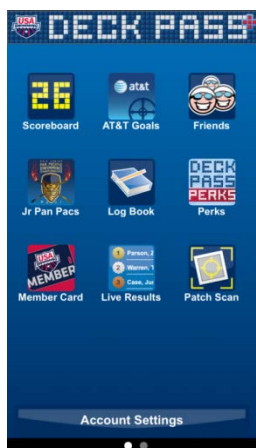
In most instances the rules specified by USA Swimming in the Rules and Regulations conform directly to the FINA rules. In fact, our own rule book requires USA Swimming to conform to FINA rules when they change.

The USA Swimming rules form the basis upon which all decisions are made. One of the most frequently asked questions is, "Why aren't the rules written so clearly that we don't need interpretations?" The answer is that when it comes to rule interpretation, there are sometimes situations where there are no right or wrong answers. Long time Rules Chair, William A Lippman, Jr. stated in October, 1981, *"It is my philosophy that we cannot, in advance, provide a "How to Do It" for every possible happening. Nor can we always strongly see alike on everything that can take place. If we cannot, as the foremost authority on USA Swimming rules, strongly agree on an interpretation, then we should leave such adjudication for referees and juries who are at the scene."*

In April 1982, Lippman further stated, *"Let's not try to cover every possible situation in the swimming rules. Let's not write rules to cover these strange and rare possibilities. Leave something for the referee to decide. Let the humans present consider the facts, and come to their own decision on how to handle it. It is impossible to make rules absolute in every instance. There must be room for human judgment to adapt to the intent of the rule to the incident and to the physical factors and make the final decision. That is my philosophy. It is based too on a belief that most adults involved in our sport are fundamentally honest and are willing to exercise their judgment for the best interests of all parties involved."* – excerpt from "The Guide to Officiating"

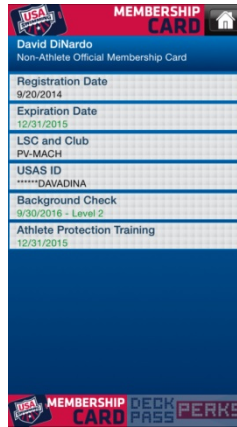


Deck Pass Mobile – USA Swimming's App



USA Swimming has introduced the Deck Pass Mobile App for iPhone and Android. When linked to your USA Swimming Online Account, this App allows you to access a variety of items, including your USA Swimming Membership Card. Here

you can confirm your Registration Information, including the Status of your Background Check and Athlete Protection Training.



Other features of Deck Pass Mobile include:

- The Ability to connect with Swimmers and Officials who are also using Deck Pass, and with your Facebook friends;
- Follow your friends' activity on Deck Pass through your News Feed.

To download your free copy of Deck Pass Mobile, go to the App Store or Google Play.

By Dave DiNardo



Recommended Resolution: The protest should be disallowed. Although a warning signal is required, USA Swimming Rules and Regulations also state that it is the responsibility of the swimmer to complete the prescribed distance.

Applicable Rules: 101.1.4, 102.5.6E



The swimming rules must be followed. The official who has standards that differ from those set down in the rulebook will be open to negotiation on every decision made. Following the rules puts a stake in the ground that tells everyone concerned with the competition that the decisions will be made in a fair and equitable manner against a known standard. As an official, an individual must operate from a strong base.

That base is made up of two factors – one is the authority of the rulebook and the other is the basic philosophy that the officials conduct the competition in accordance with the rules. Each time a rule and USA Swimming Officials Committee Rev: October, 2006 the purpose of that rule are explained, the rule becomes easier to accept. ***Rather than hiding behind the statement "It's the rule", an official should explain why there was a violation so the official does not appear to be***

arbitrary. The official's job is to uphold the rules by applying them intelligently and communicating their interpretation effectively. This officiating manual was constructed by the LSC official's chairs of USA Swimming to provide a tool for learning, consistency, training and application of judgment. It should be used in conjunction with the rulebook and not as a standalone document. There are additional documents published by the USA

Swimming Officials Committee that complement this manual and provide guidance regarding some of the procedures and protocols used at meets. These can be found on the USA Swimming web site at www.usa-swimming.org.

– excerpt from “The Guide to Officiating”



JANUARY

Date	Meet	Host	Location
3-4	PVS January Distance Meet	BWST	Lee District
10-11	MAKO Winter Invitational	MAKO	GMU
10-11	Senior Circuit #3	AAC	Wakefield H.S.
10-11	Polar Bear Meet (By Invitation)	SDS	South Run
11	RMSC Frosty Pentathlon (By Invitation)	RMSC	Germantown
15-17	Arena Grand Prix Series (LCM)		Austin, TX
17-18	PVS January Open	RMSC	Germantown
		MACH	Wakefield Park
		FAST	Fairland
		FBST	Fairland
24-25	Snow Dude Mini Meet	PM	Mt. Vernon
24-25	Green & Orange Bowl Invitational	MACH	Madeira
30-1	IM Xtreme Games - NE	PM	UMD
31-1	Super FISH Bowl	FISH	Spring Hill

DECEMBER

Date	Meet	Host	Location
4-6	AT&T Winter National Championships	USA Swimming	Greensboro, NC
4-7	Turkey Claus Showdown	MACH	Univ. of MD
5-7	Christmas Championships	MSSC	Fairland
6-7	MAKO Holiday Invitational	MAKO	GMU
6-7	Reindeer Mini Meet	YORK	Providence
11-13	Speedo Winter Junior Nationals	USA Swimming	Federal Way, WA
11-14	Holiday Invitational	RMSC	Germantown
11-14	Tom Dolan Invitational	NCAP	UMD
11-14	Sport Fair Winter Classic (by Invitation- no new teams will be accepted)	PM	GMU
20	Candy Cane Mini Meet	NCAP	Freedom Center
20	Splash and Dash	FAST	Fairland

GUIDELINES FOR MARSHALLS



USA Swimming rulebook: 102.18 MARSHALS- Shall wear identifying attire and enforce warm-up procedures and maintain order in the swimming venue. The marshal shall have full authority to warn or order to cease and desist, and, with the concurrence of the Referee, to remove, or have removed from the swimming venue anyone behaving in an unsafe manner or using profane or abusive language, or whose actions are disrupting the orderly conduct of the meet.

Responsibilities of Marshals include:

- Marshals should arrive at the swim venue at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the beginning of warm-ups. They should check in with the referee to receive instructions, i.e. where they will be positioned, special safety concerns for the meet, etc.
- The head marshal should have a whistle. Marshals should be easily identifiable by a distinctive article of attire. (Hat, jacket, vest, etc.)
- Warm-down areas must be marshaled throughout the meet.
- Marshals must not leave the area until coverage is provided or until excused by the referee.

Marshals duties include:

- Making sure that swimmers behave in a safe manner. (No running, abusive behavior, etc.)
- During general warm-ups, make sure that swimmers enter the water feet first from the starting end only and ease into the water. Swimmers should **NOT** be entering from the opposite end or sides of the pool during warm-ups.
ABSOLUTELY NO DIVING!!!!
- Be alert to dangerously overcrowded warm-ups and alert the meet referee or manager.
- Notify the coach of any swimmer who is behaving / acting in an unsafe manner.
- Use appropriate language. **NO POWER TRIPS, PLEASE.**
- Make sure lanes are cleared before sprint lanes begin.
- Your role is to help maintain a safe environment. Please, Pay Attention!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT GOES TO THE SWIMMER

Call what you see and see what you call

