



## SPECIAL EDITION



### Highlights from the USA Swimming Official's Workshop

By Cherlynn Venit and Kelly Rowell

DENVER- In late September, we were both fortunate and excited to represent Potomac Valley Swimming at this year's USA Swimming Officials' Workshop in Denver, Colorado. Networking proved to be one of the major benefits of attending this Workshop. Meeting officials from all fifty states and comparing experiences left us thankful for the great leadership and training opportunities provided within PVS. It also left us thankful for the close proximity that all of our teams share in PVS as most others require 2+ hour drives (or flights in the case of Alaska) in order to participate in a regular meet. We were able to share and trade resources, training techniques, information and ideas with other LSCs. One example is the website, [hostgreatmeets.com](http://hostgreatmeets.com), created by Utah Swimming.

Members of the USA Swimming Officials' Committee presented briefings covering all official positions. The recurring theme included "Do what makes sense for the situation." The Chair, Jim Holcomb, presented his Top Myths that prevail in the LSCs based on evaluations he reviews for advancement to N2 and N3. The phrase that made its way back with both of us: "A DQ slip is not a legal document." Corrections can be made on the slip without negating it.

Furthermore, if the call is a disqualification, don't get bogged in semantics. If the non-

### Corrections

The editor would like to issue the following corrections to the regular issue December 2017 edition of the PVS News Magazine.

-Name correction. Ms. Ai-Mei Chang. The last name was spelled incorrectly as ending in 'e'.

-Name correction. Jim Holcomb. The last name was spelled incorrectly as ending in 'e'.

-"You Make the Call". The Official's Chair has ruled that *"throughout means that if there are strokes taken, they have to be simultaneous over the water and pulled back under the water, not that the swimmer has to actually take strokes throughout the race"*, therefore, the swim as described, is legal. Please disregard the originally published conclusion.

-The total number of movies done by Jim Varney as Ernest P. Worrell is eight, not three.

- The FedEx logo was referenced in the article on Advertising, but omitted.

-William E. Makitt and Elizabeth Wont are not real people and are not affiliated with PVS Swimming.

simultaneous touch was right-then-left or left-then-right, it is still non-simultaneous.

We were reminded that as a CJ, we should sketch a picture of the infraction over the radio for the Referee; not paint a Michelangelo-worthy fresco. That level of detail is not needed unless requested. CJs are also encouraged to post the assignments sheets in a locale S&Ts can locate and read. Hopefully, this will provide a learning opportunity in preparation for their next

*(Please see WORKSHOP, page 2)*

## CONTINUUM

**WORKSHOP***Continued from Page One*

advancement. The point was made that working as a CJ at a local level meet can be quite different from a CJ position at a National Level meet. We are fortunate to find many opportunities available in PVS to hone our skills with radio protocol and splitting the many extra duties of a CJ at our championship level meets. We found that many LSCs had few, if any opportunities to work on these skills.

As referees, we were reminded to revisit the trenches and work as an ST at least once every six months in order to be a truly effective referee.

The biggest surprise of the weekend came when everyone learned that swim-offs could be competed in any manner as long as the coaches and swimmers all agreed; i.e. a 400 IM swim-off could be settled by a flip of a coin, a 100 Free race or even a doggie-paddle race.

The briefing about the referee's best friend, the starter, reminded us all that we work as a team. The starter keeps vigilant after a race begins by assessing what is happening behind the blocks in preparation for the next race and advises the referee of any potential issues or openings.

A major discussion also ensued regarding false starts. Stationary DOES NOT EQUAL motionless. The best explanation given by the Officials' Committee was to imagine a glass box over the swimmer. If the swimmer breaks the plane of the box in any direction, then it is a false start. Movement within the box is not considered a false start.

Finally, the discussion on mentoring encouraged all of us to remember our beginnings. We are all still parents and, when starting on our officiating journey, some days will not go as planned. As mentors, we need to be encouraging on the good days as well as the bad when teaching new officials how to self-evaluate so that they can grow and develop. As mentors we should take a personal interest in our new officials. Help may be as easy as informing them where they can find navy shorts and white polos in the middle of winter.

Finally, remember to thank the officials. A suggestion was made to send a postcard to the officials' homes in thanks, or to provide a gift card to the official's child as something they can do with their parent as a thank you for sharing their parent. These small tokens show the official (and their family) how much they are truly appreciated.

Please feel free to ask either of us any additional questions about our experiences in Denver. We look forward to seeing you all on deck soon!

**Upcoming Meets****December**

- 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Christmas Champs (MSSC) - Fairland
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> MAKO Holiday Invitational - GMU
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Reindeer Mini Meet (YORK) – Providence
- 6<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> Winter Junior Nationals – Knoxville, TN
- 7<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> Sport Fair Winter Classic (PM) GMU
- 7<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> Holiday Invitational (RMSC) – Germantown
- 16<sup>th</sup> Splash and Dash (FAST) – Fairland
- 17<sup>th</sup> Candy Cane Mini Meet (NCAP) – Freedom Center

**January 2018 (all dates 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>)**

PVS January Distance, Polar Bear (SDS), Senior Circuit #3 (AAC), MAKO Winter Invitational, Snow Dude Mini Meet, RMSC Frosty Pentathlon

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