

-----SPECIAL RULES UPDATE FROM CONVENTION-----

POTOMAC VALLEY SWIMMING

OCTOBER 2016



## OFFICIALS NEWSLETTER

-----ONLINE TRAINING FOR ELECTRONIC TIMING SYSTEMS-----

### **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**



Swimmers are back in the pool and we've already had nine meets and more than 20 officials' clinics. The new season is definitely in full swing. The end of 2016 will be here before you know it, so please make sure you get your registration and certifications up-to-date by then. There are many more meets in 2016 if you haven't met your session requirement for recertification.

I attended the USA Swimming Convention last month. One of the main items of business at the convention is discussing and voting on new rule changes. See the article below about the new or updated rules. None of the technical stroke rules were changed this year.

Convention is also a time when I get to network with officials from other parts of the country. Whether in formal meetings, or in small informal gathering in the hallways or restaurants, there is a lot of information shared. I always come away with new ideas to make PVS meet better. And I can't forget to mention that PVS official Bob Vincent was elected as the new Treasurer for USA Swimming. Congratulations Bob! I know USA Swimming's finances will be in good hands.

The 59 LSC Officials Chairs and the USA Swimming Officials Committee also get together quarterly for a conference call. The committee shares what they have been up to for the last three months, and the LSC Chairs have a chance to ask questions of the committee. There is a new Mentors workshop this weekend in Chicago and PVS will have representatives there. I'm sure there will be a newsletter article about that in the coming months. We were also informed on the call that the N2 certification program for Administrative Officials is almost in place. This will provide an advancement path for our dry-side officials.

I hope to see you at one of the meets soon. Email me your comments and questions anytime.

Tim Husson  
[OfficialsChair@pvswim.org](mailto:OfficialsChair@pvswim.org)

## Radios at PVS Meets

by Tim Husson



Officials considering purchasing their own radio often approach me asking about the specifications of the radios Potomac Valley and many PVS teams use at their meets. The PVS radios are [Midland GXT1000VP4](#) radios (but any GMRS radio is compatible). PVS officials who certify as a Chief Judge, a Referee or an Administrative Official receive a headset from the PVS Officials Committee. If you are interested in purchasing your own headset, any headset compatible with the Midland GMRS radio can be used with PVS radios. You can select the headset style that works for you, here are a few examples:

- [In-ear earpiece with microphone headset pair](#)
- [Over ear earpiece with boom microphone headset pair](#)
- [Behind the head earpiece with boom microphone headset pair](#)
- [Over the head earpiece with boom microphone headset pair](#)
- [In-ear earpiece with microphone and optional earmold headset](#)

## Online Training for ETS operators

by Barb Ship



Have you wanted to learn how to operate the timing system (Colorado) but just haven't been able to make it to a clinic? Do you have friends who want to become officials but haven't been able to make it to an in-person clinic? The PVS Officials' Committee has now developed online training for Electronic Timing System

Operator. This training is now available. The training does not require going to a clinic. It can be done online, on your own time, at your own pace!

The training encompasses reviewing a number of slides, videos and handouts (which you will be able to print yourself). The timing system manufacturer, Colorado Time Systems, prepared some of the videos. And some of the videos are home grown! The presentation is posted on the PVS website on the Officials page under Training Materials.

What's required in order to complete the training?

- A computer that can access the internet and play videos
- Access to a printer so you can print out the training materials (but if that's a problem, I can mail them to you!)
- About 2 hours or so.... (can be broken up into short sessions)
- An interest in becoming involved as a volunteer official in PVS

The Officials' Committee will still continue to hold in-person clinics for Electronic Timing System Operators. If this program is very popular, however, we may decrease the number of in-person clinics for this position. We will ask each person who completes the online training to fill out a brief survey. Based on the feedback, we will adjust our clinic schedule to meet the needs of the local swim community.

If this program is successful, we also hope to develop an online clinic for Computer Operator (to learn how to operate Hy-Tek Meet Manager at PVS meets). So stay tuned!

Questions – feel free to email [Barb@ships3.com](mailto:Barb@ships3.com)

## Upcoming Clinics



Date	Clinic	Location	Time
Computer-Based Training	<a href="#">Timing System Operator</a>	<a href="#">Register for this clinic</a>	Any time
Tuesday October 4	<a href="#">Stroke &amp; Turn</a>	<a href="#">On-Line Clinic Pre-Registration is Required</a>	7:00 - 9:30 PM
Wednesday October 5	<a href="#">Stroke &amp; Turn</a>	<a href="#">Fairland</a>	6:30 - 9:00 PM
Saturday October 8	<a href="#">Starter</a>	<a href="#">Herndon Community Center</a>	8:00 - 10:00 AM
Saturday October 8	<a href="#">Stroke and Turn</a>	<a href="#">Herndon Community Center</a>	10:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Saturday	<a href="#">Chief Judge</a>	<a href="#">Herndon Community</a>	1:00 - 3:00 PM

October 8		<a href="#">Center</a>	
Saturday October 8	<a href="#">Stroke &amp; Turn (Recert Only)</a>	<b>** Cancelled **</b>	3:00 - 5:00 PM
Sunday October 9	<a href="#">Timing System Operator</a>	<a href="#">Herndon Community Center</a>	9:00 - 11:00 AM
Sunday October 9	<a href="#">Hy-Tek Computer Operator</a>	<a href="#">Herndon Community Center</a>	NOON - 2:00 PM
Sunday October 9	<a href="#">Administrative Official</a>	<a href="#">Herndon Community Center</a>	2:30 - 4:30 PM
Tuesday October 18	<a href="#">Referee</a>	<a href="#">On-Line Clinic Pre-Registration is Required</a>	7:00 - 9:00 PM
Wednesday October 19	<a href="#">Stroke &amp; Turn</a>	<a href="#">KSAC</a>	6:30 - 9:00 PM
Thursday October 20	<a href="#">Stroke &amp; Turn</a>	<a href="#">Univ. of MD</a>	6:30 - 9:00 PM
Thursday October 20	<a href="#">Administrative Official (Recert Only)</a>	<a href="#">On-Line Clinic Pre-Registration is Required</a>	7:00 - 9:00 PM
Wednesday October 26	<a href="#">Starter</a>	<a href="#">KSAC</a>	7:00 - 9:00 PM
Saturday Nov. 5	<a href="#">Stroke &amp; Turn (Recert Only)</a>	<b>** Cancelled **</b>	1:00 - 3:00 PM
Saturday Nov. 5	<a href="#">Starter</a>	<b>** Cancelled **</b>	1:00 - 3:00 PM
Saturday Nov. 5	<a href="#">Chief Judge</a>	<b>** Cancelled **</b>	1:00 - 3:00 PM
Saturday Nov. 5	<a href="#">Referee</a>	<b>*** RESCHEDULED FOR NOV 6 ***</b>	
Saturday Nov. 5	<a href="#">Administrative Official</a>	<b>** Cancelled **</b>	1:00 - 3:00 PM
Sunday Nov. 6	<a href="#">Referee</a>	<a href="#">Overlee</a>	12:00- 2:00 PM
Saturday November 19	<a href="#">Starter</a>	<a href="#">Oak Marr</a>	8:00 - 10:00 AM
Saturday November 19	<a href="#">Stroke and Turn</a>	<a href="#">Oak Marr</a>	10:15 AM - 12:45 PM
Saturday November 19	<a href="#">Administrative Official</a>	<a href="#">Univ. of MD</a>	7:00 - 9:00 PM

## You Make the Call!



In a 200-meter backstroke event, the referee blows the first long whistle. The swimmer in lane 3 leaps as far as he can into the pool and slowly sinks to the bottom of the pool. He slowly rises to the surface moving farther away from the start end after which the referee blows the second long whistle. While the other seven swimmers assume a position at the wall, the lane 3 swimmer very slowly swims to the wall and very slowly assumes a starting position. The starter asks that the swimmer in lane 3 be disqualified for delay of the meet. The referee concurs and the swimmer is disqualified.

**Question:** Is this a correct call?

## Rules Update from Convention (Part 1 of 3)

by Bob Vincent



Every year at the United States Aquatic Convention (something everyone should try to attend) the House of Delegates votes on possible rule changes. This can be very challenging as there are different requirements, depending upon the type of rule change. It could be something as simple as fixing a grammatical error to changing our ByLaws. Each comes with a different set of requirements. This three part series will take a look at the adopted amendments from September's convention.

Adopted Amendments to Rules & Regulations  
September 2016

**USA SWIMMING**  
RULES & REGULATIONS COMMITTEE  
**2016 LEGISLATION ADOPTED  
BY USA SWIMMING HOUSE OF DELEGATES**

*Prepared by Jay Thomas (Chair),  
Mickey Smythe and Gloria Schuldt (Secretaries)*

*September 24, 2016*

09/24/16

**USA SWIMMING**  
**RULES & REGULATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**ADOPTED AMENDMENTS TO RULES AND REGULATIONS**

R-1 ADOPTED Effective January 1, 2017

Location: Page 14 – (new) Official Glossary  
Page 62 – (new) 202.5 Conditions of Sanction

**OFFICIAL GLOSSARY**

**DECK PASS** – the official mobile application of USA Swimming.

**202.5 CONDITIONS OF SANCTION** — Any event for which a sanction is required according to 202.1 is subject to the following conditions:

- .1-.6 [no changes]
  - .7 Deck Pass is acceptable proof of USA Swimming membership.
- [re-number remaining]

R-2 ADOPTED Effective May 1, 2017

Location: Page 25 – 102.2 General Rules

**102.2 GENERAL RULES**

- .1 In order to compete in a meet, a swimmer must be entered in compliance with the event entry requirements stated in the meet announcement.
- .2 In a preliminaries and finals meet a swimmer may compete in not more than three (3) individual events per day.
- .3 In a timed finals meet a swimmer may compete in not more than ~~five (5)~~ six (6) individual events per day.

R-3 ADOPTED Effective May 1, 2017

Location: Page 26 – 102.5 Seeding, Lane Assignments, Swim-Offs, and Order of Heats

**102.5 SEEDING, LANE ASSIGNMENTS, SWIM-OFFS, AND ORDER OF HEATS**

- .1 **Preliminary Heats When Finals are Scheduled** — Entry times shall be listed by the meet committee with the fastest swimmer first and the slowest swimmer last. Swimmers whose submitted times are identical should be assigned places in the list by draw. Swimmers with no submitted times shall be considered the slowest and shall be placed at the end of the list by draw. Swimmers shall be seeded in lanes under the procedure outlined for finals seeding in 102.5. Swimmers shall be seeded in heats according to submitted times in the following manner:
  - A **Fewer than three heats**
    - (1) If there is only one heat, it shall be swum as scheduled during the preliminaries and finals.
    - (2) If there are two heats, the fastest swimmer shall be seeded in the second heat, next fastest in the first heat, next fastest in the second heat, next in the first heat, etc.
  - B **Three heats** — Except for 400m/500y, 800m/1000y and 1500m/1650y events, ~~the~~ fastest swimmer shall be placed in the third heat, next fastest in the second, next in the first. The fourth fastest swimmer shall be placed in the third heat,

the fifth in the second heat, and the sixth fastest in the first heat, the seventh fastest in the third heat, etc.

- C **Four heats or more** — Except for 400m/500y, 800m/1000y and 1500m/1650y events, ~~the last three heats of an event shall be seeded in accordance with B above. The heat preceding the last three heats shall consist of the next fastest swimmers; the heat preceding the last four heats shall consist of the next fastest swimmers, etc. Lanes shall be assigned in descending order of submitted times within each heat, in accordance with the pattern outlined in 102.5.~~
- D ~~For 400m/500y, 800m/1000y and 1500m/1650y events, the last two heats of an event shall be seeded in accordance with 102.5.1 A (2).~~
- ~~E~~ **Exception** — When there are two or more heats in an event, there shall be a minimum of three swimmers seeded into any one preliminary heat, but subsequent scratches may reduce the number of swimmers in such heat to less than three.

R-4 ADOPTED Effective January 1, 2017

Location: Page 54 – **105.1 General**  
Page 167 – (new) **701.24 Swimmers with Disabilities**

#### 105.1 GENERAL

- .1 **Authority** — The USA Swimming Rules & Regulations grant the Referee the authority to modify the rules for the swimmer with a disability. Disability is defined as a permanent physical or cognitive disability that substantially limits one or more major life activities. This section contains guidelines and suggestions for making such modifications. Reference article 701.24 for Open Water competitions.

#### 701.24 SWIMMERS WITH DISABILITIES

- .1 **Authority** — The USA Swimming Rules & Regulations grant the Referee authority to modify any rule or race management procedure for a swimmer with a disability. Disability is defined as a permanent physical or cognitive disability that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Any such modification shall affect only the current event and does not set precedent.

#### .2 Responsibilities

- A **Swimmer**—The swimmer (or the swimmer's coach) is responsible for notifying the Referee, prior to the competition, of any disability of the swimmer and of the requested modification. The swimmer/coach shall provide any assistant(s) or equipment if required.
- B **Referee**—The Referee's responsibilities include:
- (1) Determining if the requested modifications are appropriate and conform to safety requirements. No modifications shall be granted which gives a swimmer a competitive advantage.
  - (2) Instructing the Starter and all Judges as to the accommodations to be made for that swimmer.
- C **Coaches** — Coaches and teams entering swimmers with disabilities that require any accommodations shall provide advance notice in writing to the meet director by the entry deadline. Failure to provide advance notice may limit the host's ability to accommodate all requests.

R-5 ADOPTED Effective January 1, 2017

Location: Page 47 – (new) **103.13 Drones**  
Page 60 – (new) **202.4 Requirements for Sanction**

**103.13 // DRONES** — Operation of a drone, or any other flying apparatus, is prohibited over the venue (pools, athlete/coach areas, spectator areas and open ceiling locker rooms) any time athletes, coaches, officials and/or spectators are present.

Exceptions may be granted with prior written approval by the Vice President of Program Operations.

[re-number remaining]

**202.4 REQUIREMENTS FOR SANCTION** — Sanctions are issued, withheld or withdrawn in accordance with the following regulations:

.1-.8 [no changes]

.9 Application for sanction must be accompanied by a copy of the complete meet announcement which must include the following:

A-I [no changes]

J The following statement: "Operation of a drone, or any other flying apparatus, is prohibited over the venue (pools, athlete/coach areas, spectator areas and open ceiling locker rooms) any time athletes, coaches, officials and/or spectators are present."

Exceptions may be granted with prior written approval by the Vice President of Program Operations.

[re-letter remaining]

R-6 ADOPTED Effective January 1, 2017

Location: Page 67 – Article 203 Representation

#### ARTICLE 203 REPRESENTATION

203.1-.3 [no changes]

**203.4** A swimmer registered with a USA Swimming non-school club who wishes to compete for a secondary school, college or university shall be automatically released without notice by his/her club upon commencement of his/her season to compete for that school in school competition, and upon termination of such school swimming season he/she shall be immediately eligible to represent the same USA Swimming non-school club, of his/her choice. Should the swimmer choose to represent a different USA Swimming non-school club, the swimmer is subject to (subject to the 120-day rule in 203.3.) It is the swimmer's responsibility to ascertain his/her compliance with scholastic governing bodies' rules and regulations.

R-7 ADOPTED Effective January 1, 2017

Location: Page 100 – 302.2 Membership  
Page 128 – 502.4 Individual Membership

**302.2 MEMBERSHIP** — Athlete membership will consist of an annual membership, an outreach membership, a seasonal membership, or a single-meet open water membership.

.1 **Annual Membership** — Membership is for a calendar year. Non-members applying for membership on or after September 1 will be issued a membership card valid through December 31 of the following year.

#### 502.4 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

.1-.4 [no changes]

.5 Each class of membership (except life membership, seasonal membership and single-meet open water membership) is for a calendar year period. Individuals applying for calendar year membership on or after September 1 will receive membership credentials valid through December 31 of the following year.

.6 An LSC shall not impose requirements for Individual Membership in addition to those set forth in Article 502. An LSC may require proof of birth date prior to competition in age classified events.

**You Make the Call Resolution**



**Recommended Resolution:** This is a call that requires good judgment from the referee. Did the swimmer delay so much that he was creating a problem for the other swimmers? Swimmers have different ways to prepare to race and you don't want to

interfere with that unless it negatively affects other competitors. An alternative to a DQ might be to discuss the situation after the race with the swimmer and/or the coach. This is especially useful for the first occurrence of this type of activity. Is the call correct? It might be but this is a situation that can only be decided on site.

**Applicable Rule:** 101.1.5A, 101.1.2A

## Upcoming Meets



*\*\*\*Click on the Upcoming Meets Banner to see the latest Information*

OCTOBER		NOVEMBER	
Date	Meet	Date	Meet
7-9	JP Popovich Memorial Invitational (SNOW)	5-6	DPR Fall Distance Meet (DCPR)
7-9	RMSC October Kickoff (RMSC)	6	November Friendship Mini Meet (YORK)
7-8	Red & Black Invitational (UMAC)	6	Rock Hopper Penguin Fall (PAC)
8-9	Harvest Moon (HACC)	11-13	PVS November Open (PVS)
14-16	PVS October Open (PVS)	12-13	Autumn Mini (RMSC)
22	Ghouls & Goblins Mini Meet (PM)	12-13	500/1000 Distance Meet (RMSC)
22-23	MSSC Fall Senior Meet (MSSC)	18-20	Swim & Rock (SDS)
22-23	Fall Gator Mini Meet (AAC)	18-20	RMSC November Invitational (RMSC)
22-23	SDS Monster Mash (SDS)	19-20	Odd Ball Challenge (FAST)
29	DPR Mini Green & Gold (DCPR)	19-20	Speedo Eastern States Senior Circuit #2 (OCCS)
29-30	Triple Distance Challenge (UMAC)	19	Pre-Holiday Mini Meet (OCCS)
29-30	National Age Group Challenge (RMSC)	20	Pilgrim Mini Meet (NCAP)
30	1650 Meet (RMSC)	30-3	AT&T Winter National Championships (USA Swimming) - Atlanta, GA



## Jack's Corner Thoughts to Ponder by Jack Neill



### Sharing in Olympic Success

I suspect most of us we're in front of the TV this past August, cheering the performance of the U.S. Olympic Swim Team at the Rio Olympics. And what a performance it was: Our Olympic swimmers won 33 total medals, 16 of them gold. U.S. swimmers broke 3 World Records and 7 American Records. The U.S. had a finalist in 25 of the 26 individual events. Truly a remarkable performance, one in which the entire swimming community can take great pride.

As PVS officials, we get an opportunity to see some of these athletes up close, especially if you work LSC Championship, Zone, Sectional, or National meets. But whether or not you're on deck at higher level competitions, you share a part of the U.S. Olympic swimming success.

When we know no one is watching, we human beings can often slip into bad habits and occasionally cut corners—it's human nature. The fact that there are knowledgeable officials on deck observing our athletes at all meets helps to ensure that good habits are learned, practiced, and ingrained. It indicates that we have the high expectation that all competitors will swim in accordance with the rules, regardless of age or level of experience. It assures swimmers, coaches, and parents that safe, fair, and equitable competition is occurring. It signals that the hard work and dedication of these athletes is recognized, appreciated, and celebrated. It proclaims that the generous spirit of volunteerism is alive and well.

By serving as a volunteer official at any level, you are an essential part of what USA Swimming calls "America's Swim Team," helping to make our swimmers better athletes and better people. You never know which one of those mini meet participants will make it to the Olympics, or who will provide the competition that drives another swimmer make it. And you are an indispensable part of the process.

Thank you for all you did to support Olympic success in 2016 and beyond!



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

Call what you see and see what you call

