

----- BEING A SUCCESSFUL MEET REFEREE -----

POTOMAC VALLEY SWIMMING

FEBRUARY 2017



OFFICIALS NEWSLETTER

----- STARTING SCENARIOS -----

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



PVS has the opportunity every year to send one or two of our referees to a USA Swimming Officials Workshop. This year, Ray Nash was the PVS representative at the October 2016 workshop in Phoenix. In addition to training sessions presented by the National Officials Committee, the workshop provides the opportunity to network and compare notes with other officials from around the country. If you see Ray on the deck, I'm sure he'd be glad to discuss his experience with you. Two of the presentations from that workshop are included below: *Being a Successful Meet Referee* and *Starting Scenarios*.

In the last three newsletters we've been enjoying articles from Ellen Colket and Steed Edwards about what they learned at the USA Swimming Mentors Workshop. The final article below is from a fun presentation they attended about debunking some Officiating Myths. How many of these have you heard?

If you didn't know, all PVS Officials Committee meetings are open to any official in Potomac Valley. The schedule is published on the PVS website <http://www.pvswim.org/meetings.html>. Minutes of those meetings http://www.pvswim.org/official/officials_committee.html show what was discussed and what decisions were made. The committee's main tasks are training and certification of officials and staffing championship meets. But, other issues related to officiating in PVS are also discussed.

Championship season is right around the corner. I hope to see you at a meet real soon!

Tim Husson
OfficialsChair@pvswim.org

Fun Facts

by: Tim Husson & Kelly Rowell



All the scheduled PVS Officials clinics for the 2016-2017 season have been completed. The PVS Officials Committee facilitated over 30 clinics between September and January, including online clinics for 3 positions and a new, self-paced, online Electronic Timing System Operator clinic. Over 300 current and future PVS officials participated in at least one of these clinics.

Being A Successful Meet Referee

by: USA Swimming Officials Committee



The 6 Ps

1. Philosophy

- Provide a safe and fair competitive venue for all in attendance
- Be a leader – this is the number one ingredient to having a successful meet
- Have a well thought out plan
- Explain the plan in detail to your leadership team. Let them execute the plan!
- Stay out of the way unless your skills are needed
- Suggest and guide – don't take over!
- Make it FUN – critical when you are dealing with young swimmers and parents

2. Priorities

- Athletes – Always your first priority. The competition is for and about them.
- Coaches - Number one support group for athletes. Unhappy coaches make for a long, tense meet
- Everyone Else

3. Preparation, [P]reparation, and [P]reparation

- Work with the meet director early in the process
- Site preparation – Know the venue and it's challenges and opportunities
- Select a strong leadership team. But mix in new people or people in new positions
- Coaches Meeting Subjects
 - Time Trials
 - Start times for sessions
 - Unusual procedures
 - Flyover starts?

- Chase starts?
 - Two per lane on distance events?
 - Flighted sessions?
 - 50 free start end?
- Swim-off procedures
- Check-in procedures
- Scratch procedures (and consequences)
- Juries
- Water temperature - Why? It shows you have considered just about everything
- Anything else where an athlete could have a problem
- Officials Meeting
 - Outline duties and expectations for all assigned officials by position
 - & a couple of other thoughts –
 - Avoid being the star of the show
 - Be a **LEADER**, not a **DICTATOR**

4. **P**actical

- Use your common sense
 - All solutions to problems are not in the rulebook. Apply your life's experience. Don't reinvent the wheel!
- You are not God!
 - Others are just as smart as you and some may have a better idea. Use your resources including other officials, coaches, etc.
- Be open and honest
 - No one likes surprises, coaches least of all
 - A meet problem affects everyone. Involve them all in critical decisions
 - Only set precedents that you are prepared to live with
 - They (your precedents) could follow you forever
 - Avoid unusual solutions to routine problems
 - With experience you'll recognize the routine problems

5. **P**roactive

- Think ahead – know your potential problems and have a solution ready
 - Weather
 - Emergencies
 - Protest
- Discourage CLIQUES and anything else that destroys unity
- Respect everyone in their role in a successful meet
 - Remember – stroke & turn judging is where the swimmer meets the water

6. **P**liant

- Flexibility is a must!

- Things sometimes change – you must adjust
- Don't be afraid to reverse yourself where you have made an error. Everyone makes honest mistakes.

Patience (*too important for a number!*)

- Be patient when working with the athletes. Remember the competition is for them
- Be patient when working with the coaches. Remember they are who the athletes look to for guidance
- Be patient when working with officials. Remember they are volunteers
- Be patient when working with the meet director and his/her team of volunteers

**And that's all there is to it!
Except remember to**

Have Fun!

But not so much that the quality of the meet is compromised.

PVS Officials at the Arena Pro Series



Ellen Colket and Joe Tiago at Arena Pro Series, Austin, Texas.



Officiating Milestones

by: PVS Swimming Officials Committee



5 Years of Service to USA Swimming

January

Travis Blake, MacKenzie Kearney, Sorina Madison, Tom Taylor, Judy Ziems

February

William Gray, John Kaneko, Tony Knick, Melanie McKula, Dean Shepard, Kim Wiecki

10 Years of Service to USA Swimming

February

Mark Overend, Roy Soller

Starting Scenarios

by: USA Swimming Officials Committee



USA Swimming Rules and Officials Committees September 2012

The rules state... “When all swimmers are stationary, the starter shall give the starting signal” (101.1.2.c) and “Any swimmer starting before the starting signal is given shall be disqualified if the Referee independently observes and confirms the Starter’s observation” (101.1.3A).

So what constitutes a false start? These scenarios should help you paint the picture.

FALSE START SCENARIO #1

Swimmer leaves the set or stationary position prior to the starting signal. The starting signal is then given. The race proceeds and, assuming the Starter observed the early start and the Deck Referee independently observes and confirms the Starter’s observation, the offending swimmer is disqualified at the conclusion of the race. Rule 101.1.3B applies.

IS THIS A FALSE START? - **YES**

FALSE START SCENARIO #2

Swimmer leaves the set or stationary position prior to the starting signal. The swimmer upon realizing the early starting motion attempts to catch himself/herself. Starter says absolutely nothing, and the swimmer fails to halt the forward motion and goes into the pool. Rule 101.1.3A applies.

IS THIS A FALSE START? - **YES**

FALSE START SCENARIO #3

Exactly the same facts as #2 above, but this time the Starter says “stand please” after the swimmer leaves the set or stationary position. The seven other swimmers stand or step down from the blocks. The offending swimmer struggles, but once again is unable to halt the forward motion and falls into the pool. Unlike scenario #2 above, here the starter said “stand please”, but that does not change the false start result. The rule is clear that the “stand” command is for the benefit of the other swimmers on the starting blocks. When the stand command is issued, the athletes have the option of standing or stepping off the blocks. The offending swimmer did neither. He fell into the pool just like the swimmer in scenario #2. Rule 101.1.3A applies.

IS THIS A FALSE START? - **YES**

FALSE START SCENARIO #4

Exactly the same facts as scenarios #2 and #3 above. However, this time when the command “stand please” is issued, the offending swimmer struggles, but is able to stand or step off the blocks. Rule 101.1.3A applies.

IS THIS A FALSE START? - This is **NOT** a false start.

Why? - Because the swimmer remained on the blocks or deck like everyone else in the heat, and no starting signal ever sounded.

FALSE START SCENARIO #5

Exactly the same facts as scenarios #2 and #3 above. However, when the Starter gives the “stand please” command a swimmer(s) other than the offending swimmer instantly bolts from the blocks and enters the water. Rule 101.1.3D applies.

IS THIS A FALSE START? - This is **NOT** a false start.

Why? - The swimmer(s) clearly started in reaction to the “stand” command.

FALSE START SCENARIO #6

The swimmer, upon hearing the command “take your mark” starts down to take a set or stationary position. The swimmer loses his/her balance before coming set and falls into the pool. Rule 101.1.2C applies.

IS THIS A FALSE START? - This is **NOT** a false start.

WHY? - The swimmer should be given the opportunity to come to his/her set or stationary position prior to the start. A loss of balance prevented that, and clearly this swimmer never engaged in any starting action.



New Certifications (Includes Transfers)



S&T Judges

Derek Burke (RY)
Chris Gibson (MAKO)
Alice Hammond (NCAP)
Josh Helms (MAKO)
Julia Hughes (MAKO)
John Kim (RMSC)
John Kovacs (RY)
Chip McIntyre (MAKO)
Kendall McMillen (NCAP)
Mark McNeely (VLAC)
Glenn Merberg (RMSC)
Emir Nurkic Kacapor (UMUC)
Sarah Olsen (SNOW)
Jeff Palomino (PM)
Kelly Sherman (DCPR)
Krista Strickland (SDS)
Dave Tipler (RY)
Bob Walsh (UMUC)
Chris Wells (NCAP)

Chief Judges

Don Knieriem (AAC)
Steven Strazza (MACH)

Starters

Dmitriy Bityutskiy (RMSC)
Scott Christofferson (MACH)

Referees

Kelly Rowell (HACC)

Computer Operators

Kathy Williams (MAKO)

Electronic Timing System Operators

Jeff Beima (MACH)
Steven Franklin (NCAP)
Mary Poleto (UN)
Bin Zhou (MSSC)

Admin Officials

Chris Whipple (UMAC)

Officiating Myths and Legends by: Ellen Colket & Steed Edwards



Our last "session" at the ARRE Mentors Workshop was devoted to discussions around common myths, or legends, found on and around the swim deck. The discussion was led by Jim Holcomb, USAS National Committee Officials Chair. Some of these myths you may have been exposed to, -- others, perhaps not. Here are a few of those discussed.

- **Always go up to the edge of the pool and stand with left/right foot forward.**
 - Not so! Only if there is a compelling reason, eg. National prime time television, --- and the producer requests it (the right foot/left foot positioning, that is. Being at the edge of the pool is mandatory under any circumstances.)!
- **S&T cannot move from fixed deck position.**
 - Not so! But make sure all are on same page – ie., mobile or fixed.
- **Referees: must step swimmers up and extend arm to close heat, then step them down to find alternate.**
 - Not so! Try to resolve placement of alternates before step up.
- **Protocol heard: "Starter stands in one spot on the short whistles, then steps to another spot on the long whistle, while at the same time bringing the microphone to a required position."**
 - Just be in position for the heat's start and show that you're relaxed and ready to

start the race.

- **Referees: Referee whistle on lanyard around neck vs. in pocket.**
 - While there is no written protocol here, lanyards help prevent “whistle in pool” and “can’t find it” syndromes for some of us.
- **Referees: Short whistles should be quiet and not alarming/ scary to the swimmers.**
 - Swimmers don’t differentiate between short and long whistles. All they hear are two sets of whistle blasts. If they don’t hear the first set, they don’t step up on the second.
- **Referees: Requiring false starts or other AR paperwork indications to be specifically notated by “dots”, “asterisks”, or “stars”, next to the lane number, circling the lane number or underlining the name.**
 - Do what works for you.
- **Pencils vs. pens for DQs, or other AR work!**
 - As long as it is clear and legible, it works!
- **Chief Judge signing the S&T’s name on a DQ slip vs. the S&T signing the slip.**
 - S&T should review the slip to ensure it is correct, and then sign it prior to the CJ initialing.
- **Khaki is the approved uniform.**
 - There is no “nationally-approved” uniform. LSCs set their own requirements. (So does National for national meets. It varies.)
- **Your shoes must be totally white.**
 - Your LSC can have its own rules, but on the National deck we use the “Wimbledon Criteria”, ie., predominately white.
- **Referees: Deck Referees cannot hold a clipboard.**
 - False.
- **Referees: Deck Referee must keep the whistle in his/her mouth and arm extended to the Starter until all the heads have surfaced in a heat or until the last swimmer has reached the 15m mark.**
 - False.
- **A remote strobe for a deaf swimmer must be placed between the Deck Referee and the swimmer.**
 - No, it is placed where the swimmer can see the strobe without turning their head.
- **When starting a hearing impaired/deaf swimmer, the Starter should use the arm furthest from the starting blocks to do the arm motions.**
 - The Starter should stand where the swimmer can see him/her.

As you can see, these myths/legends could be very interesting, not only for the answers, but also for the fact that some of them actually existed!

We hope that these past articles relating our experiences at this workshop have been illuminating to you fellow officials. It was quite an experience getting out of our LSC and making the acquaintances of so many other highly motivated swim officials from across the country. We look forward to implementing a plan in the near future within the Potomac Valley LSC to pass along our learnings to all levels of our PVS officials!

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*

February 2017

4-5 - Gender Blender Mini Meet (RMSC)
 4-5 - Super FISH Bowl VIII (FISH)
 5 - February Friendship Mini Meet (YORK)
 11 - SNOW February Qualifier (SNOW)
 11-12 - PM 14&U JO Qualifier (PM)
 11-12 - President's Day Classic (OCCS)
 12 - PVS February Distance Meet (PVS)
 12 - Munchkin Mania (FAST)
 17-19 - PVS 18&U Qualifier (PVS)
 17-19 - 31st Annual Black History Meet (DCPR)
 17-19 - NCAP Winter Invitational (NCAP)
 18-19 - NCAP Mini Champs (NCAP)
 24-26 - RMSC February Qualifier (RMSC)
 26 - Frozen Penguin Pentathlon (PAC)

March 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



BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT GOES TO THE SWIMMER!

Call what you see and see what you call

