



AROUND THE DECK

POTOMAC VALLEY SWIMMING OFFICIALS

NEWSLETTER

2015
JANUARY



FROM THE CHAIRMAN



I want to wish all PVS Officials a very Happy New Year! I hope that 2015 is as successful as 2014. We supported over 100 meets in Potomac Valley in 2014 and officiated well over 250,000 individual swims.

If you wish to continue to officiate in 2015 and you have not registered or your certifications are expiring, please take care of renewing these as soon as possible. You can check your status by signing into the USA-S Officials Tracking System and selecting "My Certification Card".

If you need a clinic to complete your re-certification and you didn't attend one in the fall, the Officials Committee has scheduled a set of clinics for the first two weeks of January <http://www.pvswim.org/official/officialsclinics.html>. This is also an opportunity for officials that are ready to advance to the positions of Chief Judge or Starter to take the first step.

If you have been a Stroke & Turn Judge for a few years and would like to move up, consider the Chief Judge position. Read Bonnie Lechten's article below about how she approaches the CJ job for a major meet. Although being a CJ for our typical club-sponsored or PVS open meet is not that involved, it can be a rewarding position supervising and mentoring other officials. Find out more at the Chief Judge Clinic this Saturday, January 3, 10:30 AM at the Thomas Jefferson Library in Falls Church.

All meets now require a certified Administrative Official at each session and PVS is still short of certified AOs. But, we are offering another AO clinic on January 25. If you have been certified as a Hy-Tek Operator for more than a year, this is an opportunity for advancement.

I hope to see you at a PVS meet in 2015.

Tim Husson
OfficialsChair@pvswim.org

THE ROLE OF A GOOD CJ

By BONNIE LECHTEN



If asked to describe the job of Chief Judge in one word, I would say "liaison." Liaison means communication between two or more groups (for a Chief Judge that encompasses everyone involved with the meet), or co-operation or working together. Sometimes "conciierge" is a good word as well.

For me, the job of Chief Judge begins about a week before the meet which is usually when the Meet Referee sends out notes (guidance on protocol, jurisdiction, staffing, anomalies of the pool) and officials' roster for each session. Time to warm up the printer. I print out the meet announcement, Referee notes, protocol/jurisdiction notes, and the officials' roster and I read it all to see if I have any questions and fire them off via email back to the Meet Ref. I put a notebook together that includes these items along with the timeline, assignment sheets, counting sheets if distance events are being swum, relay take-off slips if relays are being swum, and I make up a summary sheet that indicates the start time for each session's warm-ups, briefing time, meet start time, and anticipated end time so I have an "at a glance" look at the schedule for each day. Put it all in a bag along with rule book, paper clips, scissors, radio and head set, and now I'm ready to go to the meet prepared and comfortable that I have all the tools I need to be a Chief Judge.

Now it's the night before one or more sessions. I check my summary sheet to see what time I need to be on deck. I find that being there 45 minutes or so before the briefing gives me time to get organized, talk to the Referees to make sure we are all on the same page for the session, meet with the other Chief Judges to divvy up tasks, and greet the stroke and turn officials as they sign in. I also check the timeline to see what events are being swum. If there are relays, I prepare all the take-off slips. If I have a roster, I prepare an assignment sheet. Use pencil - it will change! Finally, before head hits the pillow, I review the strokes being swum along with the jurisdiction and protocol notes for those events so I know what information needs to be provided in the briefing. Now I can sleep knowing I am ready for meet day!

I arrive at the pool with coffee in hand. If you've done everything the night before, besides tweaking the assignment sheet and checking/handing out radios, the main focus is to run the briefing. This is truly where the word "liaison" is appropriate. It's time to communicate so everyone is working together to give the swimmers the best opportunity for success. A successful briefing is one where everyone knows where they are supposed to be, when they are supposed to be there, and what they are supposed to be doing for each event. Answer questions, smile, have fun, and say thank you!

Now it's time to get the swimmers in the water. Verify everyone is in position, give the Deck Ref the "all officials are in position" notice, and be ready for Murphy's Law! Despite your best efforts to prepare and communicate, there are always adjustments to be made. That's where both concierge and liaison are fitting. Make the adjustments with a smile and a gentle word to the officials. It's your job to watch them and provide feedback. When they have a call, guide them calmly through the discussion. I remember my first call. I had no idea about the litany of questions I would be asked and got very flustered. I felt like I had done something wrong by raising my hand. This is a teaching moment - an opportunity to help someone learn and grown as an official. They should want to talk to you not fear it. If the call isn't accepted, let them know why - again, it's a mentoring moment - keep it positive. Remember, during the session, you are also a concierge. Swimmers will ask you questions or need to retrieve caps and goggles from the bottom of the pool. Pads might need adjusting. Referees will ask you to do something. Be Gumby - flexible and always smiling!

When the session ends, you aren't finished. Thank all the officials. Clean up all the equipment, gather the radios, and if there's an opportunity, talk to the Deck Ref(s) and ask how the session went. What went well? What went wrong? How was it handled? What improvements can be made? This is your time to be mentored.

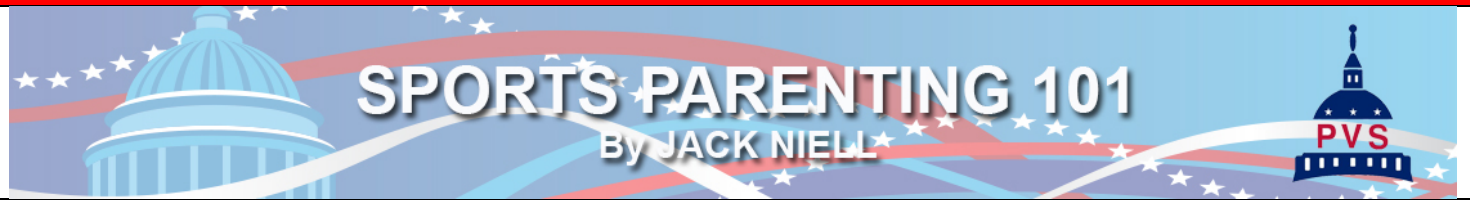
Wait - you still aren't finished! Is there a finals session tonight, or another session in the morning? Go back to the top and start again! Pre-preparation is 75% of the Chief Judge job. When the meet is finally over, and the Coaches and swimmers are happy, that's when you can pat yourself on the back and get a good night's sleep!



Situation: On the second day of a three-day prelim/finals meet, the start time of the morning session is moved from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Unaware of the change, a 13-year-old swimmer coming from out-of-town misses the 100 breaststroke. The referee allows the swimmer to fill an empty lane in the 15 & over event. The time the 13-year-old

achieves while swimming in the wrong age group would place her in the championship heat of the 13-14 age group. The swimmer is placed in the championship final, displacing swimmers who thought they were in finals or consolation finals. The late swimmer ends up placing in the top three.

Question: Was the situation rectified properly?



In a recent survey conducted by Proactive Coaching LLC, hundreds of college and professional athletes were asked to think back: "What is your worst memory from playing youth and high school sports?" Their overwhelming response: "The ride home from games with my parents."

Those same athletes were asked what their parents said that made them feel great, that amplified their joy during and after a game or a meet. Their overwhelming response: "I love to watch you play." There it is, from the mouths of babes who grew up to become college and professional athletes.

Whether your child is just learning to swim or competing on Zone and National teams, resist the urge to explain ways your child could improve. Realize this first: If your kids want a break-down analysis of how they swam, they'll ask you for it. Realize this second: They won't ask you for it. Instead let them know how exciting it is to watch them compete, win or lose. Sports psychologists remind us to recognize that your attitude and behaviors influence your child's performance. Support him/her regardless of the outcome of the day's competition.



The USA Swimming IM Xtreme Games (IMX) is an annual meet held at regional locations across the country. The IMX meets promote and reward a swimmers versatility as swimmers compete in all events in their age group (as opposed to just swimming their best events).

Once again this year we are fortunate to have the Northeast IM Xtreme Games hosted locally by the Potomac Marlins at the University of Maryland, Friday January 30 through Sunday February 1. This meet has proven to be very popular: we had approximately 1200 swimmers throughout the northeast participate last year and we expect similar numbers this year.

Meet information, including the Meet Announcement and the Application to Officiate can be found here:

<http://www.pvswim.org/1415meet/15-501r.html>

There is a 500 free session on Friday afternoon as well as three sessions each on Saturday and Sunday (13-14s session followed by 11-12s and then 9-10s, please refer to the Meet Announcement for warm-up and event start times). We plan on running two courses (split by gender) at all sessions, so plenty of help is needed.

Please fill out an Application to Officiate if you are interested in working. It can be found by clicking the link above.

This is a great opportunity to work a meet featuring top swimmers throughout the northeast. It is also a great opportunity to meet and work with officials outside our LSC.



Date	Clinic	Location	Time	Who's Attending
Saturday January 3	Chief Judge	Thomas Jefferson Library 7415 Arlington Blvd Falls Church, VA 22042	10:30 AM - 12:30 PM	list
Saturday January 3	Starter	Thomas Jefferson Library 7415 Arlington Blvd Falls Church, VA 22042	12:30 - 2:30 PM	list
Saturday January 3	Stroke & Turn	Thomas Jefferson Library 7415 Arlington Blvd Falls Church, VA 22042	2:30 - 4:45 PM	list
Saturday January 10	Colorado Timing System Operator	George Mason University	9:00 - 11:00 AM	list
Saturday January 10	Hy-Tek Computer Operator	George Mason University	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	list
Saturday January 10	Stroke & Turn	MLK Swim Center	10:00 AM - 12:30 PM	list
Saturday January 10	Starter	MLK Swim Center	1:30 - 3:30 PM	list
Sunday January 25	Administrative Official	Overlee	12:30 - 2:30 PM	list



Recommended Resolution: As the missed swim was not the swimmer's fault the decision to let the swimmer into a subsequent heat was proper. The real lesson is to make sure that you do not change the schedule unless all affected clubs and swimmers can be notified in advance.

Applicable Rules: 102.8.2, 102.8.3

UPCOMING MEET SCHEDULE



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	DCPR Winter Invitational	DCPR	Takoma
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)		<i>Austin, TX</i>
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

FEBRUARY

Date	Meet	Host	Location
1	Polar Mini	NCAP	TBD
7	February Qualifier	SNOW	Claude Moore
8	PVS February Distance	FAST	Fairland
8	Munchkin Mania	FAST	Fairland
8	February Friendship Mini Meet (by invitation)	YORK	Providence
12-14	Arena Grand Prix Series (LCM)		<i>Orlando, FL</i>
14-15	Gender Blender Mini Meet	RMSC	KSAC
14-15	Winter Gator Mini Meet	AAC	Wakefield H.S.
14-15	President's Day Classic	OCCS	WARE
14-15	PM 14&U JO Qualifier	PM	Cub Run
20-22	PVS 18&U Age Group Championships	FBST	Lee District
21-22	RMSC February Qualifier	RMSC	MLK

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT GOES TO THE SWIMMER
 Call what you see and see what you call

