



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 Internationanale 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



Many of us have done our first meet (or more) of the season. It is great for me to reconnect with returning officials and welcome new ones into our officiating family. We held 25 clinics so far this year, so there are lots of apprentices on deck at our meets. Make them feel welcome and share your love of being a part of Potomac Valley Swimming.

As of now, PVS will no longer print and mail USA Swimming registration cards. So, when you renew for 2016, or you need a new 2015 card because you just renewed your background check, you can print your own card. The article below walks you through the process.

So we can process registrations for new officials in a timely fashion, we will not start re-registrations until sometime in November. Remember, if you work 10 or more sessions of PVS-sanctioned meets in 2015, PVS will pay your 2016 registration. You will be notified if you qualify for this perk.

I hope to see you at a clinic or meet soon. Email me your comments and questions anytime. Suggestions for newsletter articles are always welcome, and you can even submit an article of your own.

Tim Husson
OfficialsChair@pvswim.org

Printing Your Registration Card by Tim Husson



Potomac Valley Swimming is no longer mailing registration cards for officials. But, you can print your own from the USA Swimming website. Go to www.usaswimming.org.



Sign Into your USA Swimming account.

ACCOUNT LOGIN

Username

Password

Remember Login

[LOGIN](#)

Select MY DECK PASS



Then scroll down until and click on the red MEMBERSHIP CARD button.

Non-Athlete Official Membership Card	
Registration Date	10/5/2015
Expiration Date	12/31/9999
LSC and Club	PV-UN
USAS ID	112954TIMRHUSS
Background Check	1/31/2017 - Level 2
Athlete Protection Training	12/31/2017

Click "Print Official Card"



From there you can download and/or print your card.

Next month, we will show you how you can print your own certification card.

You Make the Call!



Situation: The Deck Referee blows a short series of whistles directing the swimmers to prepare to swim. All swimmers move behind their block except lane three who is missing. After looking for the missing swimmer without success, the Referee blows the long whistle for the swimmers to step up. The field is then turned over to the Starter who issues the "take your mark" command and, when all swimmers are stationary, sounds the device to start the race. Immediately thereafter the lane three swimmers jumps up on the block and dives into the pool.

Question: What should the Referee do?

What is a Stroke & Turn Official?
by Jim Thompson



A short answer is "the eyes for the Referee." While the Referee is accountable for the overall competition, the Referee is not in a position to observe all facets of the competition. This is why the Stroke and Turn (S&T) official is such an important position.

How does the S&T fulfill this critical role? First, he or she must know the rules and interpretations. These can be found on the [Rules and Regulations](#) web page of USA

Swimming. Second, know their role in the officiating team. This means arriving on-time to attend the Officials briefing. At these briefing, the S&T will meet the leadership team, review the technical rules, get assigned to their jurisdiction to observe and learn meet specific procedures.

Here are a few tips that can help a S&T improve their officiating skills:

- Be ready and in position 5-10 minutes before the session starts
- Before each event visualize the stroke, run through the rule requirements for a legal swim and recall the best and recommended ways to observe the stroke and turns
- Before the start remain a few steps behind the starting blocks
- After the start walk briskly to the edge of the pool to observe the swimmers
- If walking the sides to observe the strokes, walk wall-to-wall or as instructed in the briefing
- Observe the swimmers when they are in your jurisdiction, give equal attention to all lanes in your jurisdiction, even the empty ones
- Raise hand promptly to signal a possible disqualification if an infraction is observed
- When reporting the disqualification be prepared to answer these three questions: 1) What you observed? 2) What is your jurisdiction? and 3) Why is it a violation of the rule?
- Be sure to keep watching all the lanes in your jurisdiction when reporting the violation
- And MOST IMPORTANT: Remember the benefit of the doubt goes to the swimmer

After the meet, take a moment to reflect on how the session went. Think about the calls you made or did not make. Note anything that can be done better when you are on deck the next time. This self-evaluation is important for improvement.

By doing all the above, over time, one will enhance their S&T skills and provide the critical pieces of information needed by the Referee to ensure a fair and equitable competition.

PVS Officiating Fun Facts
by Tim Husson & Kelly Rowell



Perception vs. Reality

When you think of the typical PVS Official, what do you picture? I suspect many of you think of a male official who has been volunteering for over 11 years. In reality, that describes less than 6% of PVS officials. Over half of PVS officials have less than

3 years of experience; nearly ¾ have less than 5 years of experience. Even if this is just your 3rd year as an official, you have more time in service than half of your fellow officials. Keep this in mind as you arrive at the early season meets – it's time for you to step up and engage and mentor the 53%, whether it's on deck or pointing out where hospitality or the stroke briefing is located, you are the voice of experience. Engaging an official with 2 years or less of service may be all the encouragement they need to return next season.

YEARS OF SERVICE	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL	%MEN	%WOMEN	%TOTAL
11+	32	10	42	76%	24%	8%
5-10	66	39	105	63%	37%	19%
3-4	67	42	109	61%	39%	20%
0-2	155	132	287	54%	46%	53%

Average Years of PVS Service – 4.5 Median Years of PVS Service – 2.9

*NOTE: Used Earliest LSCEffDate in OTS
Calculated number of years based on 12/31/2015*

Upcoming Clinics



Date	Clinic	Location	Time	Who's Attending
Thursday October 15	Administrative Official (Recert Only)	On-Line Clinic Pre-Registration Required	7:00 - 9:00 PM	
Monday October 19	Colorado Timing System Operator	Fairland	7:00 - 9:00 PM	list
Tuesday October 20	Stroke and Turn	Prince George's Community College	6:30 - 9:00 PM	list
Thursday October 22	Referee Recertification (Recert Only)	On-Line Clinic Pre-Registration Required	7:00 - 9:00 PM	
Tuesday October 27	Stroke & Turn	Fairland	7:00 - 9:30 PM	list
Thursday November 12	Stroke & Turn	On-Line Clinic	7:00 - 9:30 PM	
Wednesday November 18	Stroke & Turn	MLK Swim Center	7:00 - 9:30 PM	list
Saturday November 21	Starter	Oak Marr	8:00 - 10:00 AM	list
Saturday November 21	Stroke and Turn	Oak Marr	10:15 AM - 12:45 PM	list

You Make the Call Resolution



Recommended Resolution: This extremely unsafe situation occurs too often in meets, and yes, a penalty is in order albeit not a disqualification, along with an admonition not to repeat the unsafe conduct. The penalty is to treat the athlete as a “no show”. Clearly, he was not at the blocks ready to swim when the race was started. The administrative penalty for a “no show” means that for this athlete the swim never occurred. Thus, no time would be recorded for the swim, and any administrative penalties for a “no show” would also be applicable. This is NOT a delay of meet, as no delay occurred.

Upcoming Meets



OCTOBER

Date	Meet	Host	Location
16-18	PVS October Open	FBST	Lee District
		NCAP	Fairland
		PM	Freedom Center
24-25	Fall Gator Mini Meet	AAC	Wakefield HS
24-25	SDS Monster Mash (by invitation)	SDS	South Run
24-25	MSSC Fall Senior Meet	MSSC	Fairland
24-25	Ghould & Ghosts Mini Meet	PM	Audrey Moore
31-1	November Distance Meet	DCPR	Takoma
31-1	Triple Distance Challenge	UMAC	Univ. of MD

NOVEMBER

Date	Meet	Host	Location
7-8	National Age Group Challenge Meet (By Invitation)	RMSC	Germantown
8	November Friendship Mini Meet (by invitation)	YORK	Providence
8	November 1650 Meet	RMSC	Germantown
12-14	Arena Pro Swim Series (SCY)		Minneapolis, MN
13-15	PVS November Open	FISH	Cub Run

		FBST	Mt. Vernon
		PAC	Fairland
		ERSC	Claude Moore
15	Autumn Mini	RMSC	Olney
20-22	Swim & Rock (By Invitation)	SDS	Oak Marr
20-22	RMSC November Invitational (by invitation)	RMSC	MLK
21-22	Odd Ball Challenge	FAST	Fairland
21-22	Speedo Eastern States Senior Circuit #2	OCCS	Freedom Center
22	Pilgrim Mini Meet	NCAP	Claude Moore

Husson Recognized by PVS at Convention by Bob Vincent



This year at the USA Swimming National Convention Potomac Valley Swimming recognized Tim for his many years of service and dedication to our organization. I know that I can speak for all of us, not only in the officiating side of swimming, but in governance as well, when I say how great it is to have Tim recognized by PVS. Tim's many roles in our organization as Officials Chair, Operations Chair, Webmaster for PVS and the Eastern Zone, just to mention a few, have all made major contributions to the success of our organization and our athletes. Thanks Tim for your leadership, hard work and dedication, and as well to your wonderful wife Barbara for allowing you to spend so much time with us.



Jack's Corner Thoughts to Ponder by Jack Neill



After Further Review

“After further review, the ruling on the field is confirmed.” How many times do we hear these words at this time of the year? Football was one of the first sports to embrace instant replay, but today nearly all sports use video technology to help ensure that the calls made by officials are correct.

Swimming is no exception. Article 102.22.14 states: “Approved underwater video replay may be used to review stroke or turn infractions called on deck. The

official(s) reviewing the video may only confirm the call made on deck, over-rule the call, or advise the Referee that the review proved inconclusive.” Video replay is limited to top meets, largely due to the significant expense of a replay system. We’re not talking about a couple of iPads around the deck—this is a comprehensive array of high-speed cameras strategically placed on the floor of the pool at regular intervals, along with sophisticated digital HD recording and playback systems.

This past August, I had an opportunity to see this system up-close, as I was the one of the video replay referees at the 2015 Phillips 66 National Championships in San Antonio. The video system used at this meet was operated by DVSPORT, the same company that provides replay for NCAA football. Several rows of four cameras each were positioned at the bottom of the pool, each camera focusing on two lanes. Additionally, above-water cameras were placed on either side of the pool at the 15-meter marks. Once the swimmers entered the water, each row of underwater cameras recorded their movements before the crew “handed them off” to the next row. As a result, the entire length of the 50-meter pool could be observed by the replay referees.

The replay booth was an air conditioned room off the pool deck, a definite perk considering that the temperature on deck exceeded 105 degrees most afternoons. The replay referees worked in pairs, each one observing four lanes on two monitors (Lanes 1&2, 3&4, etc.). Meanwhile the crew from DVSPORT bookmarked every turn of every swim as it was recorded. The fun began when a Chief Judge’s voice came over the radio: “Possible disqualification . . .”

As soon as the CJ communicated where the violation occurred (the lane as well as the turn or length number), the crew immediately went to the appropriate bookmark and sent that section of the video to the referees’ screens. We had controls that allowed us to slow down the video, to go backward or forward, to advance frame by frame, or to freeze any frame. After reviewing the possible infraction and making a judgment, the replay officials radioed the Deck Referee that the DQ was confirmed, over-ruled, or that the replay was inconclusive, in which case the call was vetted as usual on deck. Unless the violation occurred at the finish, the review was usually complete before the heat concluded.

Yes, we saw violations that were not called by the officials on deck. But, as per the rule, no calls were made by replay officials. No, we did not use missed calls to evaluate the judges—we had no idea which officials were in which positions, and we didn’t want to know. Yes, coaches were permitted to come in (after the session concluded) to review their swimmers’ violations. No, not all calls were upheld; in several instances where the judges were certain they saw an infraction, there was clear evidence that it did not occur. This is the benefit of video review.



BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT GOES TO THE SWIMMER!

Call what you see and see what you call

