



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



The PVS SC championship meets are fast approaching. Please consider working one or more of those meets. The applications can be found at:

<http://www.pvswim.org/official/applications.html>. I'm often asked if an official needs a certain amount of experience to work at one of our championship meets.

The answer is no. In fact, these meets are a good way to get experience. If you are a new starter or referee you may not get assigned in those positions, but you will be in a position on deck to observe how those positions work at the championship level.

The USA Swimming officials committee has issued some guidance concerning the "Lochte Rule". Body position on the breast now has to be a part of officiating the freestyle leg of Individual Medley and Medley Relay events. Read the guidance at:

[http://www.pvswim.org/official/rules/2016-01-08 Recommendations from the Officials Committee.pdf](http://www.pvswim.org/official/rules/2016-01-08%20Recommendations%20from%20the%20Officials%20Committee.pdf)

USA Swimming is recognizing volunteers during Volunteer Recognition Month in March. There are looking for pictures of our volunteers. If you have any pictures of you and your fellow officials that you are willing to share, please send them to me. I will send them along to USA Swimming to show the great volunteer spirit in PVS.

Email me your comments and questions anytime.

Tim Husson
OfficialsChair@pvswim.org

PVS Official “Shines” in Austin by Tim Husson



Getting selected to officiate at an Arena Pro Series Meet is an honor. It is a special treat when the meet includes Michael Phelps, Ryan Lochte, Katie Ledecky, Missy Franklin and more than 50 other National Team members as well as other international stars. Vycke Horback received both that honor and special treat at the Arena Pro Series Meet in Austin, TX last month.

At the Saturday morning Officials Meeting, the Meet Referee asked for volunteers for a special, unspecified project. Vycke was among the first to volunteer. After he got eight volunteers, the Meet Referee brought out a box of eight old, tarnished bells. He handed one to each of the volunteers, along with a rag and some brass polish. The task was to shine the bells so they would look good for the TV presentation of the distance events on Sunday evening.

As you can see from the picture, Vycke eagerly took to the task and spent her precious free time on Saturday making her bell shine. At the Sunday morning meeting, the assembled officials voted Vycke’s bell as the shiniest of the bunch. For that honor, the bell Vycke polished was used that evening in Lane 4 and was rung for Katie Ledecky’s World Record 800 Meter Freestyle swim.

Vycke embodies the volunteer spirit and is a *shining* example of PVS officials’ willingness to do whatever is needed to make a meet better.



PVS Officials Invited to Olympic Trials

by Bob Vincent



OLYMPIC TRIALS SWIMMING

Congratulations to Potomac Valley Swimming officials Tim Husson, Denice Wepasnick, Jack Neill, Jan Van Nimwegen, and Tony Rongione for receiving invitations to officiate at the United States Olympic Trials in Omaha, Nebraska this summer.

PVS Officiating Fun Facts

by Tim Husson & Kelly Rowell



As reported in the last newsletter, PVS officials provided over 2-1/2 years' worth of volunteer hours (over 9,400 sessions) to PVS swim meets in 2015. PVS officials worked an average of 15 sessions each at PVS meets in 2015, with more than 20% of PVS officials working 25 or more sessions. The following PVS officials went above and beyond, each contributing their time and experience to 50+ sessions at PVS meets in 2015. Please join us in thanking them for their dedication to the swimmers of Potomac Valley.

NAME	CLUB	NAME	CLUB
Chouikha, Mohamed	DCPR	Roberts, Sam	NCAP
Gordon, Stewart	MACH	Rowell, Kelly	HACC
Husson, Tim	UN	Rubin, Michael	SDS
Kost, John	PM	Schroeder, Dean	OCCS
Krukiel, Christa	RMSC	Ship, Barbara	RMSC
Lundy, Charles	AAC	Thompson, Jim	HACC
Nash, Ray	NCAP	Van Nimwegen, Jan	SNOW
Neill, Jack	UN	Venit, Cherlynn	PAC
		Witkin, Scott	RMSC

You Make the Call!



Question: At a championship meet with the men and women swimming in separate courses, the 1650-yard freestyle is after the 200-yard freestyle with no break. A coach requests that a swimmer who is in the final heat of 200-yard freestyle and the first heat of the 1650 be moved to another 1650 heat to give the swimmer a break between swims.

What should be done?

Recognizing Passion versus Rudeness

by Bob Vincent



Last November I had the opportunity to referee at the Arena Pro Series in Minneapolis, MN. As a rookie ref on the deck I was pretty nervous. The first event that I was on deck for was the 200 free, so as you can imagine, everything went fine. The next event that I was on deck for was the 400 individual medley. After the swimmers hit the water I was thinking to myself that it would be nice to go ahead and get the first DQ over with so that I could settle down, and maybe relax a little. I forgot about that old saying of be careful what you wish for! Next thing I know a hand goes up, and then shortly after that another. Now I have two calls working on the deck and all that training kicks in and I am feeling pretty good about how they are going. The calls come in from the CJs, in order and we are in the process of vetting them when the next heat hits the water. And yes, as you can imagine, another hand goes up. Now we are working three calls in two heats. The heart starts pumping a little harder, but again the CJs do a great job of being patient and calling in the possible infractions perfectly, requiring very little vetting on my part. Just as I am feeling good about handling the multiple calls, I get a tap on the shoulder that a certain coach wants to see me to “discuss” the call. I haven’t even had a chance to sign the DQs at this point. After another Ref steps in to replace me I realize that there are actually three coaches waiting to “discuss” the disqualifications of each of their swimmers. I explain that the slips are on their way to me and as soon as I have them I will be happy to have any necessary discussions.

The first slip comes in and it is a very simple call and everything is written correctly on the DQ slips so I sign it and have a short discussion with the coach of that swimmer. After a simple explanation, the coach says thank you and now I am ready to review the second slip. It is also a very simple call and needed little explanation to the coach and I got another thank you. When the third slip arrived I was feeling

very good about the process. However, this coach was not going to be a little more challenging. After checking the slip and signing it I walked over to the coach and thanked him for his patience and we began our discussion. It was a discussion that started with, : I saw my swimmer and she did not do that.” I am sure that all of have had this experience. The coach was very animated during our discussion. I listened to him go on for about two of three minutes very passionately making his case.

The key here is the word passion. This coach was a very passionate advocate for his swimmer. While the results did not change, the coach appreciated that I listened to everything he had to say. At the end of our discussion the apologized for raising his voice. I explained to the coach that while I appreciated his apology, it was not necessary because I had even more appreciation for the passion that he had in coaching his swimmers. As officials we all need to recognize the difference in a coach being passionate and a coach that is being rude. I always keep in mind the fact that if that were my swimmer’s coach, I would want them to be very passionate.

The next time you find yourself in that awkward position of dealing with a very passionate coach, think about how you would feel if you were the swimmer, parent, or coach that got disqualified. I believe we would all want our coach to be passionate. It’s the same thing with swimmers. I have been at a meet where a swimmer finished the race, looked up at the scoreboard to see his time and obviously was disappointed with it. The swimmer removed his cap and slammed it into the water. He did not interfere with any other swimmer, nor did he get anyone wet. Again, these are athletes that we are officiating, most of them passionate about competing. I understand that there are times when coaches and swimmers cross that line from passion to poor sportsmanship, but remember, we always give the benefit of the doubt to the swimmer.

You Make the Call Resolution



Recommended Resolution: Changing the seeding of the 1650-yard freestyle would be against the Rules. The meet announcement should have clearly stated the order of events so the coach should have realized the possibility of this situation arising. The referee could find a timing system problem or have an issue with counters/timers that might delay the start of the 1650 a minute or two.

Applicable Rules: 102.5

Upcoming Meets



FEBRUARY

Date	Meet	Host	Location
12-14	30th Annual Black History Meet	DCPR	Takoma
13	MAKO Qualifier	MAKO	GMU
13-14	Winter Gator Mini Meet	AAC	Wakefield H.S.
13-14	Gender Blender Mini Meet	RMSC	KSAC
13-14	President's Day Classic	OCCS	WARF
13-14	PM 14&U JO Qualifier	PM	Cub Run
14	Penguin 9-12 Pentathlon	PAC	Fairland
19-21	PVS 18&U Qualifier	FBST	Lee District
19-21	RMSC February Qualifier	RMSC	MLK
20-21	MACH-YORK Qualifier	MACH	Maderia
20-21	NCAP Mini Champs	NCAP	Freedom Center

MARCH

Date	Meet	Host	Location
3-5	Arena Pro Swim Series (LCM)		Orlando, FL
3-6	PVS Short Course Championships	NCAP	GMU
3-6	PVS SC Junior Championships	NCAP	GMU
5-6	Mini Championships	RMSC	Olney
10-13	PVS 14&U Junior Olympic Championships	MACH	Univ. of MD
18-20	RMSC Spring Finale	RMSC	Germantown
18-20	Spring Championships	MSSC	Fairland
19-20	MAKO Spring Invitational	MAKO	GMU
24-26	Eastern Zone SC Championships	<i>Fairport Swimming</i>	<i>Webster, NY</i>
31-3	<i>Speedo Championship Series Eastern Zone LC Northern Sectional Meet</i>	STAR	<i>Buffalo, NY</i>
31-3	Speedo Championship Series Eastern Zone LC Southern Sectional Meet	PSDN	<i>Richmond, VA</i>
31-3	Speedo Championship Series Eastern Zone Spring SC Sectional Meet	SYCH	<i>Ithaca, NY</i>

Take some time and recognize the people that volunteer for Potomac Valley Swimming.
If you have a picture or an article to contribute, please send them to [Bob Vincent](#).



BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT GOES TO THE SWIMMER!

Call what you see and see what you call

