

2016-17 OFFICIAL'S CLINIC SCHEDULE



THE OLYMPIC TRIALS EXPERIENCE – JAN VAN NIMWEGEN

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



Happy labor Day!

Last month, 24 PVS officials officiated at the USA Swimming Futures Meet at the University of Maryland. It was the highest level USA Swimming meet in PVS since 2003 and I am happy so many of you took advantage of the opportunity.

Our 2016 USA Swimming registration is valid through the end of the year, but re-registration will begin in September. We will be using a new online form this year that is much easier than last year. If you have already worked enough sessions for PVS to pay your 2017 registration, you will be sent an email with re-registration instructions. If you have not reached that level, there are plenty of swim meets on the [PVS schedule](#) before December 31. Remember that all registrations are good for one calendar year – in order to register for 2017 you must complete the online form.

Also take this time to check your certification status in the [Officials Tracking System \(OTS\)](#). Your PVS certifications are good for two years, and if you need to recertify before the end of the year, you must attend a clinic as part of that process. The Officials Committee has already scheduled over 30 [clinics](#) with more to come. If your certification expires on 12/31/2016 be sure to put one of the clinics on your calendar.

Tim Husson
OfficialsChair@pvswim.org

My Experience at Olympic Trials

by Jan Van Nimwegen

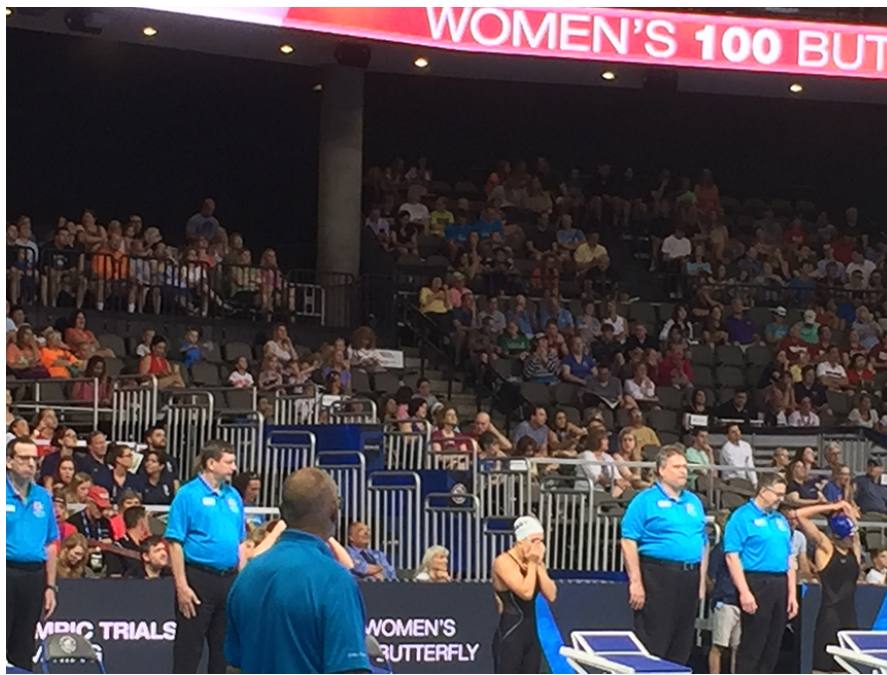


In mid-December 2015, I received an invitation from USA Swimming to officiate at the Olympic Trials in Omaha, Nebraska, which were scheduled to start at the end of June. After accepting the invitation, the long wait for June 25, 2016 started. Surprisingly an overall feeling of suspense started as well; who else was invited, who would be my CJs and other assigned team members etc. From the outset I knew the names of the meet referee and the team lead CJ, but all other names were merely guesses or were gleaned from rumors. About a month before the trials, the complete list of officials was published. Between the arrival of the invitation and the publication of the list I had received a few emails pertaining to the dress code (black pants, black socks, black shoes, and shirts to be provided for all sessions at the start of the meet) but not much else. And no, we did not receive a 'special' rules book for the event – just regular plain old USA Swimming rules would be applied during the meet.

Finally, the day for the flight to Omaha arrived and all questions would be answered. Upon arriving in Omaha, I picked up my credentials and walked around the pool a bit. By that time, I had seen some photos from 'early arrivers' at the meet, and some videos of the previous trials in Omaha on YouTube, but that was nothing compared to seeing the actual pool itself. It was huge (well, it is a 50m pool after all). And yet, at the same time, it felt very intimate. The indoor arena would accommodate over 14,000 spectators. Walking around on that first day I was overwhelmed by finally being in Omaha and being able to enjoy the view of the pool, the pool deck, see the formalities, etc.

On day one I picked up my credentials (as an official you have access to a limited area) and received a small wardrobe of shirts. Teal, red and gray polos for the morning exercises, gray/blue dress shirts for the finals. And of course a tie for the finals to go along with the dress shirts.

On day two in Omaha, the day before the actual meet started, we had a get-together where we met with the entire officials team for the first time. We rehearsed, mainly for NBC, to see how all the formalities of the protocol worked with the cameras in place - where could we stand to observe turns, where could we walk stroke or prepare for the officials parade at the start of each session, where would we sit in between heats at finals, etc. One take-away from working a national-level meet like the Trials is that one of the few things that changes every meet is the protocol. Although many people did not necessarily refer to the Trials as a meet – it was an Event that just happened to have a swim meet in it. And mostly, I now concur with that feeling; more than 1,700 athletes, a seemingly unlimited supply of coaches, spectators etc. The numbers alone were overwhelming.



During the dress rehearsal we also got our first glance at how the medal ceremonies would take place – the podium rising up carrying the athletes (for the rehearsal local swim kids stood in for DiRado, Lochte, Franklin, Ledecy, Phelps and the rest). We also saw the coloring of the water columns next to the podium, the use of flames on top of the water columns (impressive to say the least), and the parading of the "medal ladies" to the podium. These were followed by the presenters for the medals and the coaches for the swimmers who were selected to represent the

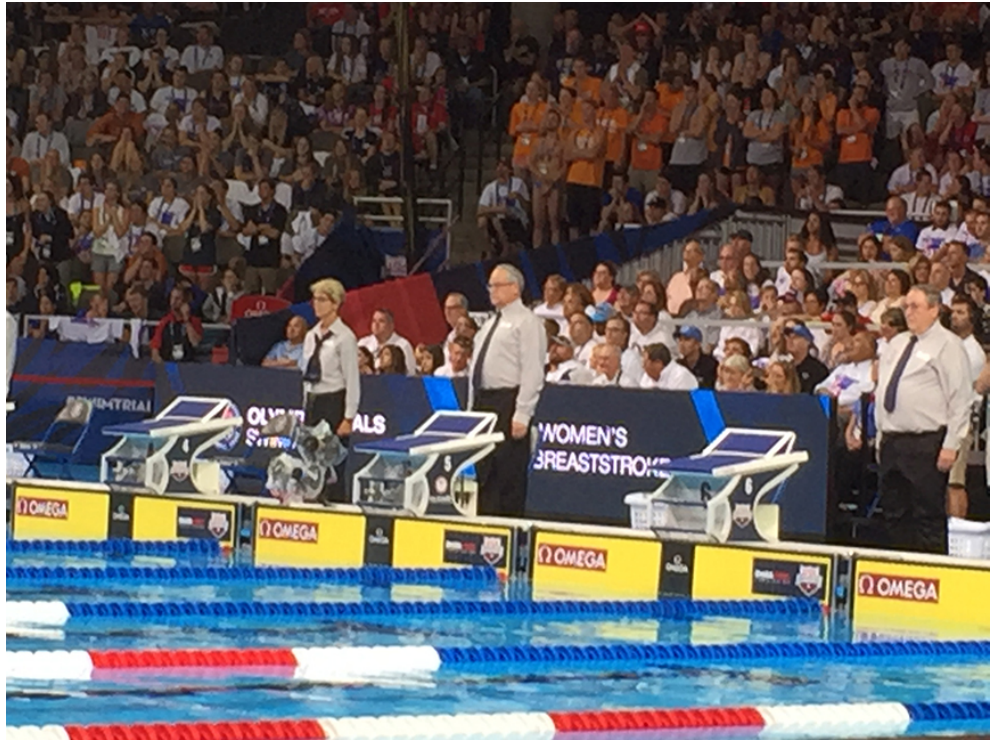
team in Rio. The best part of the dress rehearsal was that all the officials were dressed in plain clothes. Most of us wore shorts, t-shirts, sandals or flip-flops. For me it was a new experience to stand on deck dressed in something non-white, non-blue and non-khaki. One perk for the local kids was that they had fun pretending to be the well-known swimmers, and they were not too eager to cause large displacements of water during the turns.

The day after the rehearsal the meet started. It was the moment I had been waiting for since receiving the invitation. I was assigned to be a relief Turn Official that first morning, so I had some time to get accustomed to the protocols and observe how other officials did their jobs. As it turned out, everyone was doing what we always do at meets – observing the swimmers when they were in our jurisdiction. Being a relief judge at this meet meant you stepped in after an event and moved on to the next position after the event was complete. There was no need to count minutes for relief, just pay attention to the heats. Also, since the final sessions were relatively short, fewer relief judges would be assigned to the finals.

One of the main differences between a 'regular' meet and the Trials was the order of events. For almost all meets I have worked, I've seen both men and women swim the same strokes/distances, and then everyone moves to the next stroke/distance. At the Trials the meet order reflected the order of the gender/strokes to be used in Rio. As an example, the Men's 400m IM was followed by the Women's 100m Fly. The alternation between Men and Women continued but strokes and distances changed.

Additionally, the Trials possibly could be the only USA Swimming meet where we use a format with prelims, semi-finals and finals for the events under 400m. For the longer events (400m or more) we only had prelims and finals – so Connor Jaeger (for example) only had to swim the 1500m twice to qualify for Rio.

And of course the protocol used for the meet complied with FINA protocol. No need to raise your hand for an observed infraction. When the swimmer left your jurisdiction you walked towards the CJ in your quadrant to start the process (for turn judges), or if you were walking stroke, you just pointed your arm 'on the side away from the pool' outwards and downwards and kept on walking to meet your CJ (instead of pausing and turning at the flag or 15m mark). In most cases that I observed, the reserve



official was already in place to take over before you even talked to the CJ. At a meet like this, it was great to rely on the entire officials' team – every part of the engine working together to give the best outcome for both the swimmers and TV.

The first night of finals I was 'off'. If you looked at the Trials on NBC or YouTube, you could see the morning sessions used 10 lanes, but the semi-finals and finals only used 8 lanes. So at least four of the turn officials were not needed for the evening sessions. Also, due to the shorter duration of the finals (typically 90-100 minutes) fewer relief officials were needed. So on average 7 or 8 officials were off at night. You had the option of either coming to the pool and watching the meet as a spectator, sitting high up in the press box (the non-rev seats), or taking a night off. I opted to watch the event from above. It was amazing to see how all action on deck looked from that point of view. Sitting up there I also started to appreciate all the protocol steps that we were asked to do in the mornings – it just looked awesome on TV. Sure, the swims were amazing as well... but as an official attending the meet I must admit I also liked how everyone on deck did their tasks (and occasionally I'd snicker at the small mishaps in protocol that inevitably occurred – just happy it wasn't me who stepped down too early or too late). Little things that most of us wouldn't even see since there were no cameras directed at the turn edge judges when the swimmers pass the 15m mark on the leg back.

The rest of the week we had a standard rotation schedule like we have at most meets – turn end, start end, stroke, relief and reserve. I got to work in all positions on deck, however my stint with 'walking' stroke was limited to the last night, observing the 15m mark for the first two legs of the one 1500m final that night. I got to observe plenty of officials 'run' stroke during the 14 other sessions.

One impression that will stay with me for a long time was the size of the audience for this meet. Not having attended many indoor or outdoor sporting events such as baseball, soccer, basketball or hockey, for me it was just amazing to hear 14,000 voices - more or less in harmony - encouraging swimmers on the brink of breaking a world, US or meet record. Or hearing the entire crowd start singing loudly when the mic for the national anthem singer stopped working and everyone in attendance sang it proudly for him. This gave me the chills.

When I got the invitation to work this meet, I was honored, excited, elated and 100 more things. Actually being able to work the Olympic Trials was extremely rewarding in so many ways.

PVS Officiating Fun Facts

by Tim Husson & Kelly Rowell



Was it exciting to see a three-way tie for second place in the 100 Butterfly at the Olympics? Or the tie for the gold medal in the 100 Freestyle? Or some of the other ties that happened in the pool at Rio? These ties to one-hundredth of a second mean the swimmers were less than an inch apart at the finish. Although timing systems can record times to less than one-hundredth of a second, it is not practically possible to build a pool and touchpads at a tolerance that fine.

But the most exciting event for me was the 10K Open Water race. After for swimming for over an hour and 50 minutes, the race was decided at the final touch. I still get excited replaying that finish.

You Make the Call!



Situation: Robert is seeded in lane 2, heat 7 of event 24. The lane timer tells him to step up when the referee's whistle blows for heat 6. The deck referee and starter do not realize the incorrect swimmer is on the block and they start the race.

Question: Should Robert be disqualified?

The Joys of Officiating

by Tim Husson



The world focuses on the fun of competitive swimming every four years at the Olympics. This year's Olympic swimming competition did not disappoint with many close races, World and American Records. As officials, we get a close up view and the chance to play a part in this wonderful sport at the grass roots level.

I've had the fortune to be an official at meets where American and World Records were set. I've also had the privilege of completing a World Record Application. While these are exceptional events, I get just as much joy at a mini meet watching a six-year-old swim their first competition or a seven-year-old swim their first legal 50Y breaststroke event. It doesn't matter to me if I'm operating the timing system, acting as the administrative official, or on deck as a Referee or a Stroke & Turn Judge.

At a PVS meet this year, an official asked me “Since you’ve been a Referee at a national meet, why are you a Stroke & Turn Judge at this meet?” I answered “I’ve been a S&T judge for 20 years, so why not?” If our Referees are always Referees and our Starters are always Starters, our new officials will not get the experience they need to develop as officials.

You might like being a Starter or you might like being a Chief Judge and it is good that you take pride in doing these jobs. But, when offering your services at a meet, offer to work whatever position the Meet Referee needs to you to fill. All positions at a swim meet are important and we get the same joy out of helping run the competition no matter where we are on deck. The same joy I get from watching new swimmers advance their skills I also get from watching officials cultivate their skills.

Upcoming Meets



September

Date	Meet	Host	Location
25	PAC Freestyle Meet	PAC	Fairland

October

Date	Meet	Host	Location
1-2	MAKO Fall Invitational	MAKO	GMU
2	All Freestyle Meet	MSSC	Fairland
7-9	JP Popovich Memorial Invitational (by invitation)	SNOW	Claude Moore
7-9	RMSC October Kickoff (by invitation)	RMSC	Germantown
7-8	Red & Black Invitational (by invitation)	UMAC	Univ. of MD
8-9	Harvest Moon	HACC	Herndon
1-2	MAKO Fall Invitational	MAKO	GMU
14-16	PVS October Open	TBD	Lee District
		TBD	Fairland
		TBD	Freedom Center
22	Ghouls & Goblins Mini Meet	PM	GMU
22-23	MSSC Fall Senior Meet	MSSC	Fairland
22-23	Fall Gator Mini Meet	AAC	Wakefield HS
22-23	SDS Monster Mash (by invitation)	SDS	South Run
29	DPR Mini Green & Gold	DCPR	Turkey Thicket
29-30	Triple Distance Challenge	UMAC	Univ. of MD
29-30	National Age Group Challenge Meet (By Invitation)	RMSC	MLK
30	November 1650 Meet	RMSC	MLK

You Make the Call Resolution



Recommended Resolution: The swimmer should not be disqualified. It is the Head Lane Timer who shall determine whether the swimmer or relay team is present and in the correct lane, heat, and event, and the relay swimmers are swimming in the order listed. However, it is important that the time achieved be credited to the correct swimmer.

Applicable Rules: 102.16.3. B (1)

Upcoming Clinics



Date	Clinic	Location	Time	Who's Attending
Saturday September 17	Stroke & Turn	Madeira School	8:00 - 10:30 AM	list
Saturday September 17	Timing System Operator	Univ. of MD	10:00 AM - NOON	list
Saturday September 17	Starter	Madeira School	10:30 AM - 12:30 PM	list
Saturday September 17	Hy-Tek Computer Operator	Univ. of MD	1:00 - 3:00 PM	list
Sunday September 25	Stroke & Turn	MLK Swim Center	9:00 - 11:30 AM	list
Sunday September 25	Chief Judge	MLK Swim Center	11:30 AM - 1:30 PM	list
Sunday September 25	Starter	MLK Swim Center	1:30 - 3:30 PM	list
Sunday September 25	Stroke & Turn (Recert Only)	MLK Swim Center	3:30 - 5:30 PM	list
Saturday October 1	Stroke & Turn	GMU	8:00 - 10:30 AM	list
Saturday October 1	Chief Judge	GMU	10:30 AM - 12:30 PM	list
Sunday October 2	Hy-Tek Computer Operator	MLK Swim Center	9:00 - 11:00 AM	list
Sunday October 2	Timing System Operator	MLK Swim Center	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	list
Sunday October 2	Administrative Official	MLK Swim Center	1:30 - 3:30 PM	list

Sunday October 2	Administrative Official (Recert Only)	MLK Swim Center	3:30 - 5:30 PM	list
Wednesday October 5	Stroke & Turn	On-Line Clinic	7:00 - 9:30 PM	
Saturday October 8	Starter	Herndon Community Center	8:00 - 10:00 AM	list
Saturday October 8	Stroke and Turn	Herndon Community Center	10:00 AM - 12:30 PM	list
Saturday October 8	Chief Judge	Herndon Community Center	1:00 - 3:00 PM	list
Saturday October 8	Stroke & Turn (Recert Only)	Herndon Community Center	3:00 - 5:00 PM	list
Sunday October 9	Timing System Operator	Herndon Community Center	9:00 - 11:00 AM	list
Sunday October 9	Hy-Tek Computer Operator	Herndon Community Center	NOON - 2:00 PM	list
Sunday October 9	Administrative Official	Herndon Community Center	2:30 - 4:30 PM	list
Wednesday October 19	Stroke & Turn	KSAC	6:30 - 9:00 PM	list
Thursday October 20	Stroke & Turn	Univ. of MD	6:30 - 9:00 PM	list
Wednesday October 26	Starter	KSAC	7:00 - 9:00 PM	list
Saturday Nov. 5	Stroke & Turn (Recert Only)	Washington-Lee H.S. (Swimposium)	1:00 - 3:00 PM	list
Saturday Nov. 5	Starter	Washington-Lee H.S. (Swimposium)	1:00 - 3:00 PM	list
Saturday Nov. 5	Chief Judge	Washington-Lee H.S. (Swimposium)	1:00 - 3:00 PM	list
Saturday Nov. 5	Referee	Washington-Lee H.S. (Swimposium)	1:00 - 3:00 PM	list
Saturday Nov. 5	Administrative Official	Washington-Lee H.S. (Swimposium)	1:00 - 3:00 PM	list
Saturday November 19	Starter	Oak Marr	8:00 - 10:00 AM	list
Saturday November 19	Stroke and Turn	Oak Marr	10:15 AM - 12:45 PM	list
Saturday November 19	Administrative Official	Univ. of MD	7:00 - 9:00 PM	list



BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT GOES TO THE SWIMMER!

Call what you see and see what you call

