

----- Working with Transgender Athletes! -----

POTOMAC VALLEY SWIMMING

JUNE 2017



## OFFICIALS NEWSLETTER

----- JACK IS BACK! -----

### *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



Long Course Season is in full swing. The applications to officiate the summer LC championship meets are now on the [PVS website](#). There are other opportunities to officiate at higher level meets. The Senior Zone Meet on Aug. 2-6 in Buffalo and the Age Group Zone Meet on Aug. 9-12 in Richmond need good officials. The applications to officiate those meets are on the [Eastern Zone website](#).

This summer, PVS officials elect our representative to serve the next two years on the PVS Board. Nominations are now open. The incumbent, Jack Neill, is eligible for a second term and is running for that position. Other nominations are due to me by the end of June. Voting will be done online and take place during the summer championship meets. You will get instructions in early July on the voting process.



I had the privilege to be the Starter for the 2017 Special Olympics Maryland State Games and the opportunity to work with fellow officials from MD Swimming. The picture above is the crew that I got to work with at the meet.

There are a couple of articles below highlighting some rules you may be less familiar with. The first highlights the differences between sanctioned, approved and observed meets. The other article describes the different types of timing systems and the needs for timers for each of those

timing systems.

I hope to see you on deck at one of the meets this summer. Thank you for your volunteer service that allows swim meets to take place in Potomac Valley.

Tim Husson

[OfficialsChair@pvs swim.org](mailto:OfficialsChair@pvs swim.org)



## Working with Transgender Athletes

by: Bob Vincent / USA Swimming



Last month I had the pleasure of attending the Central Zone officiating workshop. On Friday evening I attended a clinic on diversity. What an eye opener! I was personally not familiar with many of the topics that were covered during the workshop, I thought it might good opportunity to share some of the information with our officiating community. While it is not something that we discuss every day, it is something that is an important part of our swimming community and it needs to be discussed more.

The first thing that happened in the workshop was that it became a safe space. That was very important to me as I had lots of questions and this allowed me to ask them without the fear of offending someone.

I learned that our great sport is leading the way in welcoming all who want to participate. USA Swimming has a Diversity & Inclusion Mission that says:

***USA Swimming is committed to a culture of inclusion and opportunity for people of diverse backgrounds, including, but not limited to, race, age, income, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender expression, and sexual orientation.***

Our policy that states:

**The USA Swimming Code of Conduct prohibits discrimination against any member or participant on the basis of age, gender, race, ethnicity, culture, religion, sexual orientation, gender expression, genetics, mental or physical disability, or any other status protected by federal, state, or local law (304.3.3).**

All of the information that is included in this article comes from a guide that was created by USA Swimming to help coaches, parents and clubs provide a safe and inclusive environment for all of its athletes. The guide was created due to growing requests from our membership to provide resources and tools to help navigate this topic. It can be downloaded at: <https://www.usaswimming.org/articles-landing-page/2017/02/17/diversity-inclusion-information>.

### **Creating a Safe Space**

Teams can foster an inclusive environment by creating policies that prohibit discrimination on the pool deck, in locker rooms and at meets.

The Safe Sport section of this LGBTQ Cultural Inclusion Research Guide (page 28)

provides information on model locker room protocol your team can adopt.

We encourage clubs to also insert LGBTQ specific language into their existing code of conduct and anti-bullying policy. Model policies with this language can be found on USA Swimming's Diversity & Inclusion resources page: [www.usaswimming.org/diversity](http://www.usaswimming.org/diversity).

Here are a few things to consider when creating or updating team policies:

- Evaluate your current policy. Does the policy protect against bullying in general? Does it specifically protect against LGBTQ-based harassment?
- Designate someone to train members of your team about LGBTQ issues, the new policy, and ways to stop inappropriate behavior. Make sure this person is either already trained or can be trained on LGBTQ inclusion.
- If you or members of your staff are uncomfortable having this educational discussion, ask someone from your local LGBTQ resource centers to help. University advocacy groups are also a good place to get started or contact a USA Swimming Diversity and Inclusion staff member: [inclusion@usaswimming.org](mailto:inclusion@usaswimming.org).
- Use LGBTQ specific language to update your team's policies, code of conduct and anti-bullying policy.

Prohibit harassment based on gender identity, gender expression, and an athlete's decision to break gender norms.

- Include specific examples of what might constitute harassment based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression (i.e. demeaning or inappropriate language, bullying, etc.).
- Communicate often with your parents and swimmers and give them contact information to reach out with follow up questions.
- Always strive to create a safe, open dialogue with your team.

*\*Recommendations based on the "Best Practices: Creating an LGBT- inclusive School Climate" factsheet by Teaching Tolerance<sup>12</sup>*

For more information on transgender athletes, please take the time to read the guide and become educated. A special thank you to USA Swimming for providing the education on this important topic. While it is not a topic that is often easily discussed, we all need to acknowledge, as our sport has done, that it is an important and we need to be educated on it.

# Sanctioned, Approved and Observed Meets

by: Tim Husson



All USA Swimming competitions must be sanctioned (Rule 202). The Local Swim Committee (LSC) is responsible for issuing the sanctions on behalf of USA Swimming. There are three different types of sanctions issued by PVS: Sanctioned, Approved, and Observed.

Sanctioned meets (202.4 and 202.5) are meets run under USA Swimming rules and for USA Swimming athlete members only. Most PVS meets are sanctioned meets. They can be open meets, invitational meets (closed to only invited clubs), tri meets (three teams), dual meets (two teams) or intrasquad meets (one team).

Approved meets (202.6) are meets that are run under USA Swimming technical rules but include swimmers that are not USA Swimming members. The officials must be USA Swimming officials. YMCA invitational and championship meets are examples of approved meets. The meets are approved so that the times for swimmers that are USA Swimming members can be loaded into the USA Swimming SWIMS database and can be used for USA Swimming purposes. The Black History Month Meet in February is another example of an approved meet. Municipal and recreation teams that include non-USA Swimming athletes attend this meet.

Observed meets (202.7) are meets that are run under technical rules of another organization, such as NCAA (college), NFHS (high school) and USMS (masters). Swims by USA Swimming athletes that conform to USA Swimming technical rules can be used for USA Swimming purposes. This is accomplished by having USA Swimming officials “observe” the swims. The USA Swimming officials can also be used as association officials for the meet if they have dual certifications, but there can also be separate association and observing officials.

At observed meets, a swim could be legal for the meet, but not legal for USA Swimming. This may occur in events where the USA Swimming and association rules differ, for example Backstroke events in a high school meet. The rule differences between the various organizations are [summarized](#) on the [Our Kids Initiative](#) website.

As officials, sanctioned and approved meets are no different to us. Observed meets are different in that the only events that have to be observed by the USA Swimming observers are those with the rule differences. If you are interested in finding out more about the PVS sanctioning process and the conditions of obtaining a sanction, refer to USA Swimming Rule 202 and the PVS Policy & Procedures Manual.



## Officiating Milestones

by: PVS Swimming Officials Committee



### 5 Years of Service to PVS

Margaret Stubner (JFD)  
Louanne Krawczewicz Myers (MSSC)  
Jen Shepard (OCCS)

### 15 Years of Service to PVS

Mike Miller (DCPR)

### 20 Years of Service to PVS

Steve Pitler (UN)



**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
OFFICIAL  
ON!!!**

#OfficiallyAwesome



## New Certifications

(Includes Transfers)



### S&T Judges

Kristin Henrikson (DCPR)  
John Rieger (FISH)  
Joseph Scoresby (NCAP)  
Jean Tiong-Koehler (RMSC)

### Chief Judges

David Goldberg (ASA)  
Dmitriy Bityutskiy (RMSC)  
Kim Smith (RMSC)

### Referees

Kelly Oipari (ASA)

### HyTek Operators

Sheri Parker (ASA)

### Administrative Official

Judy Wagner (SNOW)



## Timing Systems and Timers

by: Tim Husson



USA Swimming devotes three pages in the rulebook to timing rules (102.24). If you are not an administrative official, you may not be familiar with those rules that we use to determine the official time for each swimmer.

There are three types of timing systems that can be used, and except for World, American or US Open records which require automatic timing, any of the three can be used for a meet. Each of the three timing systems, automatic, semi-automatic and manual has different requirements for the number timers.

**Automatic Timing:** This is the type of timing used at most PVS meets. Timers are used to operate the required backup timing systems (semi-automatic and manual)

**Requirements:** When Automatic Timing is used as the primary system, a minimum of one timer is required to operate both the secondary (button) and tertiary (stopwatch) backup systems.

**Guidelines:** The recommendation is for two timers; one timer operates a stopwatch and button, the other timer operates a button and handles the clipboard.

**Semi-Automatic Timing:** This type of timing uses an electronic timing system without touchpads. The primary timing system is buttons, with stopwatch backup.

**Requirements:** When Semi-Automatic Timing is used as the primary system, a minimum of two buttons is required. Each must be operated by a separate timer. A backup consisting of at least one stopwatch is required.

**Guidelines:** The recommendation is for two timers; one timer operates a stopwatch and button, the other timer operates a button and handles the clipboard.

**Manual Timing:** This type of timing uses stopwatches only.

**Requirements and Guidelines:** When using Manual Timing, three stopwatches per lane are required, each operated by a separate timer. One of the timers also handles the clipboard.

In practice at PVS meets, unless Manual Timing is the primary timing system, the guideline is for two timers on each lane, one timer operates a stopwatch and a button, the other timer operates a button and handles the clipboard. This recommendation meets the requirements of USA Swimming rule 102.24 – a backup consisting of a minimum of one stop watch - and gives each timer a manageable task. Having to operate a backup button, a stopwatch, and handle the clipboard is too much to ask of a single timer, particularly when doing dive-over starts with a 15 sec. heat interval. With each timer being asked to perform only two tasks, each task is completed with improved accuracy and less stress on the timers – the results are generally two good button times and one good watch time.



## Jack's Corner

Thoughts to Ponder by Jack Neill



### Other Officiating Opportunities

You say there just aren't enough PVS meets to fill your weekend schedule? Our area is home to swim meets sanctioned by several other organizations, such as NCAA, NFHS (high school), or U.S. Masters Swimming. And they all need officials. In this installment we'll take a look at masters and collegiate swimming.

In swimming, masters simply means 18 and older. U.S. Masters Swimming supports and encourages competition, although more than half of its 60,000 members are fitness swimmers who do not compete. Like USA Swimming, USMS is organized into Local Swimming Committees, including the Potomac Valley LMSC, whose 32 clubs host numerous meets each year. A typical Masters meet will include swimmers of all ages and ability levels. Individual swimmers compete within age groups (25–29, 30–34, 35–39, 40–44, and so on at 5-year increments). It's not uncommon to see competitors in their 80s or 90s.

U.S. Masters Swimming recently announced a certification program for officials, but USMS certification is not required for currently certified USA Swimming, NCAA, NFHS, or YMCA officials to work USMS meets. There are several differences between USA-S rules and Masters rules; these differences can be found in the back of the USA-S rulebook. Host clubs typically contact a Referee who in turn contacts other officials to assemble the crew. Masters meets can be either short- or long-course.

The D.C. area includes a number of colleges and universities who participate in Division 1, 2 or 3 NCAA swimming competition. Their meets (nearly always short-course yards) are highly competitive, and are always very loud and very spirited. The NCAA swim season runs from September to the National Championships in March.

Since 2015, the NCAA has partnered with USA Swimming to register swimming and diving officials. USA Swimming officials can take the test (based on the NCAA rulebook) on the USA Swimming website—yes, the test includes questions on diving. Pass the test and you are registered as an NCAA swimming official (no differentiation in position, you're expected to be ready to fill any position, from turn judge to referee).

The NCAA updates its rulebook every two years, so rule changes can only occur every other year. The USA-S and NCAA rules are nearly similar, but again there are a few notable differences between the two rulebooks. For most meets, the host institution or conference decides how many officials are required and hires them accordingly, again relying on the Referee to assemble the crew.

At a Masters or collegiate meet you'll likely be asked to wear several hats simultaneously, for instance serving as both Starter and S&T Judge. But officiating at these meets can add a new perspective to your understanding of and appreciation for the sport of swimming. I highly recommend it!

## Upcoming Clinics



Date	Clinic	Location	Time
Computer-Based Training	<a href="#">Timing System Operator</a>	<a href="#">Register for this clinic</a>	Any time

## Upcoming Meets



*\*\*\*Click on the Upcoming Meets Banner to see the latest information*

### JUNE 2017

16-18 – SNOW LC Invitational (SNOW)  
17-18 – PVS LC Distance Meet (PVS)  
25 – PVS LC Open 2 (PVS)  
27- Jul 1 – Phillips 66 National Championships

### JULY 2017

6-9 PVS LC Senior Championships (PVS)  
6-9 PVS LC Junior Championships (PVS)  
20 -23 – PVS LC Age Group Champs (PVS)



**BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT GOES TO THE SWIMMER!**

Call what you see and see what you call

