

VSI Officials Committee Report

30 April 2009

Provided for BOD Meeting (25 April 2009)

- Rules updates:
 - Bruce Stratton, Chair of the USA-S Rules & Regulations Committee issued an interpretation and clarification of what it means to wear one suit in competition. Kevin Hogan has sent out a further clarification based on additional e-mails from Bruce Stratton and further clarification posted on the USA-S website
 - Effective 15 May 2009 the new swimwear rule will become effective. The important change says “Swimsuits worn for all 12 & under age group defined competition shall not cover the neck, extend past the shoulder, nor past the knee.” Coaches are reminded to remind their swimmers and parents.
- As previously requested, the following draft language is offered by Kevin Hogan and Steve Hennessy with respect to the issue of swimming two swimmers per lane:

For short course meets, swimming two swimmers per lane is prohibited under all circumstances. For long course meets, swimming two swimmers per lane is prohibited for planning purposes and may not be used to accommodate more swimmers than would otherwise be accommodated within the four hour rule and number of available lanes. In exceptional circumstances such as an incoming weather front that would likely truncate the applicable session, swimming two swimmers per lane may be used with only the 800 and 1500 meter freestyle events. When swimming two swimmers per lane the timing system must either be semi-automatic using two-independent timing systems or manual timing. Automatic timing may not be used when swimming two swimmers per lane.

Action needed: Determine if this should be a policy or procedure and handle accordingly.

- Senior champs: There were some problems at Senior Champs, one of which is a recurring problem, that warrant attention.
Action needed: Discussion and follow-up.
- Swimposium planning: To be discussed in the Officials Committee on Sunday. One idea is to expand it this year to an all encompassing meet planning day.

Officials Committee Meeting (26 April 2009)

Attending: Tom Colasurdo, Michael Downs, Tom Elliott, Jim Frye, Kevin Hogan, Kevin Maloy, Mike Willard, George Smith, David Strider, Stephanie Suhling, Mary Turner

- Rules updates & clarifications
 - 1 suit rule: Discussed the interpretation and clarifications. Will need to continue being proactive. If a swimmer reports behind the blocks wearing suits not in conformance with the interpretation the Referee will have to use his/her best judgment as to how long to wait if the athlete wishes to come into conformance.
 - New suite rule for 12 & unders: Goes into effect 15 May 2009. Only applies in 12 & under competition.
 - Stroke briefings: Discussed the need for consistency in stroke briefings. Under the appropriate circumstances a Referee may involve others in the briefing, but trainees should not be used. Everyone is reminded to write DQ slips according to our recommended practice.
- Coaches credentials and other issues arising on deck: This issue was discussed at the BOD meeting. The expectation is that the interaction between officials and coaches should be

professional and respectful at all times. Failure to follow the direction of a Referee or Marshal is viewed as a serious issue and depending on the circumstances may merit reporting to the Board of Review.

- Swimposium: Scheduled for 3 October 2009. Looking at “How to Run a Swim Meet” as a broad topic of interest to a wide audience that goes beyond the officials. Looking for topics under this heading to begin developing an outline. Jim Knicely has resigned from the committee and we will not have his help. Kevin Maloy has volunteered, however, to head-up putting the Swimposium together.
- Club Officials Chairs: Discussed the need for getting everyone on the same page. An LSC wide retreat was discussed but may prove difficult in getting everyone together. There’s no reason, however, that District Chairs can’t get together with Club Officials Chairs in their districts.
- Certifying officials: This is to be done by the District Chair of the individual certifying. It should not be done by Referees at meets.
- Officials “stuff”:
 - Five year pins: Need to order a new batch.
 - Badge reels: Will begin handing out at meets.
 - Hang pens: George Smith will look at availability and price.
 - Officials patches: Will order when needed.
 - Name badges: Decided that we would begin getting these out after the individual first certifies rather than waiting a year. Tom Colasurdo will generate the list. Cathy Rudolph previously indicated that we need to order new blanks. We also need to determine the feasibility of having the badges shipped directly to the individuals.
- Officials Tracking System: We will begin tracking officials in OTS. Following discussion Tom Colasurdo and Stephanie Suhling volunteered to enter the data into the system. Kevin Hogan to get them system permissions. For the present, we will continue with our VSI certification cards. Need to get the word out to Referees that they will need to provide Tom and Stephanie with a listing of who worked when and how many sessions at their meets.
- Referee trainees: Have one current trainee. Approved another trainee and discussed several individuals as potential future trainees. They will also be contacted to let them know what must be done.
- Volunteer service: Discussed how we can best make volunteers feel appreciated. “Stuff” is nice, but a sincere thank you is at the top of the list. A continuing challenge is to keep our most active volunteers from burning out.
- National Certification: Michael Downs reviewed the number of N2 and N3 officials that we have. The number of N3 certifications is on the increase.