

## VIRGINIA OFFICIALS COMMITTEE ZOOM MEETING

December 17, 2019

1. In attendance – Georg Fuhs, Scott Farrar, George Zolovick, Beth Arnold, Michael Sizemore, Bob Rustin, Ralph Jones, Genny Kimbel, John Squires and Dan Demers
2. USA Swimming 12&U Tech Suit Restrictions FAQs - I did not receive any feedback or additional questions, so I replied that the FAQs listed covered any of our concerns.
3. USA Swimming WE ARRE MENTORS Workshop for N3i and N3 Final Evaluators. I will shoot at note to Kevin Hogan to see if he can attend.
4. Meet feedback so far this year – Probably the biggest hurdle was the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of December. We had five meets within 2 hours of each other. Plus, USA Swimming holds their National Meets the same weekend. Running 5 P/F meets dries up the available administrative and wet deck personnel. Most of these meets had one referee that was also the MR. This is asking a lot for less senior Deck Referees, especially those with three sessions per day. Our recommendation is for the VSI Board to discuss imposing limitations on hosting several meets within a couple of hours from each other on the same weekend.
5. How is training going so far and is there any feedback? Despite our best attempt to educate our new officials with the apprenticeship registration, we are running into problems. New Officials are getting confused thinking this form is their yearly registration. Since the effective date is when they take their clinic, most expire in November and they are not registered for December meets. Two suggestions have been offered:
  - They register as non-athletes and pay the yearly fee. Those clubs that pay for their official's registration should reimburse when they complete their training, so they are not on the hook if the official decides it is not for them. This would have to be communicated to all the clubs so they can develop that policy.
  - Request the 60-day registration becomes a 90 or 120-day registration from USA Swimming. Additionally, an automated email is sent to the new official one-month prior to expiring notifying them that their apprenticeship is expiring, and they need to register as a non-athlete.

We are going to add the required test, APT, Concussion and registration with date fields on their respective training cards as well. This will be effective by next spring. We trust that our officials are reasonable folks and will not fudge the numbers. This will help for instances where pools are located in areas with terrible cell phone reception. If you are the only DR, running all of the sessions, it is very difficult to check everyone's credentials as they are walking the door, set up the deck, give a stroke briefing and assignments. Plus eat and stay hydrated, not to mention get off your feet for five minutes and rest.

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6. Items for the Newsletter – APT expirations, concussion training, false start scenarios, working sessions start to finish and some other info from USA Swimming.
7. N3 Evaluators for VSI hosted meets:
  - March 26-29, 2020- Speedo Super Sectional Spring SC- Christiansburg, VA - **Kim and Michael Downs**
  - May 28-31, 2020- Speedo Super Sectionals LC- Collegiate School Aquatic Center, Richmond, VA – **Ron Van Pool**
  - August 5-8, 2020- LC Age Group Championship- Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA – **Barbara Chambers**
8. Recommended # of Officials required for meets housing chase starts:
  - Ideally 12 S&T, 2 DRs, 2 Starters, 2 TEOs, 2 AOs – If we are notifying swimmers of a disqualified swim, we will need additional CJ's at a minimum of 3.
9. Recommended # of Officials required for two pools
  - Per pool 6 S&T, 1 DR, 1 Starter, 1 TEO and 1 AOs
10. DR training:
  - Ben Ackerly has finished
  - Shelly Sykes – card is finished, needs to finish the tests
  - Anne Marie Juhlian – worked P/F at a recent HOKI meet, should be close to finishing
  - Kelly Warnagaris -card is finished, working on the tests
  - Ralph Ingraham – in progress
11. MRs for upcoming championship meets both club and VSI sponsored:

We like to get younger DRs in the pipeline training so if we can suggest some folks to the teams that would help keep the pipeline full. The challenge we face is that some of these meets fall on the same weekend as HS Championship meets, which can deplete our options.

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Last year this was the line-up:

Dates	District	Meet	Host Club 2019	2019 MR	OQM	Evaluators
2/9-2/10	C	District 8 & Y	NOVA	Anne Van Lenten		
	SE	District 8 & Y	ODAC			
2/9-2/10	SW	District 8 & Y	LY	John Stanley		
2/15-2/17	C	District 9-12	NOVA	Glenn West		
2/15-2/17	SE	District 12 & Y	SEVA	Ken Romney		
2/15-2/17	N	District 12 & Y	PWSC	Tony Martinich		
2/22-2/24	SW/BR	District 9-12/Region 13 & O	LY	Steve Woolfolk		
2/22-2/24	N	Region 13 & O	RAYS	Peter O'Hara		
2/22-2/24	SE	Region 13 & O	CGBD	Art Zachary		
2/28-3/3	LSC	SC Senior Champs	PSDN-Hanover	Genny Kimbel	N2/N3 S&T	
3/7-3/10	LSC	SC AG Champs	HOKI	Ralph Jones	N2/N3 S&T	
3/28-3/31	EZ S	Sectionals	HOKI	Jack Neil		Pat Lundsford
5/28-5/31	EZ	Super Sectionals (LC)	SRVA			
7/12-7/14	LSC 2 SE	Summer Awards	TIDE	Ken Romney		
7/12-7-14	LSC1 N	Summer Awards	RAYS	Michael Sizemore		
7/12-7/14	LSC3 SW	Summer Awards	HOKI	George Zolovick		
7/26-7/29	LSC	LC Senior Champs	LY	Georg Fuhs	N2/N3 S&T	
7/26-7/29	LSC	LC AG Champs	HOKI	John Squires	N2/N3 S&T	
7/26-7/29	EZ	LC AG Champs	LY	Ken Galica		Paul Memont

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These are the meets for this year:

Dates	Host Club 2020	2019 MR	OQM	Evaluators
2/7-2/8	NOVA			
2/7-2/8	ODAC			
2/14-2/16	NOVA			
2/14-2/16	CCA			
2/14-2/16	SEVA			
2/14-2/16	PWSC			
2/28-3/1	LY			
2/28-3/1	RAYS			
2/28-3/1	CGBD			
3/5-3/8	SRVA-CSAC	Georg Fuhs	N2/N3 S&T	
3/12-3/15	HOKI	John Squires	N2/N3 S&T	
3/26-3/29	HOKI	Bob Menck	N3	Downs/Downs
5/28-5/31	SRVA-CSAC		N3	Ron Van Pool
7/10-7/12	TIDE	Art Zachary		
7/10-7/12	RAYS			
7/10-7/12	HOKI			
7/16-7/19	LY-Liberty	Ralph Jones	N2/N3 S&T	
7/23-7/26	SEVA-CSAC	Ken Romney	N2/N3 S&T	
8-5/8/8	LY-Liberty		N3	Barbara Chambers

Please let me know if you have any suggestions for the meets without MRs and we will see if we'll suggest them to the host clubs.

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12. Officials SWAG for District Chairs– John Squires is putting the packages together and will include patches, pens, pins, whistle lanyards, relay take off slip and plastic patch covers. The last two will be sent as they come in.
13. Official Apparel – BSN is our provider and the orders are not fulfilled until the order period is closed. Scott will renew the link every six weeks and have it open for periods when new officials are looking for an extra shirt or other items.
14. Concussions at meets – We all agree that the MR will not allow any swimmer to compete if the suffered a concussion. The coach will be notified of head bumps and it then up to the parent and coach to decide whether they can compete or sent for medical care. In the case of team travel, the chaperones should be granted medical authority to bring a swimmer that does not have parent at a meet who has signs of a concussion to a medical facility. A signed Return to Play from a licensed doctor with applicable training in that field is required for return to play. We strongly suggest VSI not take on the responsibility of allowing return to play without a medical release form signed by a license doctor.
15. Recertifications – Now is a good time to start on the recertification process in OTS. For all positions, VSI Officials handbook requires a minimum of 8 sessions worked at USA Swimming sanctioned/approved/observed meets or USMS sanctioned/recognized meets within the calendar year. Recertification requirements are based on the highest position for which recertification is sought. Unless requested otherwise by the official, Referees will automatically be recertified at Starter, Stroke & Turn Judge, while Starters will automatically be recertified at Chief Judge and Stroke & Turn. Administrative Officials will automatically recertify at recorder and timing equipment operator at the LSC level, provided they have met the 8-session requirement, either in one position or combination. As District Chairs, I offer you some latitude and trust your judgement. If some folks have been deployed and are/short session, they may, not necessarily required, to retake the recertification, or full test for each position to remain certified. You will have to decide which is the best course, based on the circumstances. I'll take care of the Deck Referee's recertifications.
16. New DQ Slips are circulating within the LSC and we need to create a new file for uploading into Meet Manager to match. I'll ask Michael Downs for the file and see what we can do. Once completed it will be posted on the website for everyone to download and upload into Meet Manager.
17. We are looking for one or more athlete to join the LSC Officials Committee. If you know of someone who is interested, please let me know.
18. If I left anything out, please let me know and I will add accordingly.

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Thanks for all you do for our Sport!

Sincerely,  
Dan