

Potomac Valley Swimming
Safety Report
HOD Meeting
May 19, 2010

Between September 1, 2009 and April 30, 2010, there were 18 incident reports submitted by clubs and meet managers to the PVS acting Safety Chair. These reports were then forwarded to Carol Burch, Director of Member Services at USA Swimming headquarters in Colorado Springs. Submission of the formal incident reports to headquarters insures that clubs and PVS are protected by USA Swimming insurance in case a claim is filed by an injured party. Below is a brief summary of accidents reported:

Incidents involving Athletes	17
Incidents involving officials	<u>1</u>
Total	18
Injured party taken to hospital/medical clinic	3
Incidents that occurred in the water	8
Incidents that occurred on blocks	3
Incidents that occurred on deck	7
Incidents at meets in warm-ups or competition	14
Incidents at club practice/dry land work	4

Based on the size of PVS, I am probably not seeing all incident reports and there are probably incidents for which incident reports are not being completed. Club owners should impress upon coaches the importance of completing an incident report for any injury or situation that could potentially lead to an injury claim being filed. USA Swimming insurance is in effect only if an incident report has been filed. A report of incident may be filed up to one year after the date of an incident. After that time, a club will not be eligible for coverage under the USA Swimming liability insurance. As a protection for clubs, the PVS Safety Chair keeps a formal record of all incident reports filed with USA Swimming. While it is not mandatory that a club provide the Safety Chair with a copy of an incident report, it is prudent to do so. An electronic and paper record is kept by the Safety Chair so that if in the future there are any questions about an incident report being filed, proof can be provided of the submittal and receipt of the report by USA Swimming. This provides maximum protection for clubs.

Incident reports can be sent to the PVS Safety Chair either through snail mail or a report can be scanned and transmitted to the Safety Chair as a PDF document attached to an email. The latter method provides proof that the club did in fact submit a report if there are ever any questions.

Respectfully submitted

John F Ertter
PVS Acting Safety Chair