



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



I wish all PVS Officials a very Happy New Year. 2015 was an extremely successful and busy year for us. See some statistics about the level of our volunteer efforts in the "Fun Facts" article below.

If you've ever wondered what it would be like to be an official at an international meet, read the article by Denice Wepasnick. The languages may be different, but the rules are the same all over the world.

Thank you for your continued support of Potomac Valley Swimming. The LSC could not be run without you.

If you have not yet registered for 2016 or your certifications are expired on 12/31/2015, please take care of them as soon as possible. I wouldn't want you to be turned away from a meet in January

Email me your comments and questions anytime.

Tim Husson
OfficialsChair@pvswim.org

PVS on the Move Working Outside of the LSC



PVS Officials participating in the Arena Pro Series in Minneapolis: Denice Wepasnick; John Byrnes; Jon Van Nimwegin; and Bob Vincent



PVS Officials participating in Junior Nationals East in Atlanta: Morgan Hurley; Amy Hsu; Steed Edwards; and Jack Neill



PVS Officials participating in Junior Nationals West in Austin: Tim Husson; Denice Wepasnick; Ellen Colket; and Bob Vincent.

World Cup by Denice Wepasnick



International Officiating Experience

I had the experience of officiating at the Pan-American Games in Toronto, Canada this past summer and was asked to write about my experience at an international meet.

I was asked in November of last year whether I would like to be an official at the Pan American Games 2015. I, of course, screamed “yes!” I have been on the UANA (Union Americana de Natacion) Official’s list for a couple of years now and this would be my first international meet!

Then the arduous task of credentialing began. I filled out forms, copied my passport, and had numerous photos taken for my credentials as none were what they wanted! Finally, third time was the charm and I was finally accepted as an official for the Games by UANA. Then the fun began: finding white pants and a white belt (I already had the shoes)!!

As the meet approached, I received many emails, several of them in Spanish (thank goodness I am bilingual) with information about hotels, transportation, flights, and uniform pieces provided. It was overwhelming, to say the least.

When I arrived to the airport in Toronto, the entire airport was celebrating the Games! There were cheerleader, mascots, gifts given, and buses, many buses. Alas, none of the buses were for me. I waited for about an hour and finally they sent a limo for me! What service! Once I got to my hotel, everything clicked into place...this is just a swim meet, but a swim meet of international proportions!!! My roommate was from Suriname. I had never heard of this small Dutch country before, but we got along famously.

The pool was amazing, built specifically for the games. The officials were from all over South America, the Caribbean, U.S.A, and Canada. There were definitely language barriers, but my Spanish came in handy. I ended up bonding with the Caribbean officials and they welcomed me with open arms. A more gracious group of people you will never meet.

Our briefings were done in English and Spanish and very entertaining. I was the only official who was only UANA. Everyone else was a FINA official and knew their stuff. The meet was a FINA meet with all that that entails. There were many things that were done the same way we normally do, but many things were very different. We paraded every time we started a session. If there was a disqualification, after speaking to the Chief Inspector of Turns (CJ) the Turn official or Stroke official would walk to a table by the starter area to fill out this letter size DQ slip, writing out the description of the DQ according to FINA rules. This was no fill in the blank or check list! Stroke officials sat in chairs at the end of each race just like the Turn officials. It was definitely a meet filled with Pomp and Circumstance.

Since I was not a FINA starter, I was not allowed to start at the swimming championships, however, I was asked to start the swimming event of the Men's Modern Pentathlon. Oh the excitement of the spectators and swimmers!!! It was great fun and an honor to be allowed to start these men. (They had just finished fencing!!)

This was an opportunity of a life time for me and I thank USA Swimming and Potomac Valley Swimming for allowing me to be a part of it.

PVS Officiating Fun Facts

by Tim Husson & Kelly Rowell



Officiating by the Numbers

PVS ended 2015 with a record number of certified officials – 591. Over the course of 2015, PVS officials dedicated their time and skills to 10,901 sessions. Using a highly conservative estimate of 2 hours for a session, that's almost 2 ½ years of volunteer hours! 378 PVS officials – almost 64% - qualified for PVS to pay their 2016 USA Swimming Registration Fee.

There were 140 sanctioned meets in Potomac Valley in 2015. Of that total, 6 were approved meets (YMCA, MCSL LC and Black History Meets) and 16 were observed meets (H.S. and Masters). Over 280,000 times from these meets were loaded into the SWIMS database in 2015.

As we begin 2016, 368 PVS officials – over 62% - are fully registered (including current APT and Background Check) beginning January 1, 2016. 100 PVS officials have certifications that expire in 2015. As of December 29, 2015, PVS will have 331 registered and certified officials on January 1, 2016. If you are among the 260 officials who need to register or recertify for 2016, please be sure to do so before volunteering on deck.

You Make the Call!



Question: An 8-year-old approaches the first turn in the 50-yard breaststroke. Prior to touching, he does a flip turn and pushes off the wall with both feet.

Is this legal?

Upcoming Clinics



Date	Clinic	Location	Time	Who's Attending
Tuesday January 5	Chief Judge	MLK Swim Center	7:00 - 9:00 PM	list
Thursday January 7	Timing System Operator	Univ. of MD	7:00 - 9:00 PM	list
Saturday January 9	Administrative Official	GMU	8:00 - 10:00 AM	list
Saturday January 9	Timing System Operator	GMU	10:00 AM - NOON	list
Saturday January 9	Hy-Tek Computer Operator	GMU	12:30 - 2:30 PM	list
Saturday January 9	Stroke & Turn	KSAC	7:00 - 9:30 PM	list
Sunday January 10	Chief Judge	GMU	8:00 - 10:00 AM	list
Sunday January 10	New Referee (By Invitation Only)	Overlee	9:30 - 11:30 AM	By Invitation
Sunday January 10	Starter	GMU	10:00 AM - NOON	list
Sunday January 10	Referee	Overlee	NOON - 2:00 PM	list
Sunday January 10	Stroke & Turn	GMU	12:30 - 3:00 PM	list
Monday January 11	Stroke & Turn (Recent Only)	KSAC	7:00 - 9:00 PM	list
Wednesday January 20	Starter	MLK Swim Center	7:00 - 9:00 PM	list

You Make the Call Resolution



Recommended Resolution: No. The swimmer must touch the wall at the end of each length with both hands simultaneously. The swimmer should be disqualified.

Applicable Rules: 101.2.4

Upcoming Meets



JANUARY

Date	Meet	Host	Location
2	UMAC Animal Meet	UMAC	UMD
2-3	PVS January Distance Meet	BWST	Lee District
9-10	MAKO Winter Invitational	MAKO	GMU
9-10	Senior Circuit #3	AAC	Wakefield H.S.
9-10	DCPR Winter Invitational	DCPR	Takoma
9-10	Polar Bear Meet (By Invitation)	SDS	South Run
10	RMSC Frosty Pentathlon (By Invitation)	RMSC	Germantown
15-17	Arena Pro Swim Series (LCM)		<i>Austin, TX</i>
16-17	PVS January Open	RMSC	Germantown
		FBST	Audrey Moore
		FAST	Fairland
23-24	Snow Dude Mini Meet	PM	Mt. Vernon
23-24	Green & Orange Bowl Invitational	MACH	Madeira
29-31	IM Xtreme Games - NE	PM	UMD
31	Polar Pentathlon Mini	NCAP	Claude Moore

FEBRUARY

Date	Meet	Host	Location
6	February Qualifier	SNOW	Claude Moore
6-7	Super FISH Bowl	FISH	Spring Hill
7	PVS February Distance	TBD	Fairland
7	Munchkin Mania	FAST	Fairland
7	February Friendship Mini Meet (by invitation)	YORK	Providence
12-14	<i>30th Annual Black History Meet</i>	<i>DCPR</i>	Takoma
13	MAKO Qualifier	MAKO	GMU
13-14	Winter Gator Mini Meet	AAC	Wakefield H.S.
13-14	Gender Blender Mini Meet	RMSC	KSAC
13-14	President's Day Classic	OCCS	WARE
13-14	PM 14&U JO Qualifier	PM	Cub Run
14	Penguin 9-12 Pentathlon	PAC	Fairland
19-21	PVS 18&U Age Group Championships	FBST	Lee District
19-21	RMSC February Qualifier	RMSC	MLK

20-21	MACH-YORK Qualifier	MACH	Maderia
20-21	NCAP Mini Champs	NCAP	Freedom Center



Jack's Corner

Thoughts to Ponder by Jack Neill



The Briefing

Before every session officials gather for the briefing: a review of the rules, the assignments, the jurisdictions, and other pertinent information. Many of us have attended hundreds of briefings and have listened to the verbal review of the “wet rules” countless times. Sometimes the temptation is to daydream and not really pay attention—after all, it’s early in the morning and we’ve heard it all before.

But the briefing is a critical part of our professional identity as officials. It’s an opportunity to share thoughts and ask questions. It’s a chance to focus and make sure the rulebook is fresh in our minds before heading to the deck. And it’s an essential part of the mentoring process. Ideally, the briefing should serve as the portal that takes us from the workaday world into the mindset of the professional official for the next few hours.

Did you know that NFL officials spend 8 hours on the day before every single game reviewing the rulebook? Even 20 year veterans undergo this important exercise to prepare for the game. Officials in other professional and collegiate sports leagues participate in similar reviews prior to games. No matter how well you know the rulebook, this activity keeps it in the forefront of your mind prior to stepping onto the field, the court, or the deck.

I’ve had the privilege (and the pressure!) of presenting the detailed stroke briefing to officials at two national championships. Picture a room filled with referees, many of whom have far more experience than I have. But everyone is focused, listening attentively, asking relevant questions, willing to share information and experiences. There’s never a sense of “been there, done that.”

If you’re the one delivering the stroke briefing, you have a golden opportunity to be a mentor. It’s not necessary to brief the strokes from memory, but it’s best to avoid reading them verbatim—no adult likes to be read-to. Try to make eye contact with your colleagues; their faces will tell you if they understand you or if they have questions. Be complete, but don’t embellish. Answer questions, but don’t get bogged down in trivia or in scenarios that are highly unlikely. If you have

apprentice officials working the session, make them feel comfortable—they may feel intimidated to ask questions while everyone’s gathered for the briefing, so privately check with them afterwards. Rules, jurisdictions, and assignments (including relief) are critical; unless it’s a championship meet, protocol is significantly less important. Keep an eye on the clock and finish in a timely manner, so no one feels rushed to get into position.

Regardless of whether or not you can count the number of briefings you’ve attended, make the next one count.



BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT GOES TO THE SWIMMER!

Call what you see and see what you call

