

Hello!

My name is Carolyn Kotarski and I am York's new Officials Chair. I am looking forward to meeting you. As the Officials Chair, I am in charge of many things including coordinating officials for York-hosted meets and recruiting new officials.

My daughter has been swimming with York since 2011. I decided to become a Potomac Valley Swimming (PVS) official in the fall of 2013 because I was tired of fighting for a seat in very hot and crowded bleachers. Being on deck is the best place to watch my daughter swim! In addition to the prime viewing location, being an official has allowed me to become a part of a great community of volunteers. It has also afforded me the opportunity to get to know our coaches and to understand how the meets operate.

Here is a True or False Quiz which may help dispel some of the bad rumors about being an official:

1. You need a competitive swimming background in order to be an official.
FALSE! PVS provides all of the training that you will need to become an official, regardless of previous swimming experience.
2. Training to become an official is time consuming.
FALSE! Most positions require 5 training sessions including the evaluation to become certified. A typical meet consists of 4-6 age group sessions per day so there are many opportunities to train.
3. Once you are certified, you have to work every session at every meet.
FALSE! For most positions, you only need to work 4 sessions a year to maintain your certification. You get to pick when you want to work.
4. The NVSL Stroke and Turn Clinic that I took this summer doesn't count as a Potomac Valley Swimming (PVS) Clinic.
FALSE! Many of the Northern Virginia Swim League (NVSL) Stroke and Turn Clinics will count towards your training. Once your participation in an NVSL clinic has been verified by the PVS Certification Official, you can begin training.
5. Being an Official is expensive.
FALSE! While you are responsible for purchasing your official's uniform (white top over navy bottom), York Swim Club will pay for a new official's USA Swimming membership (1 year). In addition, you may be eligible for PVS to pay for your membership renewal if you work 10 sessions at PVS-sanctioned meets throughout the calendar year.

I encourage all of you to consider becoming a PVS Official. We are in constant need of new officials. PVS meets are entirely run by volunteers. As your Officials Chair, I am here to help you navigate the process of becoming an official. I promise to be honest about the pros and cons of each position and help you find the one that is best for you.

To help navigate the process of becoming an official, I have created *How to Become a Potomac Valley Official: A Step by Step Guide*. This document is very detailed and should make the process of becoming an official easy and stress free. It is posted on York's website so that you can reference it at any time.

I will be at the York Parents Night on Sunday, September 13, at Providence Rec Center, from 5-6pm, to answer any questions. Look for me- I will be the one wearing the PVS uniform (white top/navy bottoms).

If you cannot attend, please feel free to call me or send me an email (ckotarski@gmail.com) at any time with your questions and concerns.

Regards,

Carolyn Kotarski
571-521-9025