

Officials Committee Report 13 August 2005

Officials Swimposium to be held September 24-25, 2005

- Mary Scott Garrett is coordinating (along with other Swimposium components)
- Jeanine Dennis and Charly Mallory will serve as facilitators
- The second day of the clinic will serve as a referee refresher clinic, although all officials are welcome to attend

Referee refresher clinics

- Two to three clinics will be held this fall (including the one at the Swimposium), and these will be held on an annual basis in the future

Coaches and Officials survey

- Both the coaches and officials have been requested to provide input on the state of officiating in VSI, with the results primarily being used to determine areas of emphasis for upcoming referee clinics

Officials Committee

- There is some turnover taking place on the committee and the final roster should be set soon
- Training and other information is being updated for the coming season
- Training clinics for all positions will be set soon

Appendix-Proposed Changes to the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations

Proposed Rule Change 1.

Background: The no-recall false start rule was in part put in place because it is thought that an athlete's first start is generally their best start, and that to recall a race therefore penalizes those athletes that did not false start. By rule, if the Starter inadvertently recalls the heat because they believe there is a false start, there is no false start charged even if the Referee would have otherwise confirmed the false start. As a consequence of this rule, a swimmer starting before the starting signal has been given is afforded a "second chance" to swim. The proposed change would remove this second chance if the Referee independently confirms the Starter's observation, while still allowing for the norm to be that we do not recall for false starts.

C If the recall signal is activated inadvertently, no swimmer shall be charged with a false start and the Referee independently observes and confirms the starter's observation that a violation occurred, the swimmer or swimmers who have false started shall be disqualified. The Starter shall then restart the race upon signal by the Referee.

Proposed Rule Change 2.

Background: Prior to the adoption of the no-recall false start rule, there was specific language in the starting rule that excused a swimmer from a false start if the false start was caused by the swimmer's reaction to the "Stand" command. Despite the fact that this language was dropped from the rule, the philosophy continues to hold. The proposed change restores the language so that the philosophy is grounded in the rule.

D A swimmer who would otherwise be charged with a false start may be relieved of the charge if the false start was caused by the swimmer's reaction to the "Stand Up" command.

Renumber the current "D" as "E"

Proposed Rule Change 3.

Background: Prior to the adoption of the no-recall false start rule, there was specific language in the starting rule that specified that the starter was responsible for enforcement of the correct starting position. Despite the fact that this language was dropped from the rule, the philosophy continues to hold. The proposed change restores the language to the rule.

D A swimmer shall not be disqualified for an illegal starting position at the start if the race if the race is permitted to proceed with or without a recall. Enforcement of the correct starting position is the responsibility of the Starter, who, with the concurrence of the Referee, may impose the appropriate penalty for violation before the starting signal is given.

Renumber the current "D" as "E"