

VSI Officials Committee Report

August 10, 2006

Summary of activities since the April 30, 2006 committee meeting

1. Jim Knicely (WAC) and Tom Elliott (NOVA) attended the USA-S Officials Workshop in Colorado Springs (May 27-29, 2006). Both Jim and Tom found the experience to be very worthwhile and both have summarized what they learned in individual reports which are posted on the VSI website.
2. Bob Dray (LY) and Jim Frye (RAYS) have completed their certification at Referee.
3. Certification/re-certification issues
 - a. *Clinic for Referee Apprentices:* Will be held in conjunction with the Swimposium.
 - b. *Administrative Referee certification:* Guidelines for this certification are being put in place.
 - c. *Certification levels:* The new National Certification scheme has three levels of national certification, one of which (N1) is administered at the LSC level, and two of which (N2, N3) are administered at the national level. Use of the N1 designation is optional at the LSC level, but experience equivalent to N1 is required to progress to N2. National certification now only involves S&T, Chief Judge, Starter, Referee, and Administrative Referee; dry deck certifications have been dropped.

N1 certification: We will use the N1 designation which will basically identify an official that has been through recertification and who has demonstrated basic competence in their position. This designation is being incorporated in the Certification/Re-Certification Guidelines.

Advanced dry deck certifications: Advanced certifications for Timing Equipment Operator, Timing Judge, and Recorder are being created and will be in place for the 2006/2007 season. Such certification would serve a two-fold purpose. The certification would replace the national certifications which are no longer available and they would identify individuals that are highly qualified to work our championship level meets. To distinguish initial from advanced LSC certifications, the designations V1 will be used for initial certification at all dry and wet deck positions. V2 will be used for the advanced certification at Timing Equipment Operator, Timing Judge, and Recorder, while wet deck officials will progress through N1, N2, and N3. These changes have been incorporated into the Certification/Recertification Guidelines.
 - d. *N2 certification meets other than Senior Champs:* It was confirmed that this can be done for initial N2 certification but not for re-certifications. Initial N2 certification was offered at Long Course Age Group Champs.
 - e. *National evaluators:* The HOD approved the funding of officials attending national championship level meets. A policy and corresponding application is currently being put together for those that would like to have their travel subsidized. The goal is to balance the need of getting new individuals into the system while not ignoring those that have been paying out of pocket in the past. There is also a consensus that the money should be used to subsidize attendance at some level, but not to pay the entire cost.
 - f. *Certification materials:* Training material for "Introduction to Officiating", Timer, Stroke and Turn, and Starter has been updated and rewritten. Training material for Referee

is nearing completion. The Certification/Recertification Guidelines have been updated to reflect a-d above. The Certification/Recertification Guidelines are also being incorporated into a VSI Officials Manual. This manual will cover the introduction to officiating, certification, recertification, progression, officiating at championship level meets, dress code, professionalism, etc. It will be completed prior to the 2006/2007 season.

4. Educational

- a. *Swimposium*: October 7-8, 2006 at the Koger Center. The components will include a Referee Refresher component, a wet deck component, a dry deck component, and a clinic for training Referees. The facilitators come from within the VSI ranks.
5. *Officials apparel*: Lands End has been setup as a vendor for providing embroidered shirts for officials (both white polo and blue oxford). Individuals or groups may place orders. Directions for ordering are posted on the VSI website.
6. *Patches*: 1000 VSI Officials badges were purchased.