

VSI Officials Committee Report

23 March 2010

- **Championship Meets:** District, Regional, Age Group, and Senior Championship meets have now been completed. These meets were generally well staffed and well run. Senior Champs is becoming increasingly reliant on officials who no longer have active swimmers to adequately staff the meet. Whether this is a short term development or a continuing trend remains to be seen. If the trend continues, adequate meet staffing will become an issue, particularly if Long Course Senior Champs continues to be held out of the LSC.
- **Women in Officiating:** USA Swimming has set up a task force to study why women are under-represented in the officiating ranks. The VSI Officials Committee welcomes any comments and suggestions on this issue. Any comments and suggestions received will also be passed along to the national task force.
- **Swimposium:** Planning for the Swimposium will begin shortly. Suggested topics are welcomed by all.
- **Name Badges for Officials:** Hasty Awards is now the vendor. Each official will continue to be provided a name badge upon initial certification. Officials requiring replacement name badges now have the ability to order one directly from Hasty via an on-line link.
- **Officials Tracking System (OTS):** OTS is now being used to track all of our officials with the exception of those dry deck officials who are not registered members of USA Swimming. Beginning with the 2010/2011 short course season this will change as all of our officials will be required to be members of USA Swimming, and thus will be in the database. The shift to OTS has gone relatively smoothly and we are continuously updating a list of suggested features to provide to USA Swimming.
- **2010 Rules and Regulations:** Part One of the rulebook goes into effect on May 1, 2010. This is two weeks earlier than in past years and reflects the change made at the most recent convention.
- **Swimsuits:** An updated list of FINA approved suits has recently been circulated and is available on both the USA Swimming and VSI websites. There has also been a change to the Open Water swimsuit rule and that change is also posted on the same sites. Although we've largely gotten past all of the swimsuit "issues", everyone should be aware that some vendors are still selling suits that are no longer legal for competition. If coaches or athletes have any questions about a particular suit, those questions should be directed to the Meet Referee prior to the swim taking place (ideally before the session starts). We'd much prefer to get the swimmer legal early so that they aren't distracted with suit issues just prior to the start of their heat, or worse yet, disqualified because they are competing in a suit that is not legal.