



VIRGINIA OFFICIALS NEWS AND NOTES

TIS THE SEASON

With the calendar year coming to an end. Everyone is getting geared up for Xmas Championships season as well as the approach of SC Championships on the horizon. There are always some questions regarding some of the administrative procedures.

REGISTRATION AND CERTIFICATION

YES-- THERE IS A DIFFERENCE

Both need to be completed but one doesn't automatically renew the other.

The **Registration Year** is based on a calendar year period; however all annual registrations received on or after September 1 do not expire until December 31 of the following year (a 15 month period). All applications, both paper and electronic, need to be submitted to the VSI Registrar at registrationchair@virginiaswimming.org. The official date of registration will be the date the VSI Office receives the registrations (whether electronic or hard copy). However, the registrations will not be processed until the fees, background check and athlete protection courses are completed or current. Here is the [LINK](#) to the Registration page on the website. Payment can be made from the Payment Center on the main page of the website.

Certification(or Re-certification) is based on working the required number of sessions within the calendar year. Only sessions worked at USA Swimming sanctioned or USMS sanctioned meets may be counted towards the session requirement. Sessions at meets run by another organization (NFHS, NCAA, YMCA) may be counted if the meet is sanctioned, approved, or observed by USA Swimming.

Certification is on an annual basis and expires on December 31 of each year. The certification of those officials not recertifying will be suspended, and those individuals will not be allowed to officiate unless they recertify.

Recertification requirements are based on the highest position for which recertification is sought. Unless requested otherwise by the official, Referees will automatically be recertified at Starter, Stroke & Turn Judge, and Timing Judge (if already certified). Starters will automatically be recertified at Stroke & Turn. Administrative



Supervisors will automatically be recertified as Timing Judges. Only the dry deck positions have cumulative recertification requirements.

Here are the links to the

- [1. Background Check](#)
- [2. Athlete Protection Course](#)

REMEMBER- Registration is completed once you've completed all of the administrative needs. Re-certification is done at the end of the year by your District Officials Chair.

MEMBERSHIP CARD AND DECK-PASS

Don't forget that membership cards are no longer being mailed out and that your registration card on Deck Pass serves as your credentials for meets. But if you want to accessorize with your 2017 gold card you can log into the USA-S website and under *MY DECK PASS*, select the *Please see Membership Card* below and then go down to the *Print Officials Card*.

BECOME CERTIFIED AT OTHER POSITIONS

The question always come up. "Now that I've been a Stroke and Turn judge for awhile, what should I do next?" It's a great question and as we all know it takes many different jobs around the deck to run a meet.

The most natural progression is Chief Judge. You've already had the interaction with the position at briefing and during meets and this will continue to hone your skills at Stroke and Turn. If it's Chief Judging, Starting or running the Administrative end, each position has a unique set of skills for where some people have a natural aptitude.

If your thinking about moving around the deck and being more flexible at meets, talk to your District Chair and ask them what is needed to advance. Usually they are looking for someone they are familiar with and has shown that they are proficient at their current role. Obviously the number of worked sessions helps them determine this. Many of our recommendations for advancement come from Meet Referee's post meet reports.

WORKING MEETS AT THE NEXT LEVEL-



As mentioned before many of us are traveling this time of year to prelim/final championships format meet. Many of our officials are going to spread out in Christiansburg, Newport News, Warrenton, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Cary.. and other places. We do have some officials working USA-S Nationals in Atlanta as well as USA-S Junior Nationals in College Station and Columbus. [\(click here for a list of those attending.\)](#) If you are looking at getting experience at the next level of meet talk to some of the people on the linked list and ask them about their officiating journey.

We are lucky that Virginia hosts Zones in the summer (at least 2017 and 2018) as well as Sectionals which give us an opportunity to work with people from many different LSC's.

Currently the application to officiate for the 2017 Speedo Sectional meet in Christiansburg is online.([LINK](#)) With the demand for more higher level national meets we benefit from being centrally located on the east coast. While this summers Futures Series meets haven't been announced all of the applications for the Arena Pro Series meets are online([LINK](#))

DO I NEED A NATIONAL CERTIFICATION TO WORK THESE MEETS?

The National Certification program was established to develop officials who are competent and consistent across all levels of USA-S. Certification at any level requires a combination of several things including evaluations, local participation at meets, continuing education, and the training and mentoring of other officials.

The LSC certification is the initial and most common level of official. Certified individuals are able to officiate at LSC level events within their home LSC and enjoy reciprocity when traveling to other LSCs. N2 is the first National level for a position – Recognizes that an official is experienced and has been evaluated as capable of working the position at Sectional, Zone and similar higher profile meets. The second National level for a position is N3. Recognizes that an official has the experience, skills and knowledge to be considered for selection to work National Championship level meets in the evaluated position.



GIVING BACK BY PAYING FORWARD

Originally published on USA-S website November 2012

An organization or team is only as good as its foundation, and this past summer Aaron Peirsol was “caught in the act” of strengthening the base by mentoring younger swimmers.

Peirsol was the national team rep for the Junior Pan Pac Team. The three-time Olympian, gold medalist and world record holder considered Jr. Pan Pac’s the best trip of the summer, even better than the Olympics. Why? The opportunity to interact with up-and-coming junior swimmers and to mentor them to step into the big fins of swimmers who will retire during this Quad. “Our Olympic team had a mix of young and old, but many of our athletes are older and may not stay until 2016. This team needs to be ready to step in, deal with the pressure and perform,” Aaron commented.

Give them energy and confidence. Get them ready to step in and perform. This mentoring theme can easily be applied to the officials’ side. Aaron could have spent that week doing many things, but he didn’t. He chose to invest in the next generation of elite athletes and Olympic hopefuls. He swam, laughed, ate, talked and coached with them, building a team, and passing on his passion.



*Jim Frye
Never forgotten
Always paying it forward*

We mentor to give back. We mentor to pay forward to a sport that has been good to us. We need younger officials in our ranks, learning our craft, gaining experience, preparing to take our place on pool decks. We take them under our wing, and teach them the fine points of officiating to give them energy and

confidence. We should be happy the “youngsters” are coming up behind us, rather than fearing that they will displace us. The frequent looks of pride and celebration on Aaron’s face as Team USA performed over and over said that it’s all good, and maybe even better.

***Happy Holidays
and
Safe Travels***

***Virginia Swimming
Moving Forward
Swimming Fast***