

Virginia Swimming Officials Fall Newsletter

August 31, 2021
Volume 1, Issue 7

What is in store after last year!

Who would have thought Virginia LSC would hold 152 USA Swimming sanctioned meets in the 2020 season? Considering all of the COVID restrictions, no way! These meets were 8&U competitions, intrasquad, dual, invitational, VSI Championship and Open meets! That is a wide spectrum of competition which were all held within the COVID guidelines. In summary, it was a successful year that kept our athletes trained and competing in the pool! Furthermore, those meets would not have happen without your dedication. You all played a big part in that success story. As I mentioned in our Winter Newsletter “COVID-19 changed a lot of things but the one thing it cannot change is the creativity of the human mind”. We adapted and we succeeded! A big THANK YOU goes out to all of you!

What are we doing this year? We need to continue to add more Officials within our LSC. Not only new volunteers, but also seasoned Officials gaining new certifications. Last year we implemented Zoom clinics to help with training. The on-line clinics are 1-2 hours in length, where anyone can attend. These clinics cover the basic roles and responsibilities of each position and you can attend from your own home. Clinics provide a venue to ask questions, whereas at a meet we may not have time for a lengthy discussion. We will also be offering in-person clinics as well. The current schedule for clinics is posted at [VSI Official Clinics](#). As more become available, they will be posted so check back often. If you know other parents who might be interested in officiating, please encourage them to attend an entry-level clinic such as S&T, AO or TEO.

SWIMPOSIUM is September 18, 2021—Save the Date!

What is Swimposium? Basically it is a USA Swimming program that provides LSCs with an educational opportunity for members within the LSC. Every two years we invite a USA Swimming presenter where they hold a variety of topics from athlete clinics to club leadership. For Officials, we hold a Swimposium every year in a social forum to keep our Officials up-to-date.

This year, Swimposium will be conducted in hybrid fashion. It will be held in person and also as a webinar. The location will be at the Collegiate School Aquatics Center (CSAC), 5050 Ridgedale Parkway, Richmond, VA 23234. Registration will be posted under the Officials Clinic page for both in-person or webinar..

SWIMPOSUIM—September 18, 2021 (cont)

Below is the Agenda with some background for each session:

8:30 – 9:00 am: Registration

9:00 – 9:15 am: Welcome and Year and review

9:15 – 9:30 am: Service Pin Awards— We recognize officials who have been volunteering for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years. Those that have reached those milestones receive a pin as a token of appreciation.

9:30-10:30 am: Session I – Officials Chairs and Recruiting New Volunteers, what works, barriers and how to resolve. We will have a panel of team chairs to help answer you with any questions.

10:30-10:45 am: Break*

10:45-11:30 am: Session II – Referee/Starter and False Starts – Kevin Hogan will be providing a clinic clarifying what constitutes a false start and what does not.

11:30 – 12:15 pm: Session III— Why Protocols and Jurisdictions are different at various meets- Scott Farrar will be providing this clinic answering some questions on why protocols and jurisdiction change at various levels of meets.

12:15-12:30 pm: Break*

12:30-1:00 pm: Session IV—Advancement and what to expect, fact checking the urban lore for LSC advancements and National Certifications

1:00 pm: Open Forum for Q&A

As always this is a great opportunity to learn, meet other officials, ask questions to hone your craft.

You Make the Call

In a USA Swimming 200-meter backstroke event, the referee blows the first long whistle. The swimmer in lane 3 leaps as far as he can into the pool and slowly sinks to the bottom of the pool. He slowly rises to the surface moving farther away from the start end after which the referee blows the second long whistle. While the other seven swimmers assume a position at the wall, the lane 3 swimmer very slowly swims to the wall and very slowly assumes a starting position. The starter asks that the swimmer in lane 3 be disqualified for delay of the meet. The referee concurs and the swimmer is disqualified. Is this a good call?

Certifications versus Registration

There are two types of certifications an Official can attain. There are LSC Certifications, meaning certified to work as a S&T, TEO, AO etc., or National Certifications, meaning you are certified to work at a National Meet as a S&T, CJ etc.,

LSC Certifications are maintained by the LSC Officials Committee. These are renewed on a calendar year basis (January-December). Provided you have met the requirements set forth in [VSI Officials Handbook](#), your LSC Certification will be renewed by the 1st week in January. If you have not met those requirements, you will need to contact your District Chair for any mediational requirements.

National Certifications expire after 3 years. To recertify, as a minimum, you must sign up to work at an Officials Qualifying Meet, request an evaluation, work at least four(4) sessions at that meet and receive an evaluation. Additionally, you must have one learning and one teaching activity within 3 years listed in OTS.

What is a learning or teaching activity? Attending a clinic, including Swimposium is a learning activity. A teaching activity is mentoring an official. You can add the later in OTS for any meet where you mentored an official. Those instructions can be found at "[Adding Mentoring Session In OTS](#)". I highly recommend you enter those sessions into OTS.

The National Certification does not update your LSC Certification; likewise the LSC Certification does not update your National Certification. If you need more information on the National Certification, click on this link [National Certification Information](#).

Registration is your Non-Athlete Registration with USA Swimming and is separate from a certification. All athletes, coaches, Board Members, chaperones and Officials must register with USA Swimming. This must be processed each year and is based on the calendar year. Virginia Swimming acts as the intermediary for USA Swimming for the registration process. The form can be found at on the Virginia

Certification versus Registration (cont)

Swimming website. Click on this link to locate the form [Registration tab](#).

For officials, use the Non-Athlete Registration Form. I suggest you download the form onto your computer first, then fill in the blocks and send it as noted on the bottom of the form. Also, check with your Club Chair, as most clubs in Virginia will reimburse their officials for a Non-athlete registration.

Good Time to Check Your Registration and Account Information

Have you checked your USA Swimming Account recently? Now is a good time to log on and go to the My Account tab. Check your profile information and make sure everything that is listed is current and correct, especially your email address, the one you read, not the email you use for on-line shopping!

Also, check the box titled USA Swimming Membership Link and ensure your web account is linked to your registration. **This is key and ensures that all of your tests, background check and athlete protection is updated to your OTS account.** The email that you enter on your registration, **must match** the email listed on your web account for this to work correctly.

Then go to deck pass to check when your APT or Background check expires. USA Swimming will also send you a reminder email about one-month prior to expiring as a reminder. They use the email that is listed on your website account.

Apparel Store

Expect the apparel store to open up this Fall for additional orders that you may want. Since we are a small customer, the store is open for a few weeks at a time, orders tabulated and then processed for shipment. Our demand is not high enough to keep a store open 24/7. Scott Farrar will send out the link when the store is open for orders. We also use the email address that is listed in USA Swimming, **(hint: read above paragraph)**. If your email is not correct, you may never see when the store is open!

You Make the Call Resolution

This is a call that requires an exercise of good judgment from the referee. Did the swimmer delay so much that he was creating a problem for the other swimmers? Swimmers have different ways to prepare to race and you don't want to interfere with that unless it negatively affects other competitors. An alternative to a DQ might be to discuss the situation after the race with the swimmer and/or the coach. The latter is especially useful for the first occurrence of this type of activity. Is the call correct? It might be, but this is a situation that can only be decided on site. Applicable Rule: 101.1.5A, 101.1.2A

If you have any questions, regarding the Swimposium, your certifications, registration, clinics or navigating USA Swimming Website, please contact your District Chair, emails listed below.

In closing, we wish you all the best this year. Hope to see y'all at Swimposium, on-deck or an upcoming clinic. Do not forget to get other interested parents involved, word of mouth is a great vehicle for recruiting officials!

All prior newsletters can be found at : [Newsletters](#)

VSI LSC Official Committee

Officials Chair—Dan Demers (ddemers3@cox.net)

Southeast District Chair—Genny Kimbel (Gennykimbel@gmail.com)

Central District Chair—Bob Rustin (brustin55@gmail.com)

North District Chair—Michael Sizemore (MCSizemore@gmail.com)

Southwest District Chairs

North—Beth Arnold (arnoldeaa@gmail.com)

South—George Zolovick (gzolovick@gmail.com)

Athletes: Two positions currently vacant—TBA

Coach: Art Anthony

At-Large Representatives

Kelly Warangaris—kelly@warnagiris.org

John Squires (jpsswmm1@yahoo.com)

Will Murphy (wlmmmurphy@aol.com)

Officials Apparel—Scott Farrar (Sfarrar@bsnsports.com)

Officials Database—Ralph Jones (Ralph.Jones@vdot.virginia.gov)

Thanks for all you do for our Sport!