

## **Officials Committee Report 6 January 2006**

**Officials Committee Structure** – The current committee members are listed below (new individuals are in bold):

- Chair: Kevin Hogan
- Southeast District Co-Chairs: Cathy Rudolph & **Mike Willard**
- Central District Co-Chairs: Pat Donohue & George Smith
- North District Co-Chairs: Skip Gaskill & Wally Hunt
- Southwest District Co-Chairs: Greg Ryder & David Strider
- Swimposium: Tom Elliott
- Officials Roster: **Tom Colasurdo**
- National Certifications: **John Thompson**
- USMS Liaison: Charlie Cockrell, Jr.
- At-Large: Mary Turner

**National Certifications** - The USA-S Officials Committee has introduced a new national certification program for officials. National and National Championship designations have been phased out, and have been replaced by N1, N2, and N3 designations. N1 certification is administered at the LSC and is roughly equivalent to an LSC certified official with one year of experience. N2 is roughly the equivalent of National certification and N3 is roughly the equivalent of National Championship certification. The major difference between the old and new program is that the old program was basically a reward system for having worked a meet at a particular level while the new system is meant to be an evaluative system in which an official is certified to work meets at a particular level. Details of the program can be found at: [USA Swimming - Certification](#).

The new program will impact VSI officials in three ways, and John Thompson has joined the committee to lead the implementation of these changes. As noted above the implementation of the N1 level is at the LSC level. Our overall certification and recertification process will be evaluated in light of the N1 criteria and in light of our continuing evaluation of our own program. Any changes will be brought together in a revised certification and recertification document.

The second impact of the new program is on National Officials evaluation at our Senior Championship meets. These meets will now require national evaluators and application for evaluation.

The third impact deals with tracking officiating activities which must also now include working a minimal number of sessions of particular meets, as well as mentoring and training activities to both obtain and maintain certification at the N2 and N3 levels. Whether this information will be paper based, in a VSI electronic database, or a national database is yet to be determined.

**VSI Officials Recertification** – Officials are required to recertify on a calendar year basis. Recertification should theoretically be complete at this point, but there are always some that let their certification lapse and don't recertify until it is absolutely necessary – i.e. when they go to a meet and can't work.

Of 59 Referees, 51 have recertified and one has retired. Seven have not recertified as of yet although two have indicated that they will do so (no word from the remaining five).

**Rules Comparisons** – Distributed rules comparisons of all governing bodies (developed by Our Kids Initiative).

**Newsletter** – Number 6 was recently sent out. Suggestions for topics are welcome as are articles/notes from aspiring authors.