

VSI Officials Committee Report

02 January 2010

- Officials Clinics: A large number of clinics were offered throughout the LSC at the beginning of the short course season.
- Officials Tracking System (OTS): OTS is a subset of the SWIMS database and has been developed to support the certification, evaluation, education, and work history of officials.
 - Beginning with the 2009 long course season the sessions worked by each official at a meet have been entered into the database.
 - Beginning with the short course season the certification history and status of each of our currently certified officials was entered into the database.
 - Beginning with 2010, (nearly) all certifications/re-certifications have been done through OTS. Certification cards are now issued through OTS and the previous certification cards are being discontinued in most cases.
 - As with any new system there have been some bumps in the road, but by and large the transition to using OTS has gone very well. The major problem that we have with OTS is that it cannot be used to track officials who are not registered members of USA-S. When the Officials Committee made the decision to begin using OTS in place of our Access database, we did so with the idea that we would not attempt to maintain parallel databases in the long term as it entails additional volunteer effort and it is prone to mistakes. Because we have some officials who are not registered members of USA-S, we have a continuing need though to maintain two databases. While we're making this work in the short term, it is not a long term solution. The best solution to this problem is to require that all of our officials be members of USA-S (please see next section).
- Officials Registration. USA-S Rules & Regulations require that all S&T officials, Chief Judges, Starters, and Referees be current members of USA-S. This same requirement does not hold for those officials working in the capacity as Timing Equipment Operators, Timing Judges, and Recorders. While we encourage the latter officials to register with USA-S it is not a requirement imposed by the rules. At our previous Officials Committee meeting we were unanimous in supporting a requirement of registration for all our officials.
 - Philosophically we believe that an individual should be a member of the organization that trains and certifies that individual. As we invest in and support that official, membership provides a reciprocal relationship.
 - With the adoption of OTS as our officials database, we can only track individuals within the system if they are registered members of USA-S. Lack of membership requires that we maintain a separate database for this subset of officials. Maintaining two databases requires more work of our volunteers, is more prone to errors, and ultimately means that we do not have all the information in a single, consolidated database.

ACTION ITEM: The Officials Committee recommends that USA-S registration be made a requirement for all certified and training VSI officials. We further recommend that the requirement be put in place for the 2011 registration year (by doing so we do not impact on the 2010 budgets of clubs who pay the registration fee of their officials). There are two potential mechanisms by which this requirement could be met.

- Amend the VSI Officials Handbook to reflect the requirement.
- Amend the VSI Policies to reflect the requirement.

We therefore ask the VSI BOD for its support of this requirement and guidance as to how we should proceed to implement the requirement for the 2011 registration year.

- Officiating materials: We will be reviewing all of our training and reference material to make sure that it is current.
- Championship Season: We are gearing up for the championship season. We hope to produce a comprehensive “packet” that will incorporate much of what we’ve developed over the past 5-6 years
- Officials bling
 - New five year recognition pins were ordered and received (we have 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 yr recognition pins).
 - An order has been placed for a new batch of VSI badge reels as we nearly depleted those we ordered last year as they were given out to all officials.
 - VSI labeled hang pens were ordered and are being distributed.
 - We are trying to set up a self-serve system for name badges as is being used in other LSCs. New officials will still be provided with their first badge; other officials would be able to order replacement badges on-line.