

VSI Safety Committee Report
Feb. 28, 2005

Marshals at many of the meets in Virginia have been more visible and more assertive in identifying and preventing safety risks during a competitive swim meet. The Safety Committee encourages the Meet Director for each meet to POST the VSI Meet Safety Procedures around the swimming venue, and provide a copy of the VSI Marshal Role Description to each marshal assigned for that session.

Safety Committee is working on the following issues:

1. Marshal vests were not delivered by Keifer Company. The Safety Committee will ensure that VSI gets a full refund on these vests, and will select another vendor to design and sell the vests.
2. There have been recommendations from some swimming professionals for a "Slide in" entry vs. "feet first step in" entry during warm-ups. The VSI Safety Committee will find out what other LSCs do, in terms of the type of entry, and report back to the Board. Any additional feedback on the "type of entry" for warm-ups (e.g. feet first, Slide in, enter water from sitting position on edge of pool) would be appreciated.
3. VSI members have provided comment on the Pikes Peak Guidelines for USA coaches Safety Training for Swim Coaches. Comments from the National Safety Committee (USA) and from Paul Koch (Service Delivery Officer of Pikes Peak Chapter of American Red Cross) There is concern that Pikes Peak Chapter may be taking over duties that a number of our local American Red Cross chapters and /or instructors did quite well. ARC Chapters in Virginia will experience reduced revenue for teaching these courses. With the centralized approach, it is not clear that such plan was initially communicated to local chapter. The Safety Committee will write a FACT sheet and post on the Web, along with a list of these STSC instructors in Virginia. Based on VSI feedback, the Safety Committee is willing to draft a letter to the National Safety Committee regarding the decision to centralize the STSC teaching under the domain of the Colorado Pikes Peak chapter.

Current members of the VSI Safety Comm. include Rosie Schiavone, Angela Howsmon, Larry Wilder, Greg Ryder, Bob Hood, Ben Hair, Leslie Ayers, Al Thompson, and David Strider (Chair).