

VSI Officials Committee Report

14 September 2008

Present: Cathy Rudolph, David Strider, George Smith, Jim Frye, Kevin Hogan, Mary Turner, Michael Downs, Pat Donohue, Stephanie Suhling, Tom Colasurdo, Tom Elliott

Absent: Avis Aheron, Jim Knicely, Mike Willard, Wally Hunt

- The current number of officials and trainees was reviewed. Because of the efforts of Tom Colasurdo and the District Chairs we now have a database that can provide a realistic estimates of where we stand in terms of numbers. Of note, a significant number of clubs have no officials, and some large clubs have very few officials. We will continue to try to involve all clubs in taking a collective responsibility for providing officials. (A summary report of the numbers is included in the 11 September 2008 committee report)
- Recruitment, retention, and advancement were discussed. The thrust of the discussion was that everyone has a responsibility in the recruitment of new officials. District Officials Chairs have to be especially mindful of setting up clinics that are convenient and working with the Club Official Chairs. We need to continue to encourage the Club Officials Chairs to do their part as they have the best access to volunteers on their clubs, and without their doing the leg work it is difficult at best to get information to potential trainees.

Incentives were discussed. We do not have enough 5 year pins to distribute next year. It was decided that additional pins should be purchased so that we can continue with this effort. It was also decided that badge reels with the VSI logo should be purchased and that we should move towards using these rather than having registration cards and badges suspended from lanyards.

Action Item: Kevin Hogan has the artwork and contact for the 5 yr pins and will order a new supply. Kevin will also obtain an estimate for purchasing the badge reels.

With respect to advancement, we have a bottleneck developing at the Starter to Referee transition as there seems to be a decreasing number of S&T officials advancing to this Starter. We need to be more proactive in recruiting Starter trainees.

We continue to need to develop a pool of officials who are qualified to work as Meet Referee and Administrative Referee at Senior Champs and Age Group Champs. The utility of working at a series of progressive meets (Regional Champs -> AGC - > Senior Champs) was discussed. We need to identify future candidates for these meets.

Action Item: All – identify candidates (self nomination included) and send these suggestions to Kevin. We will then make assignments early and suggest to clubs individuals to work at Regional Champs as well.

National certification was discussed. There is a perception by some that an overemphasis is placed on national certification and that many officials have no motivation to pursue national certification because they have no intention of working national level meets. There is also a concern by some that officials lacking national certification are looked at as lesser officials. Michael and Kevin emphasized that we are not trying to make officials without national certification feel inferior. The philosophy that we're trying to communicate is that national certification can be viewed as a validation of an individual's skill set, no matter whether or not the individual wants to work on a national deck. While someone with national certification is essentially expected to have a higher knowledge and skill set than the average official, this does not mean that VSI certified officials can't be just as skilled and knowledgeable as a nationally certified official.

- Officials Clinics are scheduled throughout the LSC and more will be added as necessary. We do not have an unlimited budget but if rooms need to be rented at meet venues to accommodate

training then we should do that. Also, reimbursement can be made for photocopying clinic materials.

- Name badges. Tom will circulate the list of officials with one year and less of experience. We need to reconcile those names against those who received badges last year. District Chairs need to confirm which of these individuals are back this year so that we are not purchasing badges for individuals who are no longer with us.

Action Item: District Chairs need to confirm which individuals should be getting badges and provide this information to Cathy by 15 November. Cathy will then order the badges and distribute them back to the District Chairs.

- Swimposium and Referee Clinic Status. The Swimposium is set for 4 October at the Koger Center. Carol Zaleski and Jamy Pfister will be the national facilitators. The agenda will be set once we have heard back from them.

Action Item: Jim Knicely to tie up loose ends.

The Referee Clinic will be held 5 October.

Action Item: Send potential agenda items to Kevin. Kevin will work with others to develop and agenda and plan.

- Referee trainee status. We have some trainees who are progressing slowly.

Action Item: Kevin will contact them and develop a plan.

Three new candidates were identified, one of whom was previously identified.

Action Item: Kevin will contact.

- Starter training. Starter training is probably the area that we need the most work on within the LSC. We need to focus our efforts at developing greater consistency among both our certified and training Starters.

Action Item: This will be a focus of meet mentorship throughout the year. Also, emphasize at the Referee Clinic.

- Only a small number of post-meet Referee Reports are being filed by Meet Referees. We need to emphasize the importance and need of doing so.
- Certification cards, training cards, officials badges, relay take-off slips were distributed.

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- From 13 September 2008 VSI BOD Meeting

Action Item: Work with Safety Committee to update VSI Meet Safety Procedures

- From 14 September 2008 VSI BOD Meeting

Action Item: Kevin Hogan to develop a recommendation for reimbursing a limited number of key officials attending VSI championship level meets.

Informational Item: Kevin Maloy volunteered to serve as the Coach Representative to the Officials Committee. Welcome Kevin!