

VSI Safety Committee Report Jan. 2, 2005

Between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2004, there have been 7 (seven) reports of injury filed for VSI related swimming competition or practice. One event involved a swimmer entering the water early during warm-ups and landing on top of another swimmer, one situation related to a child stubbing her toe on a large bag on deck, one was attributed to a child tripping when moving from the bleachers to the deck, and four related to individuals slipping on the pool deck. Between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2003, there were a total of 12 (twelve) reported injuries for VSI swimming meets / practices.

For USA swimming (national) there were a total of 608 accidents from Jan. 1 to Sept. 30, 2004, which is up from 571 the previous year (2003) during the same period. For the reported USA events (national), 43% occurred in the water and 26% on deck. Of note, only 48% of accidents occurred during the USA sanctioned meet, with 12% occurring during warm-ups and 40% occurring during practice or dryland.

A total of 22 orange marshal vests have been distributed to VSI swim clubs. An additional order of 25 will be placed, with price of \$10 per vest.

The revised Meet Safety Procedures, the Marshal Role Description, and a summary of USA Swimming insurance coverage are on the VSI web site within the safety section. The VSI Safety Committee, with significant feedback from coaches, officials, and VSI Board Members, has completed recommendations for deck access during a VSI sanctioned meet. These recommendations are also on the VSI web site within the safety section.

In November, reminders were sent out to coaches and officials on the importance of "Feet First" entry during general warm-ups.

The VSI Safety committee has requested the USA National Safety Committee to review and reconsider the interpretation for the "requirement of a coach direct presence at a warmup / warmdown pool that is close to but not directly connected to the competitive pool, and not necessarily within direct vision from all deck positions of the competitive pool." The VSI Safety Committee noted that, during such a competitive event, the separate warmdown / warmup pools are monitored by a dedicated lifeguard and dedicated USA certified marshal at all times during the swimming events.

As part of the national account agreement with USA Swimming, the Pikes Peak Chapter of the American Red Cross (ARC) is the only chapter authorized to administer Safety Training for Swim Coaches (STSC) for USA Swimming. Instructors are still certified through their own local Red Cross chapters, but they need to submit their course record sheets to the Pikes Peak Chapter. All STSC cards will be printed and mailed out from the Pikes Peak Chapter. As of November, there were re 8 American Red Cross instructors in the Virginia LSC recognized by National Safety Committee for teaching the STSC courses.

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