

## **VSI Safety Committee Report April 24, 2006**

New monthly safety tips have been placed on the VSI web site, courtesy of the VSI Safety Committee. Safety Tip topics have included a review of first -aid kit contents, procedures to follow when the natatorium lights go out, and tips for safe transportation of swimmers to and from the pool. As Long Course becomes nearer, safety concerns shift to excessive sun exposure, dehydration, bee stings, and potential lightning strikes.

The 2006 USA Swimming Water Safety Campaign is a new initiative that encourages each swim club to open up their pool to the community for a day, to emphasize to children and young adults the many aspects of pool safety and provide some beginner swim lessons to these individuals.

For the first quarter (Jan. 1 – March 31, 2006) there have been 3 reported injuries during swim meet / practices. There continues to be a general trend towards under-reporting acute respiratory illness related to air quality inside a pool venue. The Safety Committee has encouraged coaches / officials to report such swimmer acute pulmonary conditions if they occur during a swim meet.

Marshal coverage at VSI meets continues to improve. Warm-ups still need to be monitored more closely by the marshals, with both marshals covering the start end of the pool during the actual warm-up period.

Four Marshal orange vests (Virginia Gators has special ordered 50 Marshal Vests for VSI teams, as needed) were sent to a New York team, upon their request.

SMAC hosted a “Wheelchair Handicapped” meet in Waynesboro on April 22. Approximately 25 swimmers attended this event. Wheelchair swimmers maneuvering up and down the pool deck and entering / exiting the pool posed a myriad of new safety considerations. The SMAC officials did a very nice job running this meet.

Members of the VSI Safety Committee are Rosie Schiavone (Co-Chair), Angela Howsmon, Larry Wilder, Greg Ryder, Bob Hood, Ben Hair (athlete), Leslie Ayers (coach rep.), Al Thompson, and David Strider (Chair). We will need to recruit a new athlete representative on the VSI Safety Committee to replace Ben Hair, who is graduating this spring.