

VSI Safety Committee Report September 28, 2005

Between September 1, 2004 and August 31, 2005, there were 22 reported VSI swimming-related injuries. There has been one reported swimmer injury for September 2005.

The VSI Safety Committee collaborated in the development of swimmer safety content for the VSI Swimposium presentation on September 24, 2005. Major topics covered were the role of the Marshal and Meet Safety Procedures. The Safety Tip of the Month for August was "Responding to a Swimmer Complaint about an Adult Spectator Behaving Inappropriately," and for October, the safety tip will center on the roles of a swim meet Marshal.

The VSI Safety Committee, with support from a number of VSI Coaches, has recommended the following additions to the "VSI Meet Safety Procedures."

1. During warmup / warmdown periods BETWEEN competitive events within a Swim Meet Session, athletes must enter FEET FIRST into the pool. Athletes may enter or exit from the start end or the turn end of the pool.
2. Athletes using a pool that is designated as a "Warmup / Warmdown Pool," and that is not being used concurrently for General Warmups, must enter the pool FEET FIRST. Athletes may enter or exit from the start end or the turn end of the pool.

These recommendations do NOT apply to general warm-ups, where all athletes must enter the pool feet first from the start end.

The above two recommended additions to the "VSI Meet Safety Procedures" will be submitted for VSI Board of Directors review on October 2, 2005.

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

Respectfully submitted,

David Strider
VSI Safety Committee Chairperson