

## **VSI Safety Committee Report August 9, 2007**

Members of the VSI Safety Committee include Steve Woolfolk, Rosie Schiavone, Angela Howsmon, Larry Wilder, Greg Ryder, Bob Hood, Rachel Brown (Athlete Rep), Leslie Ayers (Coach Rep), Al Thompson, and David Strider (Current Chair).

Steve Woolfolk will be stepping up to the role of Safety Committee Chair. Congratulations, Steve !!

There were 25 reported VSI-related accidents in Calendar Year 2006. Through August 1, 2007, there have been a total of 16 reported injuries. Eight (8) of these injuries occurred in the water, 3 (three) occurred outside the pool venue, and the remaining five (5) occurred on the pool deck.

The VSI Safety Committee has continued to emphasize the importance of adequate Marshal staffing during meets. A member of the VSI Safety Committee, David Strider, attended the USA Swimming Convention Safety Committee meeting in Sept, 2006; and will be attending the USA Swimming National Safety Conference on August 17-18<sup>th</sup>, 2007. There continues to be a major need for close Marshal supervision during warmups. Marshals also have an important role in controlling deck congestion around the starting area and along the sides of the pool.

Safety Tips have been submitted each month. The topics for the last 12 months have included: lake swimming tips, reporting process for injuries, pre-meet safety checks, role of the marshal, overview of diabetes in the sports world, shallow water blackout, proper footwear, safe care of lacerations, dealing with asthma, dehydration, inappropriate use of bronchodilators on the pool deck, and key facts about lightning.

Some of the larger Aquatic Fitness facilities are getting automatic external defibrillators. Although optional, this is a key piece of equipment that should be noted in the Meet Director's/Meet Referee's pre-meet walkthrough checklist.

Individuals with ideas for the VSI Safety Committee to work on should contact Steve Woolfolk at [woolfolks@aol.com](mailto:woolfolks@aol.com)