

VSI Safety Committee Report April 23, 2010

Members of the VSI Safety Committee now include David Strider, Rosie Schiavone, Bob Hood, Scott Baldwin (Coach Rep.), and Steve Woolfolk (Current Chair). We still need at least 3 more members and an athlete rep to have a full committee. Anyone interested being on the committee should contact Steve Woolfolk at woolfolks@aol.com.

For the year 2009 there were a total of 43 incidents reported in Virginia Swimming. We all need to work to reduce this number this year. This can be achieved by trying to recognize unsafe conditions and actions and correcting them immediately.

A break down of last year's incidents

By Age

8 and under 10%
9 -10 year olds 16%
11 -12 year olds 22%
13 – 14 year olds 23%
15 -18 year olds 20%
19 and over 9%

Nature of Incident

Leg/foot 28%
Torso 3%
Knee 7%
Head/Neck 18%
Internal 4%
Hand/Arm 19%
Shoulder 3%
ENT/Mouth 8%
Other 10%

When the Incidents Occurred

Meet/Competition 57%
Meet/Warmup 14%
Meet/Warmdown 2%
Practice/Water 28%
Practice/Dryland 10%
Other 2%

Where the incidents occurred

In water 44%
On Blocks 4%
Hallway 2%
Gym 2%
Locker Room 6%
Deck 26%
Stairs 1%
Bleachers 4%
Outside Venue 6%
Other 3%

Who was Injured

Athletes 91%

Non- Athletes 4%

Guests 5%

Several of these incidents last year and this year occurred because of scuffling or horseplay. Marshals at meets and coaches at practices need to be aware of the scuffling and horseplay, and try to get it stopped before an injury occurs.

The monthly safety tips have included this year have included tips on Dealing with unusual situations at swim meets (stalkers), Taking care of our feet, and Safe driving a forgotten part of Aquatic safety. Anyone with suggestions or ideas for tips please forward them to the safety chair.

The use of marshals at meets in VSI is required. Meet referees and/or meet directors need to meet with the marshals prior to the meet and brief them on their duties. This may be found on the VSI safety page under marshal job description and guidelines.

Respectfully submitted

Steve Woolfolk

Safety Chair

