

## **Illegal Meet Entries**

Recently there have been several instances of teams entering swimmers into events and allowing those swimmers to compete in them even though their times of record are faster than those specified in the meet eligibility criteria. As each instance has been investigated it has been determined that this was not done with any specific intent to cheat or to gain favor for swimmers when competing. Each circumstance has happened due to poor administration practices and/or lack of clear understanding of VSI Policies regarding swimmer classifications. In the past VSI has not engaged in active enforcement of these policies due to a lack of formal complaints by coaches, officials, or meet directors. Also, most teams have tried in earnest to self-correct whenever they discovered an inappropriate entry or result. Those instances were infrequent and were always handled with the meet director.

Unfortunately, due to the increases in both occurrence and the volume of these erroneous entries/swims, the VSI Board has determined that it is necessary to strictly police such violations. This means all violations will be treated the same whether the entry/swim is inappropriate due to an administrative error or an attempt to gain advantage in competition. Regardless of the circumstances, all identified future violations will be fined the full \$100 per occurrence allowable by VSI Policies. As with all fines, the aggrieved party will have the opportunity to appeal to VSI but fines will be expected to be paid upon receipt of the notice. Also, all inappropriate entries/swims will be identified and posted as a part of the official meet results. The points and places received for any such affected swims will be forfeited.