**VSI Disability Swimmer Committee Report**

August 26, 2016 (DisabilityVSIreptAUG2016.doc)

 Joseph Peppersack and Samantha Tubbs attended the Paralympic Trials in Charlottes, NC, at the

end of June. Samantha Tubbs (Rappahanock Raiders) not only competed but received a first place

Gold Medal in one of her events . Her coach is Delwyn Jones.. Joseph Peppersack (NOVA South

/ VACS ) finished in the top three in all seven of his events at Paralympic Trials.

 Emilia Scovel has been swimming for her Summer competitive team, the Sideburn Run Sharks.

 Sean Harrington continues to swim as an active aerobic exercise and he works at Chesapeake

Regional Medical Center. Pat Donohue served as an official at the U.S. Paralympics Trials Meet

in Charlotte, North Carolina from June 30th to July 2nd.

 The Disability Committee has been attentive to strategies to minimize flash photography and other

strobe lights during a swim meet, not only at starts but throughout the meet, for venues where a

child with neurologic hypersensitivity to flashing lights is swimming . Marlis l and George Hunter

(parents) have been working with us on these issues.

 The VSI Disability Committee has been working on a proposal for standardized, consistent

reimbursement , within certain limits , for VSI disability swimmers competing at national level

disability meets. The reimbursement principles would be very similar to those for the USA – VSI

able -bodied swimmers. Such proposal will suggest that an athlete with a physical disability may be

eligible to receive a travel reimbursement for up to two designated meets per year, with the

exception that in an Olympic year, such disability athlete may receive an additional travel

reimbursement for participating in the USA Parlympic Trials. A disability athlete who attends

multiple meets in a swimming season will be reimbursed fo r the meet which has the highest

reimbursement rate. .

Respectfully submitted,

David Strider (Chairperson – VSI Disability Comm.)

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(VSI Disability Committee Chair)