

Safety Chair Report
September 29, 2012

Dive Certification: USA Swimming has sent out a number of reminders in *Coaching Connection*. The reminders were sent out in Volume 32 and the latest in Volume 35.

Effective May 1, 2009, USA Swimming Board of Directors modified the racing start rule, 103.2.2 (which already provides that racing starts should only be taught in at least six feet of water) to further clarify that racing starts should only be taught under the direct supervision of a USA Swimming member coach, and to expand the definition of teaching racing starts to make clear that no swimmer who has not been certified a proficient by his or her coach should be performing racing starts into less than six feet of water. All clubs must ensure that all team members are certified and that coaches understand and comply with the certification process. Failure to do so could jeopardize club and coach insurance coverage.

Additional information can also be located under Risk Management and Safety on the USA Swimming website. Under the Racing Certification they have additional links to: Memo to Clubs and Coaches, Memo to Parent's, Racing Start Certification FAQ, and Racing Start Certification Form. If you are unsure of how the steps are performed they have now included a video demonstrating the steps.

Report of Occurrence Forms: The forms can now be filed electronically but a copy should still be sent on to myself. Please make sure they are filed in a timely manner.

Deck Access At Practices and Meets: The following information comes from USA Swimming. As we begin a new season it is important to remember their policy.
This is a friendly reminder that USA Swimming insurance does not allow for infant/toddler/child of any coach/official member on a deck at practice or at meets.

There are references in the Insurance documents that a club receives annually concerning insurance coverage. Everyone on deck at practices or meets is either a coach member or are athlete members. There is also references in the USA Swimming rulebook concerning the conditions of a meet sanction and how all members on deck (aside from host club volunteer timers, deck marshals) are to be members as well. This does not mean that by simply paying for athlete or non-athlete insurance will allow for these young children to be on deck. They are not actually participating in the sport.

USA Swimming rules (203.3.2) states that all athletes need to be supervised by coach members. We are around water, slippery decks and starting blocks and there are many that happen annually within USA Swimming. Having their own non-member children on the deck will many times take a coach's attention away from the safety of the athletes they are charged with supervising. Liability insurance is in jeopardy for the coach, the club, and any meet host who allows such non-members on deck.

Safety Marshal Handbook: Please go to the NJ website to read the requirements. This past season there were a number of meets that there were no safety marshals on the pool deck. NJ Swimming requires safety marshals at meets. There must also be a designated Head Safety Marshal at each session of the meet. Rutgers will be making some changes to their policies about clubs providing safety marshals for the women's and men's locker rooms. This will be in addition to those already on the pool deck.

Marlene Curtis
Safety Chair