

Virginia Swimming's Perspective on R-12 Proposal

Actual proposal: Any pool within the boundaries of Loudoun County, Prince William County, and the City of Manassas in the Commonwealth of Virginia shall be available for the use of Potomac Valley Swimming and Virginia Swimming LSCs and their respective clubs, and both LSCs may sanction swimming events in these pools under their own rules and regulations.

- **R-12 is a unilateral request by PVS and is not supported by VSI.** The VSI Board and HOD voted on a similar proposal that requested two additional counties. We were not aware of this modified version at the time of our meetings at the beginning of April. The VSI Board voted against the current proposal.
- **Approval of this proposal will set a precedent that any LSC could request the right to sanction meets in any other LSC where one of its teams has a presence.** (What does *occupied* mean: rents lane space, owns a facility, or what?) What are the future ramifications of such a precedent?
- All of the territory listed in the proposal is within the geographic boundaries of Virginia Swimming as specified in USA-S Rules and Regulations. The proposal requests sharing of facilities in an area covering almost 900 square miles and 8 facilities currently in operation with another on the books to open within the next 4 years. There are no guarantees that additional areas won't be requested in the future.
- Current USA-S rules require that meets are sanctioned by the LSC in which the meet is being held. Fees are paid to the LSC that sanctions the meet.
- The sharing of territory only occurs in one other instance in USA Swimming – Pacific Swimming and Sierra Nevada Swimming share a small amount of territory along their borders (approximately 10 square miles and 4-6 pools). The legislation that allowed this sharing of territory by the two LSCs was supported by both of the LSCs and has been in effect since the late 1980s.
- VSI's objection to this proposal is not financially based. Instead, we are trying to support and protect our clubs in the northern areas of the LSC from further expansion by teams from another LSC. Our one team in Loudoun indicated that whatever space the team was initially given at a facility never increased. Lanes would remain empty during peak practice time instead of allowing another team to utilize the space. Our team in Prince William County has little if any opportunity for growth.
- Maintaining the current status that allows only VSI to sanction meets in its territory as designated in Rule 603.2 will not decrease opportunities for athletes. VSI will continue its practice of sanctioning meets for PVS teams and teams from other LSCs in facilities within its boundaries.
- PVS is not the only other LSC that utilizes facilities in Virginia Swimming territory. We have already reached an agreement with Maryland Swimming and offered the same proposal to PVS which they rejected.
- Although some of the PVS teams utilizing facilities in the requested territory are satellites of programs located in PVS territory, there are at least three (3) PVS teams whose entire operations are within VSI borders.
- Over the years our teams in Loudoun and Prince William Counties have been unsuccessful in acquiring additional pool time due to competition from the larger teams from PVS.
- Prior to 2005, teams formed in the Virginia territory of Loudoun County and Prince William County as well as the City of Manassas were allowed to join PVS without regard to the location of their practice facilities or business location.
- Between 2007 and 2019, PVS teams paid \$100 for any meet held at a facility in VSI based on an agreement brokered by USA Swimming in 2007. No additional fees were charged. In April 2020 VSI changed its fee structure and began charging an additional \$.20 per splash for meets hosted by VSI

clubs and charged teams from outside LSCs \$2.50 per athlete when hosting a meet in VSI territory. Quite simply, the reason for charging VSI hosts and non-LSC meet hosts a different amount was to make it easier for non-LSC team. We direct these additional funds to our Endowment Fund with the intended use of providing opportunities (meet reimbursement, scholarships, etc.) for our athletes. It is not an unusual practice for LSCs to have a different fee structure for meets hosted by its member teams and those hosted by teams from other LSCs.

