

Virginia Swimming
Strategic Plan
(2022-2024)

**Progress Tracking** 

Last Update: February 7, 2022

### **Mission Statement**

Virginia Swimming creates opportunities that promote sportsmanship and develop excellence through competitive swimming

### **Vision Statement**

To develop self-confident athletes with a life-long passion for swimming and strong life skills

### **Core Values**

Athlete Focused, Excellence, Inclusion, Integrity

### **SWOT Analysis**

#### **Strengths**

- S1. A fiscally sound organization with sufficient and stable reserves and a developing endowment
- S2. A dedicated and professional office staff that provides a myriad of services that would otherwise be handled by volunteers
- S3. Athletes, coaches, officials, staff, and other volunteers provide strong leadership within the LSC
- S4. Numerous excellent facilities are available that can host novice- through national-level meets
- S5. As an organization, Virginia Swimming is flexible in the face of adversity

#### Weaknesses

- W1. The membership of Virginia Swimming does not reflect the diversity of the population within its territory
- W2. The participation rate of individual and group members in LSC governance is poor
- W3. It is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit and retain officials
- W4. Costs at all levels, for both athlete and non-athlete members, is a barrier to participation
- W5. The process for determining championship meet hosts and locations is not very effective and often results in late assignments

#### **Opportunities**

- O1. Support the participation of DEI athlete and non-athlete members in targeted activities that will grow their interest in the sport and aid in their retention
- O2. Create competitive opportunities that target all swimmers and all levels of swimming
- O3. Capitalize on summer league and high school swimming as feeder systems that can be used to increase participation
- O4. Offer more developmental clinics across the state for athletes

- O5. Exploit new facilities coming online as opportunities to add new clubs and new swimmers, as well as to host LSC, Zone, Sectional, and National meets
- O6. Enhance the long-term financial health of Virginia Swimming through strong leadership and adoption of financial best practices
- O7. Strengthen individual clubs through financial incentives, mentorship, and best practices
- O8. Provide and assist with developmental opportunities for coaches
- O9. Track the performance metrics of our athletes as a means of gauging club and LSC success
- O10. Increase the number of open water swimming opportunities within the LSC and grow the interest in open water swimming
- O11. Diversify the revenue streams available to Virginia Swimming to support its mission
- O12. Find creative ways to overcome Virginia Swimming's expansive and diverse geographical territory to increase participation in both competition and governance
- O13. Expand participation in Safe Sport Club Recognition so that more clubs can benefit from the knowledge gained
- O14. Invest in careful succession planning to prevent the loss of institutional knowledge and expertise as experienced individuals retire from volunteering

#### **Threats**

- T1. Encroachment of Virginia Swimming territory by Potomac Valley decreases the number of athlete and non-athlete members in Virginia Swimming and it limits the availability of venues for practice and competition
- T2. Competition from other sports for economic, time commitment, or other factors decreases the number of athlete and non-athlete members in Virginia Swimming
- T3. Many group members are complacent with the status quo and do not participate in the governance of Virginia Swimming
- T4. Communication strategies need to keep pace with current technology, or we risk not communicating with our intended audience

### **Broad Strategic Goal #1:** Increase the number of athlete and non-athlete members of Virginia Swimming with an emphasis on making the membership reflect the diversity found in Virginia Swimming's territory

Objectives	Strategies	Progress
Objective 1: Increase the number of athlete members of Virginia Swimming from	Strategy 1: Place a continual emphasis on the entry level swimmer to "build the base" across all demographics (eg, learn to swim programming, linkage to summer leagues)	
~7,500 to 9,000 by 10/2024	Milestones: Push the message to individual clubs  Resources: Individual clubs in their local areas; LSC to develop  literature	
	Responsible: All	
	Strategy 2: Continue the narrative that USA Swimming is not necessarily a year-round commitment (ie, it is not the case that swimming is a huge sacrifice/barrier for entry-level swimmers), (eg, develop and provide clubs with foundational advice and marketing support to attract summer league and high school swimmers to USA Swimming)	
	<b>Milestones:</b> Material developed in time for 2022 summer league season and 2022/2023 high school season; push the message to individual clubs	
	Resources: Social media	
	Responsible: All	
	<b>Strategy 3:</b> Establish, support, and grow the narrative that swimming is a sport that can save lives	
	<b>Milestones:</b> Use of grants, club support, attendance metrics to track overall participation in learn to swim programming across all levels within the LSC	
	<b>Resources:</b> What are the learn to swim programs out there (eg, Y, Community orgs, summer pools, municipal / parks and rec programs, church based, USA Team or public / private / university school based is there a LSC database that captures every learn to swim, and overall participation number out there?)?	
	<b>Responsible:</b> Virginia Swimming Office, Age Group Committee, Senior Committee, Coaches Committee, DEI Committee, Open Water Committee	
	Strategy 4: Determine if high school swimming would better be positioned as a fall sport than a winter sport; if so, solicit VHSL and VISAA to move high school swimming to the fall	
	<b>Milestones:</b> Determine both the pluses and minuses of such a move bearing in mind that there might be unintended consequences if the	

	move were to be made; advocate with VHSL and VISAA if determined to be a positive change  Resources: VHSL and VISAA  Responsible: Administrative vice-chair	
Objective 2: Increase the number of certified officials in Virginia Swimming to a	Strategy 1: Work with club officials chairs to increase the number of trainees being recruited, especially those with younger rather than older swimmers	
minimum of 10% of the number of athlete members	<b>Milestones:</b> Rising number of certified officials within VSI; increasing average length of service as a certified official	
	Resources: Officials Committee	
	Responsible: Officials Committee	
	Strategy 2: Continue the use of both in-person and on-line Zoom training sessions to maximize the frequency and convenience of initial training opportunities	On-going
	Milestones: Rising number of certified officials within VSI	
	Resources: Officials Committee	
	Responsible: Officials Committee	
	Strategy 3: Institute a one-on-one mentoring system to aid in initial training and subsequent retention	
	Milestones: Increased percentage of individuals completing the certification process when comparing mentored to non-mentored trainees; increased average years of service when comparing mentored to non-mentored certified officials	
	<b>Resources:</b> Officials Committee; experienced officials willing to serve as mentors	
	Responsible: Officials Committee	
	<b>Strategy 4:</b> Using VSI funds, reimburse trainees and officials for USA Swimming registration and background checks	Officials Comm. currently considering logistics of officials bgc and registration expenses,
	<b>Milestones:</b> Draft reimbursement guidelines; determine fiscal impact on Virginia Swimming; determine means by which incurred costs would be recovered; present plan and needed policy changes to the fall 2022 HOD for action; implement for 2023/2024 if approved by HOD	specifically under the new USS registration process. Committee also considering minimum qualification standard for reimbursement, and the anticipated expense based on current officials'
	Resources: PVS reimbursement policy can serve as a starting point	registrations.
	Responsible: Officials Committee to draft guidelines; Finance Committee to determine fiscal impact and cost recovery plan; Rules and Legislation Coordinator to assist in writing any required VSI Policy and Procedure changes	

Objective 3: Increase the diversity of the athlete and non-athlete members of Virginia Swimming	Strategy 1: As a baseline, determine the diversity ratio within Virginia versus the diversity ratio within VSI; VSI numbers should be broken out for athletes, coaches, and officials  Milestones: Determine baseline data by 03/2022 and distribute it to Virginia Swimming constituencies (eg, Officials Committee, Coaches Committee) so that they can use it for developing future plans  Resources: <a href="https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/VA">https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/VA</a> Responsible: DEI Committee, Virginia Swimming Office	
	Strategy 2: Survey clubs to gather their initiatives on diversity, what are their resources, what is working, and where are the roadblocks (eg, are they working with YMCA Open Doors program? Do they match registration/monthly fees?); survey clubs to understand what they would like to see in terms of camps and clinics  Milestones: Survey responses due by 03/2022; review material by 04/2022; determine best practices by 05/2022	
	Resources: Survey Monkey, Google Forms, either allow the committee to compile data quickly  Responsible: DEI Committee	
	<b>Strategy 3:</b> Reach out to ONE Virginia (Virginia DEI) for resources and potential funding available to achieve our goals (eg, possible existence state or federal funds)	
	Milestones: Determine what resources are available by 03/2022  Resources: Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Janice Underwood, PhD, Patrick Henry Building, Third Floor, 1111 E. Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, deidirector@governor.virginia.gov	
	Responsible: DEI Committee	
	<b>Strategy 4:</b> Review and update the Virginia Swimming website and social media platforms to ensure that they reflect the diversity within the LSC	
	<b>Milestones:</b> Review and update Virginia Swimming platforms by 04/2022; develop consistent site update strategy	
	Resources: USA Swimming Eastern Zone, Diversity in Aquatics, etc.	
	Responsible: VSI DEI Committee Working Group	
	Strategy 5: Clubs partner with facilities in underrepresented demographic areas for Learn to Swim Program as a feeder to swim team participation	
	<b>Milestones:</b> Work with Hampton Aquaplex and CGBD regarding Learn to Swim Program once facility opens to create opportunities for that area's population; identify and initiate additional partnerships	

	Resources: Registration Chair, City of Hampton, Finance Chair Responsible: Registration Chair	
Objective 4: Rediscover the "fun" in Virginia Swimming championship meets	Strategy 1: "Beef Up" awards ceremonies and recognition practices at VSI championship meets (eg, parading for finals, music during introductions, awarding top 3 following final heat, senior recognition, age group parade)  Milestones: Reinstitute awards ceremonies and recognition practices for both Age Group Championships and Senior Championships beginning with the short course 2022 championships  Resources: None  Responsible: Age Group Committee, Senior Committee	Currently an ongoing discussion amongst coaches. Suggestions for district level meets to have "photo areas" with VSI background banners provided to host teams. AG champs seems to be meeting everyone's needs and expectations, but will discuss any thoughts for changes with the committee  Awards background banner and pedestals implemented at SRVA during SC Seniors for awards recognition and photos
Objective 5: Reduce costs at all levels to minimize the financial burden of participating athletes and their families	Strategy 1: Advertise to clubs and individuals in summer leagues the Outreach Program and its availability.  Milestones: By 05/2022, clubs reach out to local summer league teams and inform them of options after the summer for continued swimming including options for those individuals who can't afford more than a recreational swim team; goal is to achieve 50% of VSI clubs having outreach athletes on the club by 09/2023  Resources: Outreach membership informational sheet  Responsible: Virginia Swimming Office and local swim clubs	

# **Broad Strategic Goal #2:** Ensure that competitive opportunities are available for all swimmers, ranging from novice through Olympic Trials qualifiers

Objectives	Strategies	Progress
Objective 1: Implement recommendations made by the 2021 Championship Season Task Force	Strategy 1: Adopt the 2021 Championship Season Task Force recommendations that realign the VSI championship meet sequence during the short course season  Milestones: Recommendations incorporated into the short course season for 2022/2023  Resources: Championship Season Task Force recommendations	AG committee discussed at length - and is not in favor of the changes suggested by the task force The BoD rejected the taskforce proposal in March 2022 BoD meeting vote. Topic to be reconsidered at a later date.
	Responsible: Technical Planning Committee, Senior Committee, Age Group Committee	
Objective 2: Provide a balanced portfolio of swim meets across VSI	Strategy 1: Inventory the current number of meets within the LSC, within each district within the LSC, and within the following categories: 8&Under Age-Group Developmental; Age-Group Performance; Senior Developmental; and Senior Performance (Definitions: Developmental: BB and below; Performance: A and above)	AG committee currently feels like enough meets are offered for all levels across the LSC. The committee is excited to bring the new Hampton facility into the meet lineup
	Milestones: Complete assessment by 5/2022 (short course) and 10/2022 (long course); annually reassess  Resources: None	
	Responsible: Senor Committee, Age Group Committee, Technical Planning Committee	
	Strategy 2: Determine the feasibility of additional or different meets to address deficiencies identified in strategy #1 and clubs' amenability to making changes to the traditional schedule of meets	
	Milestones: Complete assessment by 03/2023; annually reassess	
	Resources: None Responsible: Senior Committee, Age Group Committee, Technical Planning Committee	
	Strategy 3: Determine what resources (eg, facility access, hosting education, officials) are needed for clubs wishing to host meets	
	<b>Milestones:</b> Complete assessment by 03/2023; annually reassess <b>Resources:</b> None	
	Responsible: Senior Committee, Age Group Committee, Technical Planning Committee	
	Strategy 4: Set goal numbers for each level of competition while ensuring that equal competitive opportunities are offered to VSI athletes during both the short course and long course seasons	

	Milestones: Set targets by 03/2023; annually reassess Resources: None Responsible: Senior Committee, Age Group Committee, Technical Planning Committee	
<b>Objective 3:</b> Stimulate more focused competitions for younger swimmers	Strategy 1: Extend capped splash fees and decreased rebate fees from 8&U competitions to 10&U competitions  Milestones: Prepare policy change for April 2023 HOD action  Resources: None  Responsible: Rules and Regulations Coordinator to write policy amendment; Finance Committee to account for changes in budget	Procedural change (47.4) to cap fees and rebates for 10 & younger meets (currently 8 & Under meets) adopted by BoD and HoD April 2023.
Objective 4: Stimulate more focused competitions for top level swimmers	Strategy 1: Investigate and plan an all-star multi-LSC senior competition involving VSI in conjunction with PVS and/or NCS Milestones: Proposal to BOD and announced HOD in spring 2023; competition to occur in 2023-24 year Resources: Budgetary support from VSI Responsible: Senior Committee has primary responsibility for developing the concept; Technical Planning Committee to aid with scheduling	Initial discussion w/ Gen Chairs for PVS & NCS to hold 3-way competition with 125-150 swimmers from each LSC, 13&Older. Shared expense & revenue. Targeting Jan. 2024.
Objective 5: Provide low-cost competitive opportunities for recreational swimmers to allow their participation in the sport with a reduced financial burden	Strategy 1: Encourage swim meets designed for recreation at a lesser cost to provide competition opportunities (eg, less than 2-hour length)  Milestones: Implement meets in 2022/2023  Resources: Some teams are currently hosting such meets, but not offered statewide; review sanctions of meets that fit the criteria; any other LSCs who host similar meets?  Responsible: Age Group Committee, Coaches Committee	More guidance needed on this - currently unsure of our role bc offering low cost meets usually means the host team is losing money.
Objective 6: Grow open water swimming opportunities within VSI	Strategy 1: Determine the number of available open water venues available within VSI territory by inventorying past events locations and by identifying new locations  Milestones: By 04/2022, have the identity and availability of open water venues within the LSC that are open to hosting events  Resources: Open Water Committee  Responsible: Open Water Committee	Initial survey of potential and actual OW venues completed. Followup for more detailed information from hosts in process.
	Strategy 2: Work with local organizations that host open water events in Virginia to identify existing meets that might be adapted to USA Swimming rules and regulations  Milestones: By 04/2022, identify existing meets that have the potential or desire to partner with VSI	Initial survey of OW events within the LSC completed. Direct discussions with other OW hosts in process over next 4-5 months.

Resources: Virginia Masters Swimming has a few open water events; Virginia Beach Lifeguard Services has a series of open water events each year Responsible: Open Water Committee  Strategy 3: Identify clubs that are interested in hosting an open water meet  Milestones: By 04/2023, identify 3 or more clubs willing to host an	On-going
open water meet  Resources: None	
Responsible: Open Water Committee	
Strategy 4: Identify the equipment and resources needed to host an open water meet  Milestones: Develop list of needed equipment and resources; inventory existing equipment and resources; identify equipment and resources that need to be purchased with corresponding budget; identify equipment and resources that might be acquired by alternative means (eg, boat distributors providing jet skis or kayaks; sponsors to provide funding)  Resources: VSI budget line item to purchase needed equipment that can be shared across open water meets  Responsible: Open Water Committee	H2Okies, annual OW host, refurbished and purchased equipment for OW event. Feedback provided to Committee as to what elements are essential for successful OW event. Gathering information to build mobile "kit" of materials needed to host an OW event.
Strategy 5: Recruit and train qualified officials to run open water meets  Milestones: A sufficient number (TBD) of certified open water officials to be grown over a 3-year period to allow for easy and reliable staffing of open water meets  Resources: Recruit national open water officials to serve as meet referees and provide initial open water training clinics; funding to cover travel expenses of national open water officials; USA Swimming-sponsored Open Water Official Clinics  Responsible: Officials Committee	Planning a OW Officials training clinic prior to H2Okies OW event in June 2023.
Strategy 6: Determine the best dates on the calendar to conduct open water meets  Milestones: Have 3 or more events on separate non-competing weekends  Resources: Host clubs, officials, volunteers, seasonal weather/waters  Responsible: Open Water Committee, Technical Planning Committee	

Strategy 7: Create an open water race series or VSI open water championship series by combining existing and new open water events into a minimum 3-event series  Milestones: Crown open water team and Individual champions beginning with the 2023 long course season  Resources: VSI funding for awards  Responsible: Open Water Committee	OW Comm. envisioning three race series during the summer season – H2Okie quarry race, an eastern VA race (TBD), and a sanctioned ISCA Eastern OW Championship.
Strategy 8: Investigate and plan an open water competition with possible Eastern Zone "circuit" support  Milestones: Recruit host for summer 2023; proposal to the Eastern Zone for 2022-23 budget support  Resources: Eastern Zone funding support  Responsible: Open Water Committee, Technical Planning Committee	Normal bid process for EZ currently completed and closed through 2023. Plan for 2024 bid with financial support as part of OW EZ circuit.
Strategy 9: Proactively communicate available open water opportunities available through e-mail, the VSI website, and social media  Milestones: Increase number of clubs participating in VSI open water meets  Resources: Open Water Committee, Virginia Swimming Office Responsible: Open Water Committee	

# **Broad Strategic Goal #3:** Provide developmental opportunities (eg, camps, clinics) for athlete members of Virginia Swimming

Objectives	Strategies	Progress
Objective 1: Offer swim camps targeting different levels of swimmers and different types of swimming (eg, pool vs open water) and swimming-related (eg, dryland training, mental health, nutrition)	Strategy 1: Establish a Camps and Clinics Working Group that will in turn determine criteria for selection and format for camps with a focus on DEI and developmental athletes  Milestones: Develop criteria and format by 04/30/2022  Resources: Zone camp template  Responsible: Age Group Committee, DEI Committee, Athletes Committee	AG committee is currently looking to replace Jeremy Edwards with another coach from the western regions of the LSC. Once we get a replacement, I will be asking for volunteers to join the members of senior committee for a camps and clinics task force
	Strategy 2: Provide camps for BB and slower athletes in 10 & U age groups; participants may not have any A times (suggested guidelines)  Milestones: Camps offered in the southwest, central, northern, and tidewater districts during each odd numbered years; calendar of camps over multiple years, created by 09/2022 to allow lead time for planning by athletes, parents, and coaches	
	Resources: Funds for facilities, snacks, SWAG, coaches Responsible: Age Group Committee has primary responsibility for putting the camps together with the Virginia Swimming Office providing logistical support	
	Strategy 3: Provide LSC-wide camps for 11-14-year-old athletes based on IMX scores (SCY or LCM depending on time of year of camp)  Milestones: Camps offered to provide camaraderie and education for this select group of athletes to create bonding amongst athletes and instill motivation to remain a swimmer through their senior swimming ages; camp to be held in the even years no later than September 30; schedule over multiple years to allow lead time for planning by athletes, parents, and coaches  Resources: Funds for facilities, snacks, SWAG, coaches  Responsible: Age Group Committee has primary responsibility for putting the camps together with the Virginia Swimming Office providing logistical support	
	Strategy 4: Offer camps/clinics that focus on topics such as leadership, dryland activities, mental health, and nutrition  Milestones: Develop a schedule and menu of offerings by 09/2022; begin offering the camps/clinics beginning at the start of the 2022/2023 season	

Objective 2: Promote open	Resources: Identify subject matter experts; funding for in-person opportunities and subject matter expert  Responsible: Senior Committee and Athletes Committee have primary responsibility with the Virginia Swimming Office providing logistical support  Strategy 1: Develop and provide informational material (eg,	
water swimming by providing coaches and swimmers with education on the topic	information sheet, brochure, web-based media) as to what open water swimming is  Milestones: By the spring 2022 HOD meeting, create and distribute the informational material to member clubs to share with their membership  Resources: Open Water Committee  Responsible: Open Water Committee with support from the Virginia	
Objective 3: Increase the diversity of the athletes attending camps and clinics	Strategy 1: Offer financial assistance to eligible athletes who otherwise would not be able to attend an offered camps and clinics  Milestones: Secure funding line item in VSI budget beginning with the 2022/2023 fiscal year; measure increased participation of economically disadvantaged athletes over time  Resources: VSI Outreach Membership and VSI budget  Responsible: VSI DEI Committee Working Group has primary responsibility for identifying qualifying participants and for working with the Age Group Committee to promote an inclusive camp atmosphere	
Objective 4: Increase athlete participation in LSC governance and decision making	Strategy 1: Offer an Athlete Leadership and Governance Conference for 14-16-year-old athletes with attendees selected by their clubs  Milestones: Schedule clinic no later than November 30 of even years, offering the clinic in even years; NLT December 31 <sup>st</sup> of the given year, survey of participants who attended; monitor attendees for future service on the VSI BOD or VSI committees  Resources: Athlete Leadership Handbook, funds for facility, meals, snacks, SWAG, potential facilitator, peer facilitators  Responsible: Athletes Committee, Governance Committee, and Virginia Swimming Office	1st Athlete Summit completed in September w/ 28 participants. Single day summit featured DEI speaker from USA Swimming and governance workshop sessions by Athlete BoD members. Viewed as successful and plans to repeat in subsequent years.  2nd Annual Athlete Summit planned for Sept. 2023, to include USS staff appearances.  VSI will be sending 8 athletes to attend EZ Leadership Athlete Camp in Maine, June 2023

### **Broad Strategic Goal #4:** Offer mentorship and educational opportunities to both professional coaches and volunteers (eg, officials, board members, meet directors) who support Virginia Swimming

Objectives	Strategies	Progress
Objective 1: Offer continuous support to all parties responsible for VSI ongoing operations	Strategy 1: Embrace on-line education to minimize volunteer fatigue and to increase educational opportunities for all teams regardless of size  Milestones: Consider the use of virtual or hybrid formats when scheduling meetings clinics, or workshops  Resources: Zoom  Responsible: Virginia Swimming Office for Zoom support	See below.
Objective 2: Ensure that club registrars are well-trained and understand their responsibilities	Strategy 1: VSI staff will offer training workshops to educate club registrars about existing and newly implemented registration practices for the upcoming swim season  Milestones: Offer on an as-needed basis  Resources: Newly developed registration practices from USA Swimming  Responsible: Virginia Swimming Office	Home office conducted six Registration workshops at locations throughout VSI during summer of 2022.  Meet Director workshops ongoing throughout the year, both online and in person.
Objective 3: Promote coachdirected educational opportunities offered by USA Swimming and other organizations	Strategy 1: Survey coaches to determine their continuing education needs including desired topics, format desired (in-person or virtual), and frequency  Milestones: Survey developed by 04/2022; survey completed and analyzed by 6/2022  Resources: Coaches Committee Task Force  Responsible: Coaches Committee has primary responsibility with the Virginia Swimming Office providing logistical support  Strategy 2: The Coaches Committee and VSI staff will generate a	
	monthly list of educational opportunities for coaches; the list will be emailed to coaches and posted on the Coaches page of the VSI website  Milestones: A list of educational opportunities for coaches will be updated by the 5 <sup>th</sup> of each month  Resources: USA Swimming, ASCA, ISCA  Responsible: Virginia Swimming Office, Coaches Committee  Strategy 3: Subsidize VSI woman coach attendance at the USA Swimming Women's Leadership Workshop	Two coaches attended national women's leadership workshop in April. USA Swimming scholarships awarded so no VSI funds required.

	Milestones: Develop selection criteria and develop a ranked list of potential attendees to be updated annually; send 2 coaches per year to the workshop  Resources: Airfare, lodging, conference cost ( = \$2K)  Responsible: Coaches Committee</th <th>governance multi-meeting workshop, culminating April 2023.  USS to continue multi-meeting women Coaches in Leadership for the 2023-24 season. Will encourage additional VSI coaches to apply.  Sending VSI coach to single weekend camp for women Coaches March 2023</th>	governance multi-meeting workshop, culminating April 2023.  USS to continue multi-meeting women Coaches in Leadership for the 2023-24 season. Will encourage additional VSI coaches to apply.  Sending VSI coach to single weekend camp for women Coaches March 2023
	Strategy 4: Subsidize VSI Senior and Age Group Coach of the Year to attend the ASCA Conference and Workshop  Milestones: Send VSI Coaches of the Year to the Conference/Workshop on an annual basis  Resources: Travel, Lodging, Conference cost  Responsible: Coaches Committee	Elections not held until after ASCA Convention in 2022. Recommending early election process in 2023. VSI subsidizes VSI Coaches of the Year attendance of ASCA convention.
	Strategy 5: Provide in-house (VSI) coaching clinics Milestones: Beginning clinics in 2022 Resources: Coaches Committee Responsible: Coaches Committee	
	Strategy 6: Provide stipend to continuing education opportunities for coaches  Milestones: Develop selection criteria and post-attendance reporting requirements; conduct survey to identify targeted educational opportunities  Resources: \$2,000 in 2022/2023 budget with future year budgets to be determined  Responsible: Coaches Committee	
Objective 4: Advance officiating knowledge by taking advantage of USA Swimming Officials Training Clinics	Strategy 1: Send a VSI official to USA Swimming Open Water Officials Clinic and associated Open Water National Championship Milestones: Develop selection criteria; one VSI official to attend the Open Water Clinic per year Resources: Airfare, lodging, conference cost ( = \$2K) Responsible: Officials Committee has primary responsibility with the Open Water Committee providing input</td <td>VSI routinely sends an official to national training clinic, but not in 2021-22. Next available opportunity in April 2023.  Two Referees to attend Officials track of All-Zones workshop in Denver, April 2023</td>	VSI routinely sends an official to national training clinic, but not in 2021-22. Next available opportunity in April 2023.  Two Referees to attend Officials track of All-Zones workshop in Denver, April 2023
	Strategy 2: Send 2 VSI referees to USA Swimming Referees Clinic  Milestones: Develop selection criteria; two VSI referees to attend the Referees Clinic when offered every other year  Resources: Airfare, lodging, conference cost ( = \$2K)</td <td>USA Swimming resuming Referees Clinic in April 2023. VSI Officials Comm. to select 1-2 Referees to attend, based on attendance limitations.</td>	USA Swimming resuming Referees Clinic in April 2023. VSI Officials Comm. to select 1-2 Referees to attend, based on attendance limitations.

	Responsible: Officials Committee	
Objective 5: Increase DEI presence	Strategy 1: Increase the number of DEI Representatives on teams across the districts	
	<b>Milestones:</b> Build relationships with teams in the districts and then recruit membership from those teams	
	Resources: none	
	Responsible: VSI DEI Committee Working Group	
	Strategy 2: Develop DEI District Chairs	
	<b>Milestones:</b> Build relationships with teams in the districts and then develop current members into District Lead Members	
	Resources: None	
	Responsible: VSI DEI Committee Working Group	

# **Broad Strategic Goal #5:** Support club development by providing educational opportunities and best practices

Objectives	Strategies	Progress
Objective 1: Track the performance metrics of our athletes as a means of gauging club and LSC success	Strategy 1: Generate Top Times lists from SWIMS of each gender and age group  Milestones: Update Top Times list monthly (November – August) and post on VSI website  Resources: SWIMS  Responsible: Records Coordinator, Virginia Swimming Office	
Objective 2: Encourage club recognition and excellence participation	Strategy 1: Subsidize club membership dues for clubs that achieve club excellence ranking (ie, level 2 or above)  Milestones: Establish working group to investigate and recommend incentives by 06/2022; BOD approval by 08/2022  Resources: As adopted by BOD  Responsible: General chair to establish working group	Have investigated changes to USS Club Recognition program. It is understood that future Club Recognitions awarded will be for fixed time periods, and not open ended as is currently. This change could permit a tiered program of financial incentives based on recognition awards and subsequent renewals.
	Strategy 2: Offer online seminars on how to use club portal information  Milestones: Seminars offered on an as-needed basis  Resources: Virginia Swimming Office  Responsible: Virginia Swimming Office	
Objective 3: Strengthen individual clubs through financial incentives, mentorship, and best practices	Strategy 1: Provide resources to Treasurers and BODs of individual clubs, (eg, create best practices sheets from successful clubs and share that information to less successful clubs)  Milestones: By 09/2022, gather best practice information from financially successful clubs and collate responses  Resources: Finance Committee, VSI Clubs  Responsible: Finance Chair and Treasurer	
	Strategy 2: Develop a mentor program where the Treasurer/Finance Chair meets with club BODs for financial training  Milestones: By 09/2022, create a mentorship program and schedule dates with interested clubs to go over financial resources available to them  Resources: Finance Committee, VSI Clubs  Responsible: Finance Chair and Treasurer	

### **Broad Strategic Goal #6:** Make safety, including all aspects of safe sport and operational risk, a priority for athletes, coaches, and volunteers

Objectives	Strategies	Progress
Objective 1: Facilitate the two-way flow of information between the VSI Operational	Strategy 1: Grow an Operational Risk Committee Working Group to as many clubs as possible having a parent and swimmer representing their club and expressing club concerns	
Risk Committee and VSI clubs	<b>Milestones:</b> 33% participation by 08/2022, 66% participation by 08/2023, and 100% participation by 08/2024 <b>Resources:</b> None	
	Responsible: Operational Risk Committee	
Objective 2: Improve safety throughout VSI by identifying	Strategy 1: VSI Operational Risk Committee will identify exposure to risks and develop recommendations to avoid or minimize the risks	
risks and by developing best practices to mitigate those	<b>Milestones:</b> Develop risk assessment plan and mitigation strategies by 08/2022 and update annually thereafter	
risks	Resources: USA Swimming Operational Risk Committee; USA Swimming Operational Risk Committee Risk Management & Safety Manual	
	Responsible: Club Operational Risk Coordinator has responsibility at the club level; VSI Operational Risk Committee has responsibility for providing resources and monitoring compliance	
	Strategy 2: VSI Operational Risk Committee will provide brief training papers and develop 12 training modules for a consistent monthly training program	
	<b>Milestones:</b> Training modules and papers will be developed and released on a monthly basis beginning 03/2022; modules and papers will be reviewed and updated as necessary on an annual basis	
	Resources: USA Swimming Operational Risk Committee; USA Swimming Operational Risk Committee Risk Management & Safety Manual	
	Responsible: VSI Operational Risk Committee	
Objective 3: Improve safety and decrease risks at both	<b>Strategy 1:</b> Recommend clubs have an Operational Risk Coordinator to provide education and oversight of operational risk at the club level	
swim practices and swim meets	<b>Milestones:</b> VSI Operational Risk Committee develops educational and working material for VSI clubs; 50% compliance by 08/2022; 75% compliance by 08/2023; 100% compliance by 08/2024	
	Resources: VSI Operational Risk Committee; USA Swimming Operational Risk Committee Risk Management & Safety Manual	

<b>Responsible:</b> VSI Operational Risk Committee has responsibility for providing resources; Club Operational Risk Coordinator has responsibility at the club level	
Strategy 2: Recommend clubs review and understand their facility Emergency Action Plan on an annual basis	
<b>Milestones:</b> 50% compliance by 08/2022; 75% compliance by 08/2023; 100% compliance by 08/2024	
<b>Resources:</b> VSI Operational Risk Committee; USA Swimming Operational Risk Committee Risk Management & Safety Manual	
<b>Responsible:</b> Club Operational Risk Coordinator has responsibility at the club level	
<b>Strategy 3:</b> Recommend annual safety inspection of facilities used for practices and pre-meet inspection of facilities used for meets	
<b>Milestones:</b> Practice facility inspections: 50% compliance by 10/2022; 75% compliance by 10/2023; 100% compliance by 10/2024.	
Competition facility inspections: ongoing 100% compliance	
Resources: VSI Facility Inspection Checklist	
<b>Responsible:</b> Club Operational Risk Coordinator has responsibility at the club level; VSI Operational Risk Committee has responsibility for providing resources and monitoring compliance	
<b>Strategy 4:</b> Provide education on the importance of completing the Report of Occurrence form following any reportable incident	
<b>Milestones:</b> Educational material developed by VSI Operational Risk Committee and distributed by 10/2022; increased reporting, particularly of incidents occurring at practices	
Resources: VSI Operational Risk Committee	
Responsible: VSI Operational Risk Committee is responsible for creating and distributing training material and for monitoring the frequency of reporting; Club Operational Risk Coordinators are responsible for filing the Report of Occurrence as needed and for the local maintenance of such reports	
<b>Strategy 5:</b> Deploy a Meet Marshal training program that is consistent with any guidelines as established by USA Swimming	Procedure proposals re: Club Safety Officers and Meet Marshal requirements (MM training & Meet
<b>Milestones:</b> Clubs adopt the Meet Marshal training program and have trained Marshals at VSI-sanctioned meets	mgmt.) approved by BoD March 2023 and HoD April 2023. Proposals include additions to
Resources: Arizona Swimming, USA Swimming	procedures (50.1.C) to conform to new USS requirements Training will utilize new USS online
<b>Responsible:</b> VSI Operational Risk Committee is responsible for developing and deploying a Meet Marshal training program (consistent with any guidelines as developed by USA Swimming); host clubs are	training and testing.

	responsible for having a sufficient number of trained Marshals available at meets	
	<b>Strategy 6:</b> Require that at least one lifeguard be on duty at all VSI-sanctioned pool-based and open water meets	Proposed procedure addition to require lifeguard(s) at all VSI sanctioned, observed, and
	<b>Milestones:</b> Implement as a VSI policy change by spring 2022;100% compliance thereafter	approved meets to be presented to BoD March 2023 and approved in HoD April 2023
	Resources: None	
	<b>Responsible:</b> Host club or facility as established by any contractual requirements	
	<b>Strategy 7:</b> Develop educational material to emphasize to clubs the importance of having lifeguards at practices	
	Milestones: Educational material developed by 09/2022	
	Resources: USA Swimming, American Red Cross	
	<b>Responsible:</b> VSI Operational Risk Committee is responsible for developing material; individual clubs are responsible for implementing the recommendation	
Objective 4: Ensure that open	Strategy 1: Develop and deploy open water safety training course	
water meets are conducted in as safe a manner as is possible	<b>Milestones:</b> Course developed by 06/2022 and education provided to open water meet host clubs 2-3 months prior to open water meet date	
possible	Resources: Sample USA Swimming Water Safety Plan & Checklist; Emergency Action Plan Checklist; USA Swimming Open Water Sanction Application	
	<b>Responsible:</b> VSI Operational Risk Committee is responsible for developing and deploying educational material; Club Operational Risk Coordinator is responsible for working with the host club to implement best practices and required elements	
Objective 5: Have 100% of VSI clubs be Safe Sport recognized by USA Swimming	Strategy 1: Incentivize VSI clubs to obtain Safe Sport recognition by USA Swimming (eg, allow only SSR clubs to host meets)  Milestones: 100% compliance by the conclusion of the 2023 long course season	Proposed policy legislation that all VSI clubs hosting meets are required to be club Safesport certified (or awaiting approval) in order to qualify for sanctioned meets approved by HoD April
	Resources: USA Swimming online certification database & testing Responsible: Safe Sport Committee	2023

# **Broad Strategic Goal #7:** Ensure that Virginia Swimming remains financially stable and continues to develop its endowment funds

Objectives	Strategies	Progress
Objective 1: Enhance the long- term financial health of Virginia Swimming through strong leadership and adoption of financial best practices	Strategy 1: Perform an analysis of Virginia Swimming's financial account to ensure maximum return of assets  Milestones: By 04/2022, the Finance Committee will perform analysis of accounts and determine if it is necessary to switch institutions to gain better returns/savings; repeat on an annual basis  Resources: Finance Committee  Responsible: Finance Chair and Treasurer	
Objective 2: Diversify the revenue streams available to Virginia Swimming to support its mission	Strategy 1: Perform an analysis of the VSI financial plan and implement changes if needed  Milestones: By 04/2022, the Finance Committee will perform analysis of accounts and determine if it is necessary to switch institutions to gain better returns/savings; repeat on an annual basis  Resources: Finance Committee  Responsible: Finance Chair and Treasurer	
	Strategy 2: Develop a revenue stream through sponsorships Milestones: Establish sponsorship levels (eg, gold, silver, bronze) and opportunities (eg, Senior Championships, Open Water Series, Developmental Camps); on an annual basis, identify a minimum of 4 prospective sponsors and secure at least one as an active sponsor; initial goal of \$5,000 per year in sponsorships, increasing by \$5,000 per year in subsequent years  Resources: None Responsible: Finance Committee and Virginia Swimming Office	
	Strategy 3: Secure funding through grant opportunities  Milestones: Apply for 4-6 grants per year; receive funding for one grant per year  Resources: State and local government websites; directed searches of public and private foundations  Responsible: Virginia Swimming Office with assistance from applicable constituencies  Strategy 4: Develop strategic partnerships with local aquatic facilities and governmental entities	

Objective 3: Guarantee that reserve funds are available for "rainy day" scenarios	Milestones: A minimum of one joint camp or clinic targeting new and developmental swimmers, especially among underrepresented populations; implement at both the VSI and local club levels Resources: Funding to cover a portion of the camp/clinic costs Responsible: Virginia Swimming Office  Strategy 1: Review the current VSI reserve funds practice and recommend any needed changes Milestones: Practice codified and approved by VSI BOD by spring 2022 Resources: None	Currently reserves maintained to run for at least 6 months normal operations
	<b>Responsible:</b> Finance Committee responsible for establishing the reserve amount	
Objective 4: Ensure that rebates for the endowment fund are paid for all meets as required by current LSC policies	Strategy 1: Review the meet financial reports submitted by each club to ensure that amount paid for rebates is correct  Milestones: Ongoing review  Resources: VSI Meet Financial Report  Responsible: Treasurer and Virginia Swimming Office	On-going
	Strategy 2: Track meets as well as meet results held in VSI by teams from other LSCs and send invoices for amount of endowment fees on a monthly basis  Milestones: Invoices sent and payments received monthly  Resources: None  Responsible: Virginia Swimming Office	On-going
Objective 5: Develop and establish best practices to ensure that VSI receives all payments due from member clubs	Strategy 1: Maintain records of registrations processed and related payments made by clubs  Milestones: Maintain a spreadsheet for each club detailing all registrations and payments; invoice clubs on a monthly basis for any outstanding amounts due; if payments are not received by proper deadlines, assess appropriate fines and penalties  Resources: None  Responsible: Virginia Swimming Office	On-going

**Broad Strategic Goal** #8: Enhance VSI's governance structure by focusing the BOD on the strategic plan, shifting operational initiatives to the committees and coordinators, increasing the meaningful participation of athlete and non-athlete members, and increasing the participation of group members in the HOD

Objectives	Strategies	Progress
Objective 1: Ensure that VSI BOD members, VSI committee chairs, VSI coordinators, VSI group members, and VSI athletes know and understand the governance structure of VSI so that they can participate meaningfully in governing VSI	Strategy 1: Provide orientation material for new BOD members, committee chairs, and coordinators  Milestones: Provide orientation to new BOD members, committee chairs, and coordinators; update orientation material as needed  Resources: VSI BOD Orientation PowerPoint presentation; VSI BOD (2021-2023) Handbook  Responsible: Governance Committee	<ul> <li>VSI BOD Handbook distributed in fall 2021 and updated fall 2022</li> <li>VSI BOD Orientation presentation for new members first given in fall 2021 and subsequently in fall 2022</li> <li>VSI Committees and Coordinators Handbook distributed in Winter 2021 and Fall 2022.</li> </ul>
	Strategy 2: Develop and provide governance orientation material and learning opportunities for VSI group members  Milestones: Develop and deploy governance educational material and learning opportunities by 03/2022; offer educational opportunities 2 months prior to scheduled HOD meetings  Resources: The VSI BOD Orientation PowerPoint presentation and the VSI BOD (2021-2023) Handbook can be tailored to needs of the VSI group members; conduct survey of VSI group members to determine what they'd like to know  Responsible: Governance Committee has primary responsibility for implementation; Virginia Swimming Office to provide support for needed surveys and logistical support for in-person or virtual learning opportunities	An HOD Governance Handbook is being developed and should be released no later than the end of November 2022  VSI HOD Handbook completed & distributed Dec. 2022
	Strategy 3: Develop and provide governance orientation material and learning opportunities for VSI athletes  Milestones: Develop and deploy governance educational material and learning opportunities by 03/2022; offer educational opportunities 2 months prior to scheduled HOD meetings and as athletes join the BOD or committees for the first time  Resources: The VSI BOD Orientation PowerPoint presentation and the VSI BOD (2021-2023) Handbook can be tailored to needs of the VSI athletes; conduct survey of VSI athletes to determine what they'd like to know  Responsible: Governance Committee has primary responsibility for implementation; Virginia Swimming Office to provide support for needed surveys and logistical support for in-person or virtual learning opportunities	An Athletes Governance Handbook is being developed and should be released no later than the end of November 2022.  VSI Athletes in Governance Handbook completed and distributed in Feb. 2023

	Strategy 4: Promote the use of working groups and task forces to supplement and diversify the number of individuals participating in BOD and committee activities  Milestones: Immediately begin promoting the use of working groups and task forces; see an increased use of working groups and task forces associated with the BOD and committees and see a broadening of the number of individuals participating in governance activities  Resources: Governance Committee  Responsible: Governance Committee	The use of subcommittees, working groups, and task forces is called out as a best practice in the VSI Committee Chairs and Coordinators Handbook. Their use has also been recommended at BOD meetings and informal talks with committee chairs and members.
	Strategy 5: Proactively engage coaches to offer overall direction for the LSC instead of only reactive problem solving  Milestones: Use of virtual meetings to discuss scheduled topics  Resources: Coaches  Responsible: Coaches Committee, Age Group Committee, Senior Committee	The AG committee feels like the best way to engage coaches across the LSC is by opening up discussions at swim meets (ex- in hospitality or pool side during breaks). Other methods of engagement have not given the participation desired. We feel like doing this on a district level would be the best way to reach all coaches, and will give committee members of each district some talking points as we get closer to spring champs.
Objective 2: Increase the number of group members who participate in HOD meetings	Strategy 1: Determine why group members do not participate in HOD meetings  Milestones: No later than 06/2022, obtain survey results that provide data as to why clubs do not participate in HOD meetings  Resources: Governance Committee Task Force  Responsible: Governance Committee	A survey instrument is in development and will be sent to group members by mid-November 2022, with results to be collated and analyzed in time to make recommendations at the January 2023 BOD meeting.  An HOD Participation Survey was launched in January 2023 and the results will be available for the March 2023 BOD meeting.
	Strategy 2: Based on survey results (see BSG#8/OBJ#2/STR#1), provide education to group members as to importance of participating in HOD meetings  Milestones: Increase the group participation rate to 90% by spring 2024 HOD meeting  Resources: Governance Committee Task Force  Responsible: Governance Committee	

	Strategy 3: Require HOD attendance in past year for all hosts of VSI Championship meets or other VSI-sponsored events.  Milestones: Implement Procedure/Policy change spring 2022 HOD, effective for the 2022-23 year  Resources: None  Responsible: Rules and Legislation Coordinator	Legislation to be presented to BoD by March 2023 for discussion and vote.  Governance Comm. voted against the initial strategy as counter to goal of increased attendance. Revaluating best practice to encourage greater attendance.
	Strategy 4: Establish "hybrid meetings" (ie, combination of in-person and virtual) as the default structure for HOD meetings  Milestones: Review VSI Bylaws and VSI Policies and Procedures for any needed changes; if changes are needed, develop proposed legislation in time for spring 2022 HOD action  Resources: None  Responsible: Rules and Legislation Coordinator	Ongoing BoD discussion. Spring HoD to remain in-person, and change Fall HoD to more of in-person educational event for coaches, volunteers, and athletes. September weekend to remain "protected" to host educational initiatives, but not envisioning legislative portion.  Based on HoD participation survey, BoD approved adoption of availability of "virtual" HoD
		meetings. Adoption requires change to USS bylaws which currently bar virtual/hybrid HoD meetings at the LSC level. National legislation to change pending Fall 2023
	Strategy 5: Combine HOD meeting with additional compelling and relevant content (eg, workshops, clinics)  Milestones: Implement by fall 2023  Resources: None  Responsible: BOD, committee chairs	See above
	Strategy 6: Advertise upcoming meetings on a wide variety of social media  Milestones: Beginning immediately, in addition to placing meetings on the VSI website, also advertise them on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter  Resources: Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts  Responsible: Virginia Swimming Office	On-going
Objective 3: Increase transparency in VSI committee and BOD activities	Strategy 1: Restructure the facility/host club bid process for championship/VSI sponsored meets (eg, facility features, host ability and experience, price, facility availability)  Milestones: Implement bid process by spring 2022 so that it is used for 2022-23 bids  Resources: None  Responsible: Technical Planning Committee	

<b>Strategy 2:</b> Hold annual VSI "open forum" and "state of VSI" meeting for parents, athlete members, and non-athlete members	
Milestones: Implement in spring 2022 and held annually thereafter	
Resources: Physical venue and virtual platform	
Responsible: BOD has primary responsibility with the Virginia Swimming Office providing support	

### **Broad Strategic Goal #9:** Ensure that Virginia Swimmi

ng communicates effectively with its members and volunteers by adopting communications strategies that keep pace with current technology

Objectives	Strategies	Progress
Objective 1: Continue to maintain effective communication with the VSI membership and clubs by maintaining relevant communication streams and adapt as needed	Strategy 1: Use email to communicate with the VSI membership and clubs  Milestones: Using targeted distribution lists, emails will be sent to members with announcements and VSI updates on an as-needed basis  Resources: iContact  Responsible: Virginia Swimming Office	On-going
	Strategy 2: Use the VSI website to communicate with the VSI membership and clubs  Milestones: Update content on website regularly; work with VSI committees and BOD to ensure web pages have relevant and current content posted  Resources: TeamUnify  Responsible: Virginia Swimming Office; Committee Chairs and Coordinators have responsibility for providing content	Committee meeting minutes posted on website
	Strategy 3: Use social media to communicate with the VSI membership and clubs  Milestones: Post relevant information and announcements on VSI social media platforms; add new social media platforms as necessary; boost followers on each platform to reach a wider audience within VSI.  Resources: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter  Responsible: Virginia Swimming Office	On-going
	Strategy 4: Use virtual communication platforms to communicate with VSI membership and clubs  Milestones: Zoom is available to committees to use to meet regularly; the promotion of the virtual platform for committees to meet frequently will lead to better communication LSC wide.  Resources: Zoom  Responsible: Virginia Swimming Office  Strategy 5: Stay abreast of emerging communications strategies and implement as appropriate	On-going
	Milestones: Implement on an ongoing basis	

Resources: Internet	
Responsible: Virginia Swimming Office	