



# WISCONSIN SWIMMING OFFICIALS NEWSLETTER



July 2014

## **Updates and Reminders**

Hello fellow officials, and happy summer! The 2014 Long Course Season is off to a tremendous start. It is hard to believe that in a few short weeks we will be coming up to our championship meets. Let's make it a priority to get out and support our swimmers as much as possible through the end of the summer.

First, this is the initial official request for your help. **Long Course Championship Season** has historically had many meets competing for resources (both swimmers and officials) and 2014 will continue this trend. Our LSC Silver Meets will be the weekend of July 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, and bumps up against the Speedo Champions Series in Iowa. The 12 & Under Meet will be from July 25<sup>th</sup> – July 27<sup>th</sup>. The 13 & Over Meet will be from July 31<sup>st</sup> – August 3<sup>rd</sup>. And various YMCA meets and the annual Madison City Meet will be during this time period as well. The assigned positions for the 12 & Under Meet are Patrick Weisling as the Meet Referee and Michael Harbert as the Head Chief Judge. For the 13 & Over Meet, Rick Potter is the Meet Referee, Beth Pless is the Head Chief Judge and Cindy Raatz is the Administrative Referee. As one of the assigned positions, I speak for all of us in commending you for your generous gift of time so far this season, and hope that we can count on you for your continued assistance to help make this a tremendous championship season. Below is a chart for your convenience.

### **The Regional Weekend (July 18-20) hosts and sites are as follows:**

Region #1: LAKE @ Walter Schroeder Aquatic Center, Brown Deer

Region #2: WEST @ Waukesha South High School.

### **12&Under State Championship (July 25-27):**

SWAT @ Walter Schroeder Aquatic Center, Brown Deer

### **13&Over State Championship (July 31 – August 3):**

SEA @ Pleasant Prairie RecPlex.

### **The Competing Events (July 17 – August 3):**

July 17-20: Central Zones Summer Speedo Meet, Iowa City, IA

July 30 – August 3: Speedo Junior National Championships, Irvine, CA

August 1-3: Central Zones 14&Under Championship, Oklahoma City, OK

August 1-3: Central Zones Senior Championship, Minneapolis, MN

If you are attending any of these national level meets, please consider volunteering to officiate. It is always better on deck than in the stands.

Second, starter/referees received a notification in April from Rick Potter about "No DQ Meets." Apparently, some teams may have been conducting sanctioned meets where the meet referee was told not to make disqualifications. If a meet has obtained a USA Swimming sanction or approval, it must be conducted under USA Swimming rules. If, on the other hand, a team wishes to have a non-sanctioned meet and chose not to have infractions used to disqualify swimmers, that would be acceptable, as long as none of the times are entered into the SWIMS database or used as proof of time in any USA Swimming sanctioned meet.

Third, 2014 is a year where we will have bi-annual recertification clinics. These will be held the weekend of September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. We will be having our normal rotation, with the first clinic in

Waukesha on Saturday morning, the second clinic in Oshkosh on Saturday afternoon, and the third clinic in Madison on Sunday morning. More details will be forthcoming, and will certainly be posted on the Wisconsin Swimming website. Be sure to mark these dates on your calendar. We will have Randy Julian as our keynote speaker, and I believe he will be just as insightful and interesting as our previous invited guests.

Fourth, as a reminder, the Athlete Protection Training must be completed on an annual basis. If your certification was ending anytime in 2014 or 2015, it will have been extended to December 31<sup>st</sup> of the corresponding year. Additionally, Criminal Background Checks may be coming up for renewal soon. **Please check your credentials to see when these important dates are coming up for you, because if they expire you will not be allowed to officiate at a USA Swimming meet, even if your membership to USA Swimming is up to date.**

Fifth, please be sure to check out the Wisconsin Swimming website frequently for new clinics, as well as important updates. The home page is found at:

<http://www.wisconsinswimming.org>

Sixth, the Wisconsin LSC Officials Committee would like to introduce Jacqueline (Jacky) Jugenheimer as their newest member. Jacky is very active and engaged as USA Swimming Official, and she holds N2 certifications as Stroke & Turn Judge, Chief Judge, Starter, Deck Referee, and Administrative Referee. She is also very active as a swimming parent with two boys, ages 12 and 15, who swim with SWAT in Madison.

Seventh, please make sure to take advantage of the resources emailed to all members of USA Swimming—Lanelines Newsletter and Officials Newsletter. They are timely and useful sources of information.

Eight, I am pleased to be able to introduce the 2013-2014 Officials of the Year, plus One.

2013 – 14 Stroke and Turn Official of the Year: **Emily Spears**

Emily is a very active official, volunteering to officiate at meets of smaller clubs in the Madison area, even though she no longer has a child swimming. Her positive attitude and cheerful disposition are always noticed when she is working on deck, which fosters a great environment for swimmers, coaches and other officials.

2013 – 14 Starter/Referee Official of the Year: **Michael Harbert**

Michael has distinguished himself in providing support to swimming programs in the northern part of state where the need is so dire. Over the years, he has selflessly volunteered his time and energy as an official, working many sanction and unsanctioned regional meets, recruiting and training new USA Swimming officials for small clubs in the most rural parts of the state, and generally ensuring that swimmers had opportunities to compete. He has also helped strengthen our bonds to high school swimming.

Lifetime Achievement Award: **Joe Domitrz**

During his 40+ year involvement with swimming, Joe has positively affected all aspects of swimming in the state of Wisconsin. He has been the Wisconsin LSC General Chair, a member of the Officials Committee, and was instrumental in helping Wisconsin Swimming host its first ever Central Zone Championship Meet. Working over 10 meets per year, Joe's calm, friendly and professional presence continues to enhance swim decks, and he is showing no signs of slowing down.

## **Rules Updates—Very Important**

OK, fooled you, no rules updates that have not been covered in previous emails, and more than likely discussed and debated to death during officials pre-meet briefings.

### **Spotlight on Rules**

Although I thoroughly enjoy scenarios supplied by USA Swimming, I find the ones that happen in our own LSC much more interesting to share. Mostly because I know that they happened and are not a contrived circumstance to highlight some obtuse rule interpretation. Without further delay, our situation:

The setting is a 12 & Under session on a 50 meter course. Staffing is good, with 3 turn officials on each end, a lead-lag pair of stroke officials for each side, three chief judges, and of course a starter and referee. The event is the 100 meter breaststroke. The heat is blown to the blocks, full board (8 swimmers), and the start is completed without incident. Just past the 15-meter mark the lead official on the lane 1 side raises their hand to signal an infraction. A chief judge investigates, comes back with a call of arms not in same horizontal plane, which is accepted by the referee and sent into the office. A few heats later, same event, full board of swimmers, start is completed without incident. Again, just past the 15-meter mark, the same lead official raises their hand to signal an infraction. A different chief judge investigates, comes back with a call of arms not in same horizontal plane, but has a more complete description of what has occurred. During the recovery part of the arm stroke, as the hands are pushing forward from the chest underwater, the arms cross over each other (left over right) at approximately the wrists, after which the hands go into a stacked streamline position prior to initiating the propulsive part of the arm stroke. A legal kick followed. Has a stroke infraction occurred? Answer in next newsletter.

### **Editors Corner**

Just thought I would throw this section in, as I have spent more time speaking in the first person in this newsletter than any other. This will be my last newsletter as editor, as it is time for me to step aside and let someone else have the pleasure of addressing you in the future. I can honestly say that I have enjoyed every minute of working on this newsletter the past few years, but I know that it could be so much more and that I am not the person to tackle that task. Thank you all for taking the time to read these documents, to respond and praise (and pan) the content, and to bring a smile to my face as I finish typing these final lines: Hydrate, travel safe, and see you on deck!

Patrick Weisling