



WISCONSIN OFFICIALS NEWSLETTER



October 2012

Recertification Options

Hello everyone, hope that your summer vacations were great and that everyone is excited about the 2012-13 Short Course Season. There have been a number of meets already, and the requests for officials for upcoming meets are filling our in-boxes. With that said, it is a recertification year, so it is important that we make sure that we all stay certified so as to be able to offer coverage for all of the upcoming meets.

The first sets of clinics were well attended, and as per usual policy the Official's Committee is offering a second set of clinics. Times and locations are listed below:

**November 7, 2012 Wednesday, Oshkosh Check-in: 5:15-5:30 PM; Clinic: 5:30 PM – 9:00 PM
20th Avenue YMCA:**

3303 W 20th Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54904, Multi-Purpose Room 1, first floor
Exit US 41 at South Park Avenue. Bear West (away from airport). Take frontage road (S Washburn Ave) North (right) until next light (20th Ave). Turn West (left) on 20th Ave until YMCA on left

**November 8, 2012 Thursday, Middleton Check-in: 5:15-5:30 PM; Clinic: 5:30 PM – 9:00 PM
James Madison Memorial High School, Wisconsin Neighborhood Center:**

201 S. Gammon Rd., Madison, WI, 53717.

From the beltline: Take Gammon Rd. North, cross Mineral Point Rd. and take your first right into the main parking lot of the school. Signs will be posted where you enter.

**November 12, 2012 Monday, Waukesha Check-in: 5:15-5:30 PM; Clinic: 5:30 PM – 9:00 PM
University of Wisconsin, Waukesha, Room C101**

If these dates do not work for you, the on-line USA Swimming Re-Certification Test is available. Please make sure that whatever method you chose for re-certification, you get the information and pertinent paperwork to Ben Radloff. You will be seeing the official invitation and sign-up form soon.

Criminal Background Checks (“CBC”)

The following is important information for staying certified to officiate in the Wisconsin LSC. The first wave of background checks will expire in January 2013. The cost for renewing a Level 2, as required for officials, is \$19.00. Please be certain to choose "Option 2 - Renewal" to avoid paying for a full \$39 initial CBC. You will find a link to the CBC on the USA Swimming website as follows:

[Home](#) / [Member Resources](#) / [Programs & Services](#) / [Safe Sport](#) / [Screening and Selection](#) / [Background Checks](#) / [Initiate a Background Check](#)

Wisconsin Swimming has approved the reimbursement of costs for officials to successfully complete an initial or renewal CBC. Reimbursement requests should be submitted to LSC Treasurer [Pat Lewno](#). They must include a copy of a receipt or credit card statement, showing the amount paid.

IMPORTANT: The day you complete the CBC is the beginning date of coverage. The system will not simply add a year to your previous covered date as shown on the OTS System. You may want to take the renewal CBC as close to your anniversary date as possible, or as close to January 1, 2013 as possible.

Spotlight on Rules

There were 2 rules topics suggested for inclusion in this newsletter. One is a continuation from the July 2012 newsletter, and the second deals with a new subject—devices used to aid a swimmer.

Topic #1: Last newsletter covered some of the circumstances surrounding what is or is not a false start. For this example, both the starter and referee observe a swimmer committing a false start. Which official raises their hand to signify the infraction?

The answer is arrived at by a close review of USA Swimming Rule 102.11.2, which deals with authority of a Referee. The rule states that the Referee "Has the authority to disqualify a swimmer(s) for any violation of the rules that the Referee personally observes and, except for false starts, shall at the same time raise one hand overhead. If the Referee does not make such a signal there shall be no disqualification." This means that the hand is not raised in the event of a false start. This is consistent with Rule 102.13.6, regarding judging relay take-offs, which states that infractions are reported without the use of the infraction hand signal. In summary, if an infraction needs a dual confirmation, then no hand signal is given.

Topic #2: If I observe a swimmer wearing a watch during their swim while they are in my jurisdiction and I am in my correct position, do I call them for an infraction? And if so, what infraction?

Under USA Swimming Rule 102.8.1E, "No swimmer is permitted to wear or use any device, substance or swimsuit to help his/her speed, pace, buoyancy or endurance during a race." A watch could be considered as something that could potentially be used to help pace during a race. However, USA Swimming has interpreted this rule to mean that the swimmer must be using the device, not just wearing it. In order for any disqualification to be valid, the official must provide a clear and definitive observation to the satisfaction of the Referee. In this case, if the official only reported that the swimmer was wearing a watch, this would not reflect a violation of the rule and the Referee should not have approved the disqualification. The benefit of the doubt would go to the swimmer. As a best practice, one of the officials could inform the swimmer that watches should not be worn while swimming a race. As for the infraction, if the swimmer was observed actually using it as a pacing device, this would be best recorded as infraction type "Other", with an explanation and possible citing of Rule 102.8.1E.

Please forward future topics for the newsletter to the Acting Editor, Patrick Weisling of the Shorewood Swim Club, at pweisling@sbcglobal.net.