

## Officials Committee Report, April 2008

### 1. Committee meeting:

Thirty officials (representing six clubs) attended the spring Official's Committee Meeting, held March 1 at Marshall University. The committee chair presided, and the meeting was called to order at 3:15 PM. After opening discussion, Scott Wilson (WV Aquatics) encouraged the members to consider enrolling as HS Swimming officials, and directed them to the WVSSAC web site:

[http://www.wvssac.org/new\\_site/wvssac\\_website/html/index.htm](http://www.wvssac.org/new_site/wvssac_website/html/index.htm)

Details about enrollment and upcoming rules clinics will be made available at the WVSSAC web site. Attendance at one of these clinics is mandatory for HS swimming officials.

Anticipating the possibility that the chair may resign prior to the conclusion of his term (due to a change in employment), the committee entertained nominations for Chair-elect, to assume the Chair upon the resignation of the incumbent, or upon the conclusion of his term (at the 2008 LC Championships). Paul Dryden was nominated by Jeff Breese, and the nomination was seconded by Bobby Shaffer. Hearing no further nominations, the Chair closed nominations and called for a vote. Paul Dryden was confirmed as Chair-elect by voice vote, without dissent. The Chair will offer a motion at the upcoming LSC meeting to confirm Paul Dryden as Chair-elect.

The committee discussed the current scheme of holding two meetings per annum, in conjunction with the Championship meets, with attendance required at one meeting. In light of historical low attendance at the LC Championship meeting, Bill Coyle proposed holding a third meeting in conjunction with the fall LSC meeting. Delynn Davis moved to accept the proposal; seconded by Teri Nason. The motion passed without dissent.

The committee reviewed the current LSC requirements for official's certification and re-certification in light of lessons learned during the 2007-2008 season. Following discussion, the following amendments were approved by voice vote, without dissent:

1. Requirements for certification of new officials will be amended to clearly indicate that attendance at a rules clinic and successful completion of the stroke and turn test are pre-requisites for on-deck stroke and turn apprenticeship. Testing will also be a pre-requisite for starter/referee apprenticeship.
2. Requirements for certification of new officials will be amended to indicate that the five-session apprenticeship may include no more than two sessions served at sanctioned YMCA invitational meets, so long as the referee(s) and supervising official(s) are also certified by WV Swimming.
3. Requirements for re-certification of officials in good standing will be amended to indicate that the five sessions per year work requirement (six for starter/referees) may include no more than two sessions served at sanctioned YMCA or HS invitational meets.

The Chair will offer a motion at the upcoming LSC meeting to approve the amendments, as listed above.

The remainder of the meeting focused upon starter/referee recruitment, with emphasis upon the need for additional personnel and greater geographic diversity in the starter/referee population. Prior to the meeting, two experienced officials (both from HYCAT) had expressed interest in advancement. Following discussion, three additional officials (one each from BRY, HYCAT, and MYAC) expressed interest. At this time of this report, none of the candidates have completed the pre-requisite testing for apprenticeship in the starter/referee position.

Following a motion by Nancy McClure, seconded by Scott Wilson, the meeting was adjourned at 4:27 PM. The next committee meeting will be held in conjunction with the LC Championships.

## 2. Continuing Education:

A national officials' clinic will be held in Omaha, NE on June 13-15. No further details have been transmitted from USA Swimming. Selected officials will be invited to attend on behalf of WV Swimming, with preference given to starter/referees and those indicating their desire to advance to starter/referee.

## 3. Recruitment and Certification:

According to current registration statistics, 22/46 (48%) of WV LSC officials in good standing are from a single club. Three clubs appear to have only one official in good standing. Only three clubs have certified referee/starters, and there are two unattached referee/starters.

As mentioned in previous committee reports, rules 202.3.7 ("Conditions of Sanction"), 102.12.2, and 102.12.3 ("Officials") indicate that a minimum of three officials (Referee, Starter, and Stroke and Turn judge), duly certified, are required to conduct a sanctioned event. All clubs, and particularly the under-represented ones, are encouraged to recruit new judges. The uneven distribution of referee/starters remains a matter of concern, and accordingly, clubs should also be encouraging experienced officials to obtain certification in referee/starter position.

Since the last committee report, a number of new stroke and turn judges have been certified: Kevin Blankenship (CCL), Bob Boyter (PKB), Rob Brock (WVA), Sonia Chambers (HYCAT), Jacek Mazurek (WVA), Neal Murphy (WVA), and Donna Reese (PKB).

## 4. Situations and Resolutions:

None reported

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeff Crain  
Chair, Officials Committee