

## Officials Committee Report, September 2007

### 1. Committee Business:

The summer Officials' committee meeting, normally held in conjunction with the LC State Championship, was cancelled this year, due to the remote location of the meet. As a result, for the 2006-2007 season, the chair waived the policy requiring that officials' attend at least one committee meeting. Two meetings will be held in 2007-2008, regardless of location.

### 2. Continuing Education:

Jeff Crain attended an LSC Official's chairs meeting June 15-17 in San Antonio, TX. Several topics of importance were discussed at length, including rules interpretations (USAS and FINA), national level officials' certification, recruitment and retention, and leveraging of the National Officials Database to the LSC level. The latter two topics are of particular relevance to WV Swimming. "Localization" of the National database will provide the Officials' chair and meet referees with a means of confirming officials' certifications and notifying officials of any deficiencies therein. The recruitment and retention issue is of universal importance, and two concepts were of particular interest: (1) "recruit your replacement", i.e., find the person who will serve in your place when you move up or move on; and (2) the use of "officials coordinators" at the club level to identify and mentor candidate officials during the certification process. These recruitment concepts were communicated to the officials committee via Email.

A national-level referees' clinic has been scheduled for October 12-15 in St. Louis, MO. The registration deadline was September 10. Several officials were invited to attend, but none accepted the invitation.

### 3. Recruitment and Certification:

Revised requirements for Officials certification were passed by the LSC in April, effective this month. Training clinics have been scheduled for Sept 22 (Charleston), Sept 27 (Beckley), and Sept 29 (Parkersburg and Morgantown). As of this writing, at least 10 new (candidate) officials are expected to attend the clinics. Assuming that the majority become certified, this will offset normal attrition.

As mentioned in the previous committee report, 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 those which are under-represented on the officials' committee, are encouraged to recruit new judges. The uneven distribution of referee/starters is also a matter of concern, and accordingly, clubs should also be encouraging experienced officials to seek certification in referee/starter position.

### 4. Situations and Resolutions:

There were several unusual situations at the recent LSC LC Championship.

- (1) A swimmer was injured (a minor laceration on the foot) after being instructed to "step down" (from the starting block) prior to the start of a consolation final. The instruction was given due to a no-show in the final. The swimmer was treated by pool staff, and swam the event. "Report of Occurrence" forms were immediately completed, and copies were hand-delivered to the LSC Chair and the athlete's coach. Copies were also sent to USA Swimming and the USA Swimming Risk Management (insurance) organization.
- (2) Due to ongoing problems with the timing system, automatic times were only sporadically available during the Sunday Finals session. In several events, there were discrepancies between the available automatic times, the finish judges' results, and the manual times (3 watches per lane). A meet jury was convened to resolve this situation. In light of the ongoing timing system problems, the jury recommended using only the watch times and finish judge results.
- (3) The meet jury was also convened to determine the penalty for a swimmer who failed to compete in the last (Sunday) finals session of the LC championship meet, per LSC policy. The meet

- jury's recommendation was transmitted in writing (via Email) to the LSC chair for final disposition.
- (4) Review of the final meet results revealed a number of scoring errors, presumably caused by changes in the meet format, and mis-configuration of the meet manager software. The meet scorer is reviewing the results and working on corrections. These will be transmitted to the meet directors and meet referee before final approval.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeff Crain  
Chair, Officials Committee