



MINNESOTA
SWIMMING

DATE: May 6, 2018
TO: Official's Committee
FROM: Tracy Meece
RE: Western & Central Zone Workshop Denver, CO – April 2018

I was the representative for the officials from Minnesota at the 2018 Western & Central Zone Workshop in Denver, CO. Officials were kept separate from the rest of the attendees for the entirety of the workshop this year. (I took that to mean that we were too special to mingle with the others!) Jim Holcomb (National Official's Chair) was the main presenter this year. Anne Lawley (Central Zone Official's Chair and Meet Referee for the upcoming Central Zone meet in Minneapolis this summer) also presented during the weekend. Officials from several LSCs within the 2 zones were in attendance.

Presentations included (w/highlights):

• **Friday Working Supper**

- Safe Sport Reminder - With passing of US Safe Sport Act of 2017, all officials are now mandatory reporters. It is a Code of Conduct violation to NOT report
- How are decisions made on deck? 1) With a thorough understanding of the rules. 2) Keep in mind your decisions set precedent.
- FUN, FAIR, and SAFE
- Helpful Feedback About Mentors & Program – Went thru actual comments from the Evaluate the Evaluator Evaluations. These ARE read. Be sure to fill yours out after you've received an evaluation.

• **Urban Legends**

- A special note was made in regards to the black shoes, socks, pants for National meets (Futures and above). Shoes should be MOSTLY black and be athletic style. No Crocs allowed. Safety should always be considered. This does NOT affect the LSC Official's Dress Code in any way.
- When dealing with alternates you do NOT need to have swimmers step up onto the blocks and then step them down. Resolve placement of alternates before step-up if possible. (Starting blocks were not designed to be stepping down from.)
- You can get training opportunities and/or evaluations in or outside of your LSC. There is NO national requirement on this issue.
- On a Non-Simultaneous Touch call the referee does not need to know which hand touched first. Asking this question can introduce confusion.
- Referees need a "sketch" of what happened not the painted masterpiece.
- "Benefit of the doubt goes to swimmer" applies to our observation not in our communication/paperwork (DQ slip). Make corrections to the DQ slip if it was filled out incorrectly.

• **False Starts**

- What Is a False Start Document - discussed each scenario.
- Scenario #7 – If you let the swimmer swim (after they've fallen into the water), you cannot DQ the swimmer for a false start.
- The STAND PLEASE command is not a get out of jail free card for all swimmers.
- A false start due to a flash, a noise, etc. must be re-swam. (The time CANNOT count if the swimmer had an early start.) The referee should offer a re-swim to the entire field of swimmers. (The original times would not count for anyone that re-swims.) If the swimmer with the early start chooses NOT to re-swim, then the original swim is DQ'd as a False Start.

• The Art of Refereeing – Meet Referees

- Always hold a coaches/technical meeting.
- Official's Briefing – BRIEF being the key part!
- At a higher level meet, the Meet Referee should be notified if a time is modified with anything besides the back-up time (Heat Malfunction, Manual Enter, etc.)
- Read at least the Blue Section of the Rule book before each season starts.
- ALWAYS read the Meet Announcement before each meet!
- Qualities of a Meet Referee

Calm	Experienced	Team Player
Alert	Confident	Proactive
Delegator	Professional	Interpersonally Skilled
Knowledgeable	Fair	Communicator
- 7 Presences of a Meet Referee

Visual (proper uniform)	Physical
Legal (ensuring swims are legal)	Tactical
Psychological	Strategic
Emotional	
- Meet Referee/Admin Referee/Deck Referee – Hierarchy of Command, Duties of Each
- ALWAYS hold a coach's meeting before every meet!
- Official's Meeting – BUILD the Team

• Under-Water Camera Usage at Nationals

- 2 part system including:
 - 1) Above block cameras from Swiss Timing. 1/100th second filming.
 - No timers are needed for the meet.
 - No relay-take-off judges are needed.
 - Only official at the start end of the pool would be the Turn Judge.
 - 2) DV Sport Underwater Cameras.
 - These underwater cameras cover roughly 30-35 meters of the pool (middle of the pool not filmed).
- Will be used at Long-Course Senior Nationals this summer

• Open Forum

- Radios – about ½ the LSCs in attendance use radios at all meets. About ¼ of those LSCs require officials to provide their own radios. Motorola CP110
- Mentoring = PIE = Positive Instructive Encouragement
- We are protecting the swimmers that did it correctly.
- Shoulders Past Vertical Call – what did you see that made you make the call? Don't clue into what angle the shoulders were at, how far away from the wall, etc. (Officials don't carry rulers or protractors)
- Improvise/Adapt/Overcome
- Use turn judges over stroke judges if you have to choose one or the other
- Definition of Alternating Kick – Feet **moving** in opposite direction.
- If you have questions on a rule, first go to LSC Official's Chair. S/he will follow up with Jay Thomas (National Rules & Regulations Chair)
- **Situations and Resolutions** are currently being re-done. Stroke & Turn and Referee/Starter documents are posted on USA Swimming website. Admin Ref/Deck Ref are being worked on and should be up on the website later this fall.