

Officials Committee Meeting Minutes: October 16, 2007 (Tuesday)
Wisconsin Swimming, Inc.
University of Wisconsin Center, Waukesha

Participants: Steve Brandl, John Borja, George Geanon (chair), Patty Kramer, Judy Linsley, Cindy Maltry, Tim McAvoy, Ben Radloff, Kim Thompson, Jackie Vargas, Dave Wardecke, Susan Zblewski

George Geanon convened the meeting at 7:02 PM.

Review of September 11, 2007 Minutes: The minutes were approved as read.

Long Course State Meet Reports: George Geanon, meet referee, presented the report for the 12 & under meet. Cindy Thompson was head chief judge. The meet was well staffed, the deck was balanced, and the officiating was excellent. The host team, LAKE, did an outstanding job. One unusual situation was a parent complaint about the balloons that decorated the venue. The parent wanted the balloons removed due to her child's latex allergy. However, many swimmers wear latex caps, and those were not asked to be removed. It was decided that the balloons would remain.

Steve Brandl, head chief judge, reported for the 13 & over meet. Paul Friedemann was the meet referee. Deck coverage was excellent. The host team, SEAY, did a great job. The meet had some controversy at the start because of entry time exceptions. Many exceptions were found when comparing entry times with the USA Swimming database. Paul and Steve decided to change entry times to best times. There was a flurry of e-mails from coaches objecting to the changes. Paul and Steve then conferred with George Geanon and the decision was made to leave entry times as submitted.

There is continuing concern about issues that result from interpretations of the meet information. The committee strongly recommends that the LSC Age Group Committee develop standard state meet information.

The committee discussed how relays should be seeded in the top 8 relays swim in finals. If there were only 9 relay entries, would that mean that the preliminaries would have a heat with only one relay team? This is a situation that should be covered in the meet information.

Recertification Clinics: The committee reviewed draft #4 of the presenter's agenda. Changes will be made to the agenda as follows:

- Meet marshals no longer need to be registered with USA Swimming. They now will be covered the same way as timers.
- A referee should meet with meet marshals prior to warm-ups and instruct them about their duties. A marshal must be present and watching during warm-ups.
- If a warm down pool is used during the meet, a marshal must be present and watching that pool.
- Sit and slide is being instituted as a WI LSC policy for all meets.

There was also discussion about the procedures that should be used to call alternates for consolation finals. USA Swimming and WI LSC policies are not totally in sync. The announcer should always call for alternates if there is an empty lane.

Recertification clinics will be held at UW Waukesha on November 1 (Tim McAvoy and Judy Linsley, presenters) and November 13 (Susan Zblewski and George Geanon). The Appleton clinic will be on November 8 (Cindy Maltry and Dave Wardecke). The Madison clinics will be on November 7 and 12 (Ben Radloff and Paul Roehr). John Borja will be present at many of the clinics to present his PowerPoint presentation on timing issues.

George Geanon reported that USA Swimming's new training DVDs are now available. The committee has ordered three sets of DVDs. The starter DVD has divergence points for discussion available on the USA Swimming website. Because the DVD was created by filming actual swim meets, there are many instances on the DVD where recommended starting protocol is not followed. These divergence points will be very useful for training.

USA Swimming Observers at the WIAA State Meets: Steve Brandl and Frosty Girdley will observe the Division 2 meet. Dave Wardecke and John Borja will observe the Division 1 meet.

Administrative Referee Class: The clinic was held on September 23. All participants agreed that it was very worthwhile. Jayne Spittler was a great presenter and John Borja provided super organization. The next step will be to have the participants observe Colorado operators and scorers at actual meets.

USA Swimming Officials Meeting: The meeting was held in St. Louis and was attended by John Borja. There was very interesting video footage from underwater cameras that showed what will be available at the Olympic Trials. The same people who do instant replay for the NFL provided the video. Officials at the meeting were reminded that decisions on judgment calls should be based on what is in the best interests of the swimmer.

George Geanon pointed out that USA Swimming is presenting courses monthly. George will try to send a committee member whenever a course comes up that pertains to officials.

Online Officials Tracking: USA Swimming is now able to track officials online. The database will track meet participation, mentor activities, clinic or training participation, and national certification applications. The committee decided to urge WI LSC officials to pilot the system this year. Effective September 1, 2008, we will use the online tracking system instead of having on-deck cards.

Budget: The WI LSC approved the budget. Included in the budget is \$4,000 to cover four national certification meets and \$5,410 for official's expenses and clinics.

WI Swimming Officials Manual: Paul Roehr, Ben Radloff, and Patty Kramer will review the manual and provide recommendations that address concerns of Madison area officials. Cindy Maltry and Dave Wardecke will then make suggestions that come from Appleton area needs. Finally, a team of Milwaukee area officials will review the manual. The goal is to have a new manual in place by September 2008. The manual will then be available on the WI Swimming website.

Old Business: Patty Kramer thanked the committee for the hiking poles. She used them at Glacier Park and they were invaluable. She is looking forward to using them on her trip to Africa.

Next Meeting Date: December 4, 2007 (Tuesday), at 7:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Linsley, November 23, 2007.