

Officials Committee Meeting Minutes: November 18, 2008 (Tuesday)
Wisconsin Swimming, Inc.
University of Wisconsin Center, Waukesha

Participants: George Geanon (chair), Judy Linsley, Cindy Maltry, Tim McAvoy, Michael Patton, Ben Radloff, Paul Roehr, Jackie Vargas, Susan Zblewski

George Geanon convened the meeting at 7:03 PM.

Review of October 7, 2008 Minutes: The minutes were approved with one correction.

New Committee Member: The committee welcomed Michael Patton. Michael is a starter/referee with OSHY. He replaces David Wardecke (FCY) who resigned to focus on NCAA officiating.

Recertification Clinic Review: Ben Radloff distributed a list of clinic attendees. Approximately 155 officials attended a recertification clinic. Clinics that used the videotape of Paul Jones' presentation were not as well received because they were not as interactive. Nevertheless, feedback from this year's recertification clinics was mostly positive. If videotape is used in the future, it should be edited.

Officials Manual: The revised officials manual has been completed and is being distributed to new officials. The next step is to get the manual online. Most of the material in the manual is on the USA Swimming website, so links could be put on the WI Swimming website. Michael Patton will work on getting this done.

April Swimposium: A potential speaker would be an open water swimming official. Open water swimming is taking on more importance in USA Swimming. There hopefully will be an open water state championship in the WI LSC this summer. Another suggestion was to have a speaker on mentoring.

Short Course State Meet Officials: The committee nominated Paul Roehr (MEYO), meet referee, and Rodrigo Tarte (DFAC), head chief judge, for the 12-under meet. Steve Brandl (SHOR), meet referee; John Borja (WEST), administrative referee; and Cindy Raatz (SSTY), head chief judge, were nominated for the 13-over meet. George will present these nominations at the House of Delegates meeting in January.

USA Swimming Meeting Report: Cindy Maltry attended the Officials Training Workshop in Minneapolis on October 10-12. Highlights from the meeting include the following:

- A coach who spoke about the importance of telling disqualified athletes exactly what was wrong so that they can know how to fix the problem.
- Athletes and coaches want consistent starts, but Jeannine Dennis (a nationally certified starter) emphasized that all swimmers must receive fair starts.
- There is a new hand signal to be used by starters for hard of hearing athletes. The short whistles signal is a waving hand motion.
- The New Jersey LSC deck seeds all of their meets. They can handle more swimmers because they don't have empty lanes.

- Officials should be there for the swimmers, use common sense, and don't stress out too much.

Cindy felt that it was a great meeting. It was especially valuable to hear how other LSC's handle different situations.

Officials Tracking System: George Geanon is keeping up with entries to the Officials Tracking System (OTS). However, George is not always receiving meet reports. A better meet referee report form is needed. Paul Roehr will work on this. Ben Radloff has been given administrative access to OTS so that he can enter recertification participants. Patty Kramer also has administrative access to make entries for officials training clinics.

Officials Training Clinics: The committee discussed the need for better follow-up on people who attend officials training clinics. This would include finding out if they have taken the online test, apprenticed, have questions, etc. One suggestion was for the trainer to follow-up via e-mail one month after training. George Geanon will discuss this with Patty Kramer, training coordinator.

Reciprocity: George Geanon reported that there has been a significant drop off in the number of officials who work other club's meets. Many meet reports note a shortage of officials at meets even though officials are seen sitting in the stands. Some officials view officiating at their own meets as a way to satisfy their club's volunteer requirements, and they do not volunteer for other meets. Michael Patton noted that there is good reciprocity in the Oshkosh/Appleton/Green Bay area. Officials in that area work cooperatively to ensure that meets have good coverage. Reciprocity will be a topic at our next committee meeting.

Club Officials Recruitment: Cindy Maltry presented a summary of officials for teams who host meets. Teams who have no officials hosted 7 meets out of a total of 70. Cindy noted that YMCA officials who work at USA swim meets are not fully represented on our officials list. Kim Thompson will be contacting clubs that host meets to survey their officiating needs.

Officials Recognition Award: The WI LSC presents awards to swimmers and coaches of the year. Tim McAvoy moved (Ben Radloff seconded) to establish an award for official of the year. The motion was passed. More discussion will occur at our next meeting.

Next Agenda:

- Reciprocity
- Officials recruitment
- Officials Recognition award
- State Meet appointments

Next Meeting Date: December 16, 2008 (Tuesday), at 7:00 pm. (Note: this meeting was eventually canceled.)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Linsley, December 19, 2008.