

*Officials Committee Meeting Minutes: May 18, 2010 (Tuesday)*  
*Wisconsin Swimming, Inc.*  
*University of Wisconsin Center, Waukesha*

**Participants:** George Geanon (chair), Judy Linsley, Cindy Maltry, Tim McAvoy, Michael Patton, Cindy Raatz, Ben Radloff, Patrick Weisling

George Geanon convened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

**Review of March 16, 2010 Minutes:** The minutes were approved as read.

**2010 Fall Clinics:** A survey will soon be sent to all WILSC officials seeking input about discussion points, volunteerism, and impediments to officiating. National level official Dan McAllen has tentatively agreed to be our presenter on September 25-26.

**Recertification Opportunities:** Officials renewing their licenses this year will be required to participate in at least one recertification opportunity. After discussion, the committee decided any of the following will be acceptable provided that they occur during the recertification year (even years):

1. Attend a recertification clinic with a national speaker
2. Attend a recertification clinic held regionally and facilitated by a member of the officials committee
3. National evaluation
4. Attend all of the officiating sessions at a swimposium (beginning in 2012)
5. Attend a starter/referee clinic
6. Pass the online recertification test

A motion was made by Ben Radloff (Michael Patton second) to accept the 6-option plan with the swimposium option beginning in 2012. The motion passed.

**Training Clinics:** Trainers need to inform participants that USA Swimming registration and payment as well as the WI Swimming release of information form must be completed at the clinic. It is important to promptly process registrations so that apprentice sessions can be entered into OTS. Although Patty Kramer was not present at this meeting, the committee will request that she provide trainers with pre-addressed envelopes so that any paperwork can be sent to Carol Graham (registration) and Judy Linsley (WI Swimming officials listing coordinator). Trainers should be sure to follow up with participants who do not pay by the day of the clinic.

**Long Course State Meets:** The committee appointed Patrick Weisling (SHOR) to be meet referee and Michael Patton (OSHY) to be the head chief judge at the 12-under meet. Ben Radloff (BAC) will be the backup if either Patrick or Michael has a calendar conflict.

George Geanon (LAKE) will be the administrative referee for the 13-over meet. The committee was unable to select the meet referee or head chief judge at this time. It is very difficult to get officials who can commit to all four days of the meet. George will contact some officials to determine their availability.

**Officials of the Year:** Nominations were reviewed and recipients were selected (one stroke/turn official and one starter/referee). Ben Radloff will notify the recipients. They will receive their award at the 13-over long course state meet.

**USA Swimming Officials Workshops:** Tim McAvoy attended the workshop in Minneapolis from May 14-16. A nice cross section of officials with all levels of experience attended the workshop. Tim summarized two points of particular interest. First, there was much discussion and controversy at the workshop regarding when a heat is closed. Some LSCs consider the heat closed when the deck referee extends his/her arm. In fact, extending the arm is meant only to turn the heat over to the starter's control. The deck referee can withdraw his/her arm and give verbal notice to the starter if a situation warrants delaying the start of the heat.

The second point of interest concerned the interpretation of the butterfly stroke rule. The following can be found on the USA Swimming website under Rules and Regulations FAQs:

**Q:** *2) Article 101.3.2 states that both arms must be brought forward over the water and pulled back simultaneously. What does the term "over the water" mean and how should it be judged?*

**A:** Article 101.3.2 requires that, in the butterfly stroke, "both arms" must be brought forward "over the water" and pulled back simultaneously. It is the interpretation of the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee that the "arm" is that portion of the body which extends from the shoulder to the wrist. It is also the interpretation of the Committee that "over the water" means the arm, as defined above, must break the surface of the water. An analogy to this might be a comparison between a submarine and a sail boat. One operates under the surface of the water and one operates "atop" the surface of the water (i.e. part in the water and part above the water). Clearly, if the swimmer's arms do not break the surface of the water it cannot be considered to be "over the water" and would be cause for a disqualification. However, if both arms (as defined above) break the surface of the water, that would be legal and no disqualification should be called. It is not required that both arms be completely out of the water.

As with any rule, the benefit of the doubt goes to the swimmer. This topic will be discussed this fall at recertification clinics. George Geanon will share this concern with Drew Walden and the House of Delegates. Coaches must be made aware that WI Swimming officials will be following this interpretation.

**Meet Referee and OTS Entries:** George Geanon has been handling all entries into OTS. However, George is able to assign the task of entering officials' sessions by meet to the meet referee. Cindy Raatz and Judy Linsley are meet referees for some May meets. They will enter the officials' sessions for their meets and report back to the committee about the feasibility of having this being a future duty of meet referees.

**Next Meeting Date:** August 17, 2010 (Tuesday), time and place to be determined. Perhaps this will be a dinner meeting. Any members of the committee who are resigning should let George Geanon know prior to the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Linsley, June 12, 2010.