



Officials Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 20, 2015 - 7:00 PM

Meeting via web-conference:

<https://join.me/wsi-officials>



- I. Call to order and Welcome: 7.08 pm
- II. Attendees: Rick Potter, George Geanon, Chadd Chatterton, Michael Harbert, Jacqueline Jugenheimer, Julie Krueger, Michael Patton, Cyndy Raatz, Paul Roehr, Nicole Rundahl, Patrick Weisling
- III. Review/Approval of minutes from last meeting: March minutes approved as posted
- IV. Standing items
 - Officials Training –Michael Patton/Paul Roehr/Ben Radloff *Dates for Madison official clinics need to be corrected; the dates are May 6 (S/T) and May 13 (S/R). Michael Patton needs to hear back from the 2 main clubs in the northern area of the state; Michael H and Michael P will report on specifics as soon as they become available. Chad C. has not received feedback yet for possible training opportunity in the south eastern region of the state. The committee discussed that the online administrative official training provided in the past went well. The committee decided that Michael P and Cyndy will offer an administrative official training session in June, as there is need for administrative official training in several different areas of the state.*
 - OTS Meet Entry – Cyndy Raatz: *Has not received a comprehensive list from the LSC yet, so she is using the list on the WI Swimming site or e-mail she receives from a meet referee for OTS meet entries.*
 - Observed Swims – Michael Harbert: *Currently, no activity.*
 - Officials of the Year Award – *Unlike in past years, the committee received a large number of nominations, which the committee appreciates and wants to continue to encourage. The committee decided on two candidates during the March committee meeting. In order to continue to encourage nominations, the committee will consider language changes to its policy, including:*
 - *An annual deadline after which nominations are considered for the award in the following year.*
 - *Change procedure number 7. The annual meeting is now in April and thus, the committee needs to make a decision in March.*
 - Officials Roster – Ben Radloff: N/A
 - Officials Incentive Gifts –Nicole Rundahl: *The committee discussed options for gift cards for officials at the long course state meets. The committee would like to find an option through Scrip or directly through specific businesses that offers a rebate or some other benefit to the LSC. Nicole R. will research options.*

- LSC Rules Committee – George Geanon/Michael Patton: *Proposed rule changes for the upcoming House of Delegates meeting are posted on the Swimposium website. Current bylaws were scrapped because they were so outdated; the committee took the template as a basis for new proposed bylaws. Proposed changes include a 2nd coach representative as the LSC has more than the threshold number of clubs of 26 clubs; proof of time (remove any printable and viewable high school results, will be fine-tuned), host clubs will have to contribute to costs of medals and ribbons (previously approved), records update, which cases will be dealt with in LSC Board and which cases are delegated to zone or national boards, meet cancellation and suspension policy (based on USA Swimming rule book). A possible consequence of the proposed changes is that there will be more requests for observations of high school meets. Also, there are timing issues with entering times from the high school sectional meets before the USA State Championship meet.*
- Policy and Procedure Documents – Rick Potter: *Information on deck changing and logos.*
- Officials Webpage – Rick Potter: *Official clinic information was updated.*
- Officials Newsletter – Julia Krueger: *New, one page, template. Can be quickly put together. New athlete photography guideline is coming out and needs to be considered when using photos of athletes. Committee members liked the new, fresh format.*

V. Treats & Refreshments – April – N/A

VI. Open Issues

- SC Championship meets –
 - *George G reviewed some of the discussions by the Age Group/Senior Committee (see meeting minutes for more details).*
 - *The Officials Committee had suggested finding a mechanism to penalize no shows during Sunday finals. The Age Group committee did not want to pursue this issue, due to administrative challenges.*
 - *An important issue was relays at the 12 and under State Meet (in Waukesha relays were conducted at the end of morning and the beginning of afternoon sessions, which caused a lot of spectator issues). The Age Group Committee (AGC) will need to revisit this issue. Furthermore, the AGC discussed if there should be no relay only swimmers. Ultimately, the AGC decided to allow relay only swimmers for now to give smaller teams the opportunity to have relays.*
 - *The AGC also discussed other venue issues in Waukesha. Having vendors in the deck area when this space is already very limited does not seem prudent. Also, parking is an issue as there are still classes when the meet starts on Friday and there are other sporting events throughout the weekend with a lot of spectators.*
 - *Air quality issues at RecPlex during the 13 and over State Championship Meet were also discussed. The RecPlex gets inspected*

every 2 months. After the 13 and over State Meet, the facility brought in the inspection staff as well as the engineers who designed the air handling system. The issues during the meet resulted from two defective air handlers that were repaired and from an inability to override the automatic air exchange intervals, which has also been addressed. IL hosted its state meet also at RecPlex one week after the 13 and over state meet and had about 400 more swimmers more than WI. The air quality during the meet was good, indicating that the issues should be remedied. Another issue that will be pursued is the Illinois State Meet format. This meet has more athletes, but the deck is less crowded. AGC would like to see what lessons Wisconsin can learn from that.

- *There are currently no USA swimming standards regarding water quality with the exception of bacteria contamination. Counties control the water quality in pools. Water quality is impacted by swimmers urinating into the water (every 2nd or 3rd swimmer engages in the behavior), no showering before entering pool, swimmers and officials wearing shoes in the pool area that have been worn outside. Therefore, more education needs to happen in this area.*
- *The AGC also discussed whether medical staff should be on deck during the championship meets and whether professional meet marshals (private security firm), should be hired, but the AGC has no interest in making these changes, partially due to the cost associated with such requirements.*
- *Committee membership. George G- Suggested that the Committee look at the Committee policy documents to make sure they are current. One suggestion might be to change the position of the vice-chair to a transition position, i.e. the current vice-chair becomes the next chair. Currently, there are 10 members in Committee and the required work is getting done. Thus, the Committee decided to leave its membership at 10 members for now.*
- *Swimposium. 18 officials are signed up for the officials track at the Swimposium, maybe 4 more are in the sign-up process. Cyndy might be interested in auditing the HyTec presentation (Michael currently has 10 registered participants and has room for 18).*

VII. New Business

- *USA Swimming Rules & Regs Committee Communications: Enforcement guidelines for Deck Changing rule violations. The Committee discussed the issue that the USA Swimming rule lacks enforcement mechanisms. The new guidelines describe a preferred way of handling the respective behavior that is focused on education, as opposed to penalty. At the 2014 USA-S House of Delegates meeting, the athlete representatives recommended the current USA Swimming rule that now requires a statement in all Meet Announcements “prohibiting” deck changing, instead of it being “discouraged” as before. However, there was not support for including specific language on penalties. The Committee is concerned that despite the*

new guidelines from the Rules & Regs Committee, inconsistent enforcement and the lack of enforcement will not result in the desired outcome of elimination of deck changing. This is especially true at upper level meets. Change to Swimwear Advertising Rule – 102.8.3 A (1)

- **NFHS 2015-16 rules changes:**
 - *Kineseo tape is now also prohibited for high school meets, with the exception of divers who need it for stability.*
 - *Wearing jewelry. NFHA no longer has a jewelry policy.*
 - *Officials Uniforms. No longer nationally required to wear all white, WIAA will probably change bottoms to something other than white.*
 - *Signaling of final lap of distance events. Now, someone can be designated to ring the bell, does not have to be the starter.*
 - *Not approved was a proposed change to the IM rule. According to the proposal, the turns between strokes would no longer have been judged by the finish rule of the stroke, but the turn rule of the respective stroke, in order to facilitate officiating.*
 - *George G suggested offering WIAA/USA Swimming clinics for free in the fall as WIAA does not offer formal training for its officials. In Northern Wisconsin there were concerns about lack of training for WIAA officials, so each year one clinic is offered for swimming and diving officials. George G encouraged starting a dialogue for more such clinics and more coordination with WIAA.*
- *Google Apps for Non-Profits – WisconsinSwimming.org Rick applied through Google's process for non-profits to protect the WisconsinSwimming.org website. Right now, everyone has editing rights under the Officials Committee drive. Any folders created under Wisconsin Swimming can have its specific credentials and access privileges, this includes e-mail capabilities. Rick P. demonstrated some of the possible uses.*
- *TeamUnify Online Non-Athlete Registration. Rick set up the Wisconsin Swimming TeamUnify system for online registration of non-athlete members. This would help the LSC gain access to several enhanced email communications capabilities available via TeamUnify. Currently, access is limited to Super-Users. In the future, online payment could be an option. Ohio Swimming uses an Intuit based payment service. For TeamUnify there is a higher transactional cost associated with online payments, which can be embedded in the fee. Rick demonstrated how the registration process would work with the form he created, which essentially is an electronic version of the current paper form. One of the big advantages of an electronic version would be that all fields need to be completed in order for the form being accepted by the system. However, the designated LSC official would still see the forms, but they would be in a computer readable format. Rick included all teams and different user categories (e.g. coaches, officials). The e-mail center*

is very flexible, which means that e-mails can be sent to different non-athlete member groups or all non-athlete members. This feature can also be used for dissemination of news items. The big benefit would be that the annual registration would be much easier, the administration much less time consuming and that the committee would no longer need to maintain a separate roster. Rick will present what is currently available at the HOD and/or annual meeting. Rick is coordinating with Carol on this project.

- *LSC Officials Chair Meeting: Rick P. or Michael H. will attend the national official chairs meeting in Minneapolis on May 30 and 31, and represent the Wisconsin LSC.*
- *Central Zone Open Water Championship: There are currently communication issues related to the nomination of George G as Meet Referee of the Zone Open Water Championship meet. Rick will explore other avenues to get this resolved.*

VIII. Confirm next meeting date/time/location: May 18 at 7pm at Oshkosh YMCA

IX. Closed Session: None

X. Adjourn: 9.28 pm