



ISI Officials Newsletter – June 2018

USA Swimming Officials Open Water Clinic and Events - May 3-6, 2018

By Andrea Kelley

I want to thank the ISI Officials Committee for selecting me to represent our LSC at the 2018 Open Water Officials Clinic in Tempe, Arizona. I've enjoyed working at the Central Zone Open Water the past few years and loved every aspect of the weekend at Open Water Nationals.

The clinic was held with 33 of us in attendance from LSC's all over the country. We began the day getting to know one another and listening to stories of our OW experiences. Tom and Pam Wilson from Indiana Swimming covered such topics as the roles and responsibilities of an official, elements of OW and disqualifications. Tom Lombardo from Ozark Swimming then touched on safety, event planning and situation/resolutions. We were able to watch some videos of situations from actual races where officials were trying to caution or disqualify certain swimmer which was quite interesting to see the intensity at times.

After a full day of clinic we were able to take what we learned to the Open Water National swims. Just like being on the pool deck there are positions such as the Referee, Assistant Referee and Clerk of Course yet the aspects of each job changes to fit the OW event. I attempted to educate myself on every position on the race course throughout the weekend with my favorite moments experiencing the duties of the referee and the



L-R, Andrea Kelley, Kerry Barnes, Phil Barnes

assistant as they work together. The referee was positioned in the escort boat with the assistant close behind and 100% of their attention is on the swimmers. This can be quite challenging as OW races can last anywhere from 1-6 hours at a time! I was fortunate to sit in the lead escort boat with the media and Sid Cassidy as our referee. Sid was an enthusiastic mentor and took the time to answer any questions we had.

There's always one aspect of an experience such as this one that gives you the thrill of wanting more and this for me was the women's 10K watching Ashley Twichell. Because of my positioning on the main boat I was able to watch her strategy once the horn blasted to her slapping the finish board. It was amazing to see such a talented athlete maneuver the course from the start, working her way into a swimmer pack, recharging in the feeding station and finally taking ownership of the race with her successful finish of 1:52:29.105! I was in amazement the rest of the weekend!

I'm looking forward to bringing an OW event to our LSC in the near future so stay tuned!



Going through the feed zone

Editors note: Several ISI officials also attended the Central Zone OW Championship in Kenosha, WI: Andrea

Kelley, Cindy Opitz, Kirstin Oppel, Michael Repko and Susan Repko.

Championship Meet Season

Championship Meet season is fast approaching. The Silver Championships will be held on July 20-22 at Mercer Park pool in Iowa City. The ISI Long Course Championships follow on July 26-29, at the U of Iowa CRWC in Iowa City. Both of these meets will need a considerable number of officials to run smoothly. Please consider signing up for a few sessions at one or both of them, even if you don't have a swimmer attending. The Long Course Championships will be an Officials Qualifying Meet (OQM), offering N2 and N3 evaluations from a national evaluator. Signup links will be posted on the ISI Officials website.

Apart from the ISI Championship meets, there are also other high level championship meets taking place within and close to Iowa. Summer Sectionals will be held July 19-22 at U of Iowa CRWC. The Central Zone Age Group Championship will be August 3-5 in Minneapolis, and the USA Swimming Futures Championship will be August 2-5 in Rochester, MN. These are great opportunities to gain experience working a higher level meet. Signups for these meets are posted, as applicable, to the ISI Officials, Central Zone or USA Swimming websites.

Iowa Swimming Policies and Procedures

The Officials Committee has been working on a major revision to Section G (Officials) of ISI Policies and Procedures. The updated document adds language regarding the mission, authority and duties of the committee and its members, while at the same time removing unnecessary details regarding meet protocols. The goal is to release a final draft to be voted on at the Fall House of Delegates meeting in October.

Neutrality of Officials

A primary focus for officials is to ensure that competition at a meet is fair and equitable for all swimmers. We must never cheer for a swimmer while on deck in uniform, whether or not we are actively engaged in observing the pool. We must also try to be neutral in any direct interactions with swimmers, and these should be kept to a reasonable minimum. This can be challenging when an official's own child is on deck, particularly if they are a younger age group swimmer. However, while on deck, we are officials first and parents second. A parent / child interaction on deck will appear to the audience as an official / swimmer interaction, and should be handled appropriately with this in mind. Also, if an official on deck has a question

about a DQ call made on their own child, this should be directed to their child's coach, the same as for any other parent.

Concussion Training

The Officials Committee encourages all officials to take concussion training. In some LSCs, this is actually a requirement to be on deck. A number of online concussion training classes are available. The Safety page of the ISI Officials website includes a link to the "Heads Up" online concussion training on the US government CDC website. There is also a link to a concussion checklist provided by USA Swimming: <https://www.teamunify.com/TabGeneric.jsp?tabid=209258&team=iaso>

Meet Signup and New Officials Clinics

Signup links, both to officiate meets and to attend new officials' clinics, are being regularly added to the ISI Officials website. To sign up to officiate, go to: <https://www.teamunify.com/About.jsp?tabid=209099&team=iaso>. For new officials clinics, look under Events/Clinics on the home page: <https://www.teamunify.com/Home.jsp?tabid=0&team=iaso>



Splash Multisport offers polos, rain jackets and more for officials, embroidered with the new ISI logo: <http://www.splashmulti.com>