

Officials Committee Meeting

7:25pm Sept 9

Michelle Schonbachler

Mike Kosco Nikki Kosco athlete

Kathy McFaden Chair Ryan McFaden athlete

Christie Newcamp Dave Watterson

Called to order

7:24pm Motion to open Mike

Second Christie

Referee reports should be filed with Kathy McFaden which alert her of any issues with a site, an official, a volunteer or attendee at a meet. All information, positive or negative which in the view of the author/official is worthy of note or may demonstrate a pattern of behavior or mode of conduct which is problematic, should be submitted. These reports are confidential and will be shared only as needed. Any access is also on a confidential basis and only to protect and support the athletes and LSC in the orderly and proper fulfillment of its mission and the in fair and balanced, ethical treatment by the officials of AMS. Kathy is interested with feedback on new and existing officials which may help to show any strengths or weaknesses with our training programs, training materials or mentoring programs. Additionally, information related to venue issues and host issues which may be educational and help to better serve our athletes is needed. A discussion detailed the incoming reports showed that the form of filed reports is not consistent, but all good faith submissions are welcome. The reports currently range from emails and text messages to the Chair to the completion of the form found on the website. The Reports should be encouraged and will be discussed at a referee roundtable which will be hold apart from Swimposium.

Two new officials have moved into the LSC. A discussion was held of the merits of new perspectives and new experiences to help the LSC grow. The Committee and LSC will welcome these experienced officials and discuss how to best incorporate their talents and knowledge.

A Swimposium update was given by Kathy. Kathy has been in contact with Lucy Duncan about here presentations and offerings to the Officials. Lucy and Kathy will formalize the agenda shortly. Lucy is also serving as the keynote speaker for the Swimposium. She will be asked to solicit officials and to help to reinforce mentoring and support between the subgroups of AMS. As an LSC, we need to erase the perception of an entitlement mentality. During Referee meeting, we must reinforce that the stroke and turn officials are the foundation of AMS. All wetside officials, are stroke officials. Serving in the stroke and turn function is a good visual refresher of the rules and the strokes. Athletes and officials benefit from active participation by all officials in each of their certified positions on a regular basis.

Discussion was held regarding the current officials and the appropriate pool of officials who are open to and best suited to expand their role. Also, the need for further trainings and sites of training was discussed. Committee members will solicit venues and dates.

Last month the OQM meet options were discussed. Further discussion about the Senior Circuit and Christmas Meet was held. No conclusion was reached. Further information about the timing and format of each meet is needed.

The proper treatment of official's sessions in OTS for a Time Trial was brought to the committee. After discussion, it was determined that sessions from a single team time trials meet will not be system entered into OTS or satisfy the volunteer expectations for AMS officials. Sanctioned Invitational meets with more than one team will be System entered into OTS because they serve a broader body of AMS and foster the competitive aspect of swimmers across teams.

Most AMS officials are registered to and represent a team. The represented team sometimes places service requirements different from those of the greater service commitment of AMS. These service requirements, while not antagonistic, can be cumulative. AMS asks their officials to complete of 12 or more volunteer sessions, a minimum of 4 of which must be service at a meet not sponsored by their home team. After discussion, the committee has clarified that volunteer sessions at championship meets will satisfy the requirement to support non-home meets. Championship meets such as Silver Champs, Junior Olympics, etc. serve the greater body of swimmers and count as non-home meet service.

The goal of officials training is to gain a body of experience from different meet host sites, trainers, and meet formats. The deeper and more varied the training sessions, body of trainers, and session formats the better the official is prepared to serve our athletes. Training cannot be exclusively at home pool or with officials registered to the same club as the trainee. Training is limited to one session per day, with the limited exception that an additional training session in the admin or dryside capacity is permitted while training for referee.

Because AMS asks their officials to complete 12 or more volunteer sessions, a review of the prior Long Course and Short Court season (Aug 1-July 31) was shared with the committee. Dave will draft a letter to officials below the standard. This letter will be sent to Kathy to approve, then sign and disperse. The drafted letter will ask each person what their plans are for the coming year and remind them of the educational value of increasing the commitment to on deck participation. Dave's outreach will ask each to respond to Kathy with their intentions or plan to attend sessions in the coming year.

The report of officials included information regarding AMS sessions worked, National meet sessions worked and age group or invitational local sessions served outside AMS. Many of our officials are offering their help with meets in other LSCs and that experience brings a depth of experience and new perspective to improve AMS. The review of the prior Long Course and Short Court season (Aug 1-July 31) was shared with the committee and recognition of aspects service was discussed.

8:47 a Motion to adjourn was made by Dave Watterson
Motion Second Mike Kosco