

New England Swimming Officials Committee
October 9, 2020, 5:00 PM
Via Zoom
Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Betsy Russell (Chair), Samantha Brabeck, Jerry Carter, Caroline Cavalier, Ken Galica, Patrick Hunter, Jess Workman

Guests Present: Mary Anne Lustgraaf

1. Introductions of Committee Members and Primary Focus Areas

- Betsy—Chair of Committee
- Jerry—Webmaster
- Ken—OTS and other administration
- Patrick—Documentation/projects
- Jess—Communications/member engagement
- Caroline/Sam—Social media and building relationship with athletes and other members of the swimming community

2. Communication/Social Media/Outreach

- Goal: Build relationship with athlete community, show the “human side” of officiating
- Provide relevant information to greater swimming community
 - This is NOT meant to be “the” source of information for officials—that’s what the website is for—rather, to engage other members of our community (athletes, coaches, parents)
- Platform—Instagram, maybe others
- Potential content
 - Q/A with different officials so as to highlight our volunteer base and show “human side”
 - “How-to” videos for swimmers, such as whistle protocol, etc.
 - Sharing/reposting other USA Swimming information
- Have teams invited officials to visit clubs to talk about officiating with swimmers, etc.?
 - Some teams have done in past
 - Interest levels among teams has varied, but open to idea as requested

3. Website

- Jerry to organize, fix broken links, etc.
- Betsy to revise/update certification/recertification documents as necessary

4. Certification/Recertification

- Jess to draft email highlighting reminders regarding registration, recertification requirements, etc.
- Due to Covid-19 situation, session requirements for recertification (not new, initial certification) to be relaxed
- Other recertification requirements (i.e. clinic) to remain in place

5. USA Swimming Update

- Rules and Regulations/Times and Recognition Committees have examined the use and suitability of the CTS Dolphin and Swimmingly systems, written guidance to be released soon. Swimmingly may not be used in sanctioned meets, nor may the CTS Dolphin synchronized start. The CTS Dolphin may be used as a manual stopwatch (3 per lane if manual timing is primary system).

6. Member Engagement

- We need our volunteers—critical to keep our base of officials engaged during this period of limited meets and officiating opportunities
- Continue to build base, try to accommodate apprentices on deck as able
- Make an effort to accommodate officials as facility/meet limitations allow—i.e. when able, make room for officials who would like to volunteer
- Referee Zoom meeting in August was very well-received
 - Enabled our officials base to be talking, thinking, and interested—even without true educational component
 - Plan to continue these meetings in the future (maybe every other month or 1.5 months) so as to maintain interest and engagement

7. Discussion of General Thoughts, Issues, Themes

- A number of registration/certification questions coming to Betsy, but nothing out of ordinary
- Requests for officials/assistance with meet staffing
 - Teams that do not normally host are trying to host meets, have asked for help with recruiting officials
 - To best of Committee's knowledge, nobody has been unable to host meet due to inability to secure officials
- Use of radios at "regular meets"
 - Generally, should only be out of desire to teach skill of radio protocol and/or create practice opportunities to as to further develop officials—NOT common practice
 - Running meets during Covid-19—Goal should be simplicity, Covid-19 not a reason to over-complicate meets

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Hunter