

Officials Chair Report

Nicole Viele

October 2019

We have conducted two stroke and turn clinics this month. The first had nine (9) participants in which 5 were new officials from SSC and LRSC. Each of them have already become USA members and are well on their way to fulfilling the requirements needed to become certified. The second clinic had thirteen (13) participants in which 7 were new officials from CMA and NYCY. Several had already done their USA memberships before the clinic and were planning on doing some shadows at the CMA meet the following day. At this clinic I also had two experienced officials, Henry Clauson (KVY) and Tom Gagnon (PPSC) participate in the teaching of the clinic. Going forward they will be able to teach a stroke and turn clinic in their area of the state. Please remember though that all clinics are to be scheduled by the officials chair. The aim is to do regional clinics where there is participation from several teams which increases the camaraderie amongst our officials staff for MESI.

A starter/referee clinic will be held next month at the SEALS King & Queen meet. Please see the MESI website for details and encourage officials that have been working consistently for two or more years to consider training for the next level. We already have several interested so it should be a good interactive class. There will be opportunity to do some shadowing at the King & Queen meet.

I would like to acknowledge all the work that Mary Ellen has been doing to assist me in getting the officials records up to date and in a format that makes it much easier for the officials chair to quickly review to see who will need a recertification clinic or exam in the near future. We have found that many officials had not been entered into the tracking system for several meets. Because of this I have reinstated the use of a Key Officials Form which must be emailed to me and Mary Ellen within 7 days of the conclusion of the meet. This will assist me in making sure that all officials receive credit for the sessions they work and I will be able to notice when there is a problem in locating a new official in the tracking system so the problem can be fixed. I will work individually with referees that are having difficulty in getting all data entered into the tracking system.

Though it has come to our attention that there were several officials on the championship deck in March who did not meet our guidelines and at least one who had not completed the certification process. Mary Ellen and I will continue to look into this matter and will do our best to make sure it does not happen again.

Overall, I believe we are off to a good start. Please, please let me know of any difficulties you may have concerning officials at your meets. I don't anticipate any but I can't address a problem or offer additional training if I don't know that there has been an issue.

Sincerely,

Nicole Viele