Metro’s Officials’ Committee Meeting

Via Zoom

July 7, 2022: 7:02 – 7:42 pm

In attendance:

Mark Amodio, Chair

Steve Kessler, Member

Darryl Strabuk, Member

Excused Members:

Jennifer Bancroft

Fiona O’Donnell-McCarthy

Dominick Boccio

Also on the call:

Sandy Graham

Allen Wone

7:02pm Meeting called to order.

Mark Amodio issued the Chair’s Report:

* Winter meet apps and National meet apps are now posted
* To date, there have been 17 requests for waiver of fees for hardship
* Regarding reimbursement for travel expenses, $6,300 has been committed so far, with $5,600 of that amount paid out
  + In total, there have been 17 requests for reimbursement. Of those, five individuals have received two subsidies (the maximum permitted)
* There have been 14 evaluation requests submitted for Sr Mets
  + Meet staffing for Sr Mets looks good, with 34 officials signing up so far
* The ‘Dry Side’ group has met twice so far regarding preparation of training materials. A third meeting is expected this week. After that, the group will meet with Jeff Chu regarding his proposals. After that, they intend to meet with someone on the National level to get a perspective from outside Metro.
* OTS is going away permanently on September 1, 2022. Deck Pass will disappear then as well.
  + All certifications will be down
  + All testing will be down
  + There will be no ability to set up meets online
  + In short, a lot of what we take for granted now will be up in the air.
    - Therefore, Mark will run Officials’ details reports in mid-August, just in case
    - We also may have to draft our own forms

Committee Reports:

Nothing of substance. All still in progress

Issue of whether to use Time Trials and Observed/Approved sessions for purposes of advancement:

Discussion ensued. Following discussion, vote was unanimous NOT to permit Time Trials and Observed/Approved sessions to be included for purposes of advancement. Subsequent discussion (during the Comments portion) resulted in agreement with the result from Sandy Graham and Allen Wone. Allen raised the issue of County Championships such as those in Suffolk County, where all of the officials on deck were USA Swim certified officials. It was agreed that, in such circumstances (which all agreed are rare), the head official should approach the Committee for a possible exception.

Officials’ travel reimbursement policy:

The text of the updated policy was distributed and reviewed before the meeting. Since the full Committee was not present for the Zoom, it was agreed that any further discussion would be tabled. One correction was submitted, however. Steve Kessler proposed amending the third full sentence in the paragraph beginning “Funds are limited” as follows: “Barring exceptional circumstances, no official will be reimbursed for travel to more than two meets and no official shall receive more than $1000 in travel reimbursement in any given fiscal year.” A revised proposal, including the new wording, will be circulated prior to the next Committee meeting.

New requirement for Deck Referees and Chief Judges:

Mark briefly discussed the new requirements for DRs and CJs, indicating that they are now posted on Metro’s website.

A date for the next Referees’ meeting will be circulated. That date will be before August 1, 2022.

Officials’ Page on Metro’s Website:

Jennifer, Fiona and Dom are making progress on the new Officials’ Page on Metro’s website.

Next Meeting date:

The next meeting of the Officials’ Committee will be on October 6, 2022.

7:42 pm Following a motion by the Chair and a seconding by Steve Kessler, the meeting was adjourned.