

Montana Swimming Official's Meeting October 4, 2008

Carroll College PE Center in Helena, MT.

The meeting was called to order by Susan Huceby at 8:40 AM and was held in conjunction with a swim camp for athletes, parents and officials.

In attendance at the meeting were:

Merle L. Gunderson	Referee	Unattached
Larry Johnson	Referee	Bozeman
Susan Huceby	Referee	Unattached
Ben Dean	Referee	Helena
Patty Kump	Referee	Missoula YMCA Swim Team
Diane Dean	Starter	Helena
Lars Halstrom	Starter	Bozeman
Rosanne Flann	Stroke and Turn	Billings Aquatic Club
Susie Thompson	Stroke and Turn	FAST
Ben Fleury	Trainee	Helena
Kristina Herrera	Parent	Butte
Bob Bentley	Parent	Butte
Ted Preiss	Parent	Bozeman

The meeting started with the officials introducing themselves and then Larry Johnson covered the USA Swimming rule changes adopted at convention and the banning of the new high-tech swim suits for the 12 and under swimmers at age group meets but the 12 and under swimmers will be allowed to wear the suits only at senior level meets.

With the discussion it was recommended that the teams hosting meet this fall add a note in their programs to remind the parents and swimmers of the high-tech swim suit rule becoming effective in May 2009.

Sussie Thompson led the presentation of the Stroke and Turn DVD with discussion of the strokes after each stroke was viewed.

Larry Johnson talked about the requirements for officials obtaining certification at levels N1, N2 and N3 and working upper level meets. Patty Kump and Susan Huceby talked about the evaluation process at zones.

Several other changes from USA Swimming's convention were talked about these changes involve the requirement for certified measurements of pools, the changes to USA Swimming Rule 105, disabled swimmers, and the requirement for pace clocks during the meets.

There was a discussion on the use of cameras at the Olympic Trials and the Olympics this year.

The next item discussed was starting with Patty Kump leading the discussion of what should be the starters duties and how the commands are given and what happens during a false start, whether it is recalled or the no recall is used.

The officials meeting then proceeded on to the required business of electing an officials chairman and selecting the official for the Excellence of Officiating Award for the last two years.

Merle L Gunderson was nominated and elected as the Officials Chairman.

The Excellence in Officiating Awards winners were Susie Thompson, FAST and Susan Huceby, BTST.

The need to encourage more personnel to get involved as officials and the process for becoming certified was discussed. Susan Huceby and Rosanne Flann talked about the need and their past experience with the mentoring of officials during training and after they become certified. A new official or an official with numerous years on the deck may still need some mentoring during meets. We discussed the rules in the officials meeting at a meet but can't cover everything that may be seen during a meet so officials still need to talk to one another during the season.

Merle Gunderson then talked about the changes to the High School rules and stated that the high school meet schedule should be posted on the MHSA.Org website.

The meeting and officials clinic was adjourned at 4:30 PM.