



April 29, 2018

Montana Swimming House of Delegates,

I would like to report that as of April 29th Montana Swimming had 82 registered officials with only a few currently working on their stroke and turn certification.

We had a very successful short course season that concluded with the 2018 Montana Swimming SC State Championship Meet in Butte February 23-25, 2018 and 2018 Montana Swimming BC Championship Meet in Polson March 10-11, 2018. We had 39 officials that worked the short course meet over the three days. With this many officials working, the meet was run extremely well and the majority of the comments which were made during and after the meet were all positive and, with around 396 swimmers, the meet was completed ahead of the projected time line each day. The meet started on a down side as the finals didn't have the finalist announced or paraded out to music. We worked with several other teams to get enough volunteers to help make the remainder of the meet run great.

The officials that were given the responsibility to be the leads for the officials at the meet did a great job with the assignment of the deck officials and hopefully will volunteer for those positions in the future not only at Montana Swimming Meets but will work upper level meets.

The 2018 Montana Swimming BC Championship Meet had enough officials to run the meet but there was not much relief for the officials. On both days we only had enough officials to cover the deck without relief but we added in several breaks to slow down the meet and get the officials off the deck for a break. The meet had 136 swimmers and was completed early both days and all comments were positive.

Montana Swimming had several officials who traveled and worked the upper level and should have numerous officials working the upper level meets this summer.

As the 2018 long course season starts, I would like to reinforce the need for all teams to step up and work to recruit new officials as we will continue to lose officials each year and the need for trained officials will grow each year. I would like to ask that we continue to add two officials from each team every year.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the officials that have worked meets throughout the last year, the officials that have helped me this year and for all their efforts in training and mentoring our new officials. I would encourage all our officials to continue with the training and mentoring of all the officials. We have a great group of officials in our LSC and I know we all learn something at the meets we work.

If anyone has questions or need anything please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully Submitted,

Merle L Gunderson
Montana Swimming Officials Chairman
mtgunders@outlook.com