

Montana Swimming House of Delegates,

The Montana Swimming Long Course Championships was a very successful meet and Duane and I are delighted to report that we had a large number of officials on deck working the meet that did an excellent job of officiating. The meet ran very smoothly and thank you to meet referee Craig Smith for running a great meet.

I am also please to report that Montana Swimming has 55 currently certified officials and now has several new certified officials, including two new referees, and many more trainees who should become certified soon. I would like to encourage every team to recruit more officials to replace those who 'retire' after their children finish their age group swimming careers. All teams are encouraged to add at least two new officials each year.

As of September 1, 2013, all meets will be required to have either an admin official or admin referee on deck supervising the timing of the meet. The requirements to become a certified admin official have been sent to all the officials/teams and Duane and I will be holding timing/admin clinics this fall to assist in the certification of admin officials. The first clinic will be held at the Whitefish swim meet on Friday evening and again Saturday evening (if needed) October 11 and 12.

Rosanne Flann from BAC will be attending a National Officials meeting October 18-20 in Phoenix. We look forward to her report on the topics discussed.

In December I was selected to serve as Team Lead for the officials at the Western Zone Age Group Championships in Roseville, California. This was a tremendous experience. Not only did it involve a great amount of work on my part but it was a fantastic learning experience. We had over 50 officials work the meet and the deck was run like national championship deck. It was amazing to see how great the officials looked on deck. I would like to thank the Montana officials who served every day, all day at the meet – Kenji Aoki and Kris Hall from Bozeman and Laura Amon and Eric Smart from Missoula. Kris, Kenji, and Laura were all selected as outstanding stroke and turn officials at the meet. The experience these officials gained will be very valuable on the deck in Montana. Please do visit with these great officials and ask about their experience. I would like to thank the Western Zone Officials Chair Don Hougardy and the Western Zone Directors Robert Broyles and Ben Britten for selecting me to be team lead. I would also like to thank meet referee Doug Wertz for his job well done as we made a great team. And a special thank you to Larry Johnson who has been my mentor for many years. Montana Swimming also had several officials serve at the Senior Zones Championship and they did a great job as well.

I also want to thank Team Montana for a super age group zones experience. Mike and Rebekah did a great job coaching the team. Kris and Gina did a marvelous job organizing everything, and Lisa and all the parents did a wonderful job assisting the swimmers. Great swims, lots of fun, terrific meet. And our Montana mustache skit was very funny. The pink moose shirts and caps were a big hit at the meet.

I am very proud of the wonderful job all our officials do on deck! They provide a great service to all our athletes and deserve a huge thank you for the hundreds of hours of volunteer work they willingly give to make all our meets run very smoothly.

Sincerely,

Susan Huckleby
MT Swimming Co-Officials Chair
September 2013