

Montana Swimming House of Delegates,

The Montana Swimming Short Course Championships was a very successful meet and Duane and I are delighted to report that we had a very large number of officials on deck working the meet who did an excellent job of officiating. This was probably the largest group of officials I have seen at a Montana Swimming championship meet since I began officiating. The meet ran very smoothly and the swimmers not only swam fast times but set several new state records as well. My thanks to the leadership team of Duane Luterbach, Tony Popp, Craig Smith, Bob Whelan, and Bill Wheeler for making the meet a wonderful experience.

I am also please to report that Montana Swimming now has several new certified officials and many more trainees including several referee trainees who should become certified this summer. As we continue into the long course season, 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.

On March 3 the officials approved changes to the minimum requirements to become an official in Montana Swimming. Those changes became effective in March. The requirements have been posted on the website.

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 summer and fall to assist in the certification of admin officials.

Duane is currently attending the National Officials Chair meeting in Orlando. Topics to be discussed will include the length of time trainees may train to become an official; if trainees must first join USA Swimming, pass a background check and complete the athlete protection training prior to beginning any training on deck to become an official (these changes are being suggested by safe sport); and retention among other topics.

In December I was selected to serve as Team Lead for the officials at the Western Zone Age Group Championships in Roseville, California. I would like to encourage our Montana Swimming officials who will be attending the senior and/or age group zones meets to volunteer to officiate. The experience is always fun and educational. Applications to officiate at both meets are posted on the website and were distributed to the officials. I would also encourage you to officiate at the Masters SCY meet in Hardin June 8 and the Quad LSC meet in Missoula July 5-7 as well as at LC State in Bozeman.

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 Huckeby
MT Swimming Co-Officials Chair
May 2013