

Montana Swimming House of Delegates,

The Montana Swimming Short Course Championships was a very successful meet and we are delighted to report there were a large number of officials on deck working the meet who did an excellent job of officiating. Our thanks to meet referee Curt Jacobson who did a great job of running the meet along with Richard Allen and Brian Robinson who served on the meet leadership team. Many thanks also to Don Hougardy who was the evaluator for the meet. Several officials were evaluated and the comments by the evaluators were very positive.

We are also pleased to report that Montana Swimming now has several new certified officials and many more trainees who should become certified this summer. As we continue into the long course season, we 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 must have either an admin official or admin referee on deck supervising the timing of the meet. The requirements to become a certified admin official are posted on the website. Administrative officials' clinics have been held in Whitefish, Butte, Billings, and Missoula since September. Plus we have worked one on one with several other persons and teams to certify administrative officials.

Rosanne Flann from BAC attended the national officials meeting last fall and her report is posted on the website. Vickie Murphy from HLST was selected to attend the spring national officials meeting but was unable to attend due to illness. Duane has been selected to serve as an official at the National Special Olympics swim meet this summer. Duane has spent the past year working with Montana Special Olympics coaches and teams instructing them in the rules.

New apprentice official registrations are now available. Apprentice officials may train on deck for a maximum of 60 days before the trainee must join USA Swimming, pass a level 2 background check, and complete the athlete protection training or decide not to become an official. The meet referee should send completed applications to the registration chair with a copy to the official's chair. Once the trainee is registered, meet referees may enter meet sessions for the trainee into OTS.

We would like to encourage our Montana Swimming officials who will be attending senior sectionals, senior zones and/or age group zones meets to volunteer to officiate. The experience is always fun and educational. Applications to officiate at the meets are posted on the website. We would also encourage you to officiate at LC State in Bozeman.

We are 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 and Duane Luterbach
MT Swimming Co-Officials Chairs
May 2014