

Montana Swimming Officials' Meeting Notes
October 1, 2005

Those present include Steve Cagle, Lanny Logan, Jason James, Susan Huckleby, Larry Johnson, Sussie Thompson, Ben and Diane Dean, Steven Bradford, Randy Vook, Theresa Vook, Merle Gunderson, Eileen Rose, and Patty Kump.

Officials' Chair Lanny Logan called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Lanny discussed the new on-line officials testing service. The on-line testing has gone very smoothly so far. The official's section of the USA Swimming website has been updated and is very good. The situations and resolutions questions are also posted on the web site.

Lanny stated he is completing the last of the officials' evaluations he has received and will send those out soon. The officials felt they needed to have the evaluation comments soon after the meet so they could make changes rather than wait a long time to receive the comments. The meet referees could talk to some of the officials during the meet if there is time.

Merle Gunderson made a proposal to change the evaluation form seconded by Diane Dean. The words "ready for sectionals or zones" should be removed and replaced by "upper level meets". This wording may be adjusted after the new national officials' guidelines are released. The proposal passed.

Merle made a second proposal again seconded by Diane to update the Montana Swimming minimum standards to officiate as of this date and then to review them annually. The motion passed. Susan will update the standards and send them out to the officials.

The Excellence in Officiating Award nominees were: Larry Johnson, Susan Huckleby, and Mark Model. Larry Johnson was named the recipient of the award. Susan will order the award to be presented at Short Course State.

The new breaststroke and backstroke rule changes were discussed. A question was asked regarding the kick in breaststroke rule that states that "after the start and each turn, a single downward butterfly kick followed by a breaststroke kick is permitted while wholly submerged". Did the swimmer have to be wholly submerged to take the kicks or could the swimmer have his/her head out of the water and still take the prescribed kicks? Merle will e-mail Bruce Stratton on the rules committee and ask for an interpretation. The horizontal plane was defined as parallel to the surface of the water. In the backstroke, the toes may now be out of the water at the start. Toes may not be curled over the top of the gutter however. Also, in the turn portion of the backstroke, the wording "continuous turning action" was removed. Also, there is no disqualification regarding the kick in the turning action in the backstroke.

It was decided that Montana Swimming officials will continue to call the backstroke turn as always, but with no call regarding the kick on the turn. The swimmer can't glide into the wall or turn over onto the breast and kick into the wall as in the high school rules.

Merle then discussed the changes to the high school rules. The referees may now use the whistle starts. The High School Association is testing the no recall false starts this year. Merle has the new protocols. For false starts the referee has to raise his/her hand after the last swimmer completes the last turn to indicate a false start. This year wearing jewelry is not a disqualification. The swimmer will be asked to remove the jewelry or make the uniform legal (before or after the swim). Jewelry is not to be worn during warm-ups either. It is only mandatory to have matching caps and suits at the state swim meet. Goggles do not have to match.

The High School State meet will be an observed meet at Hardin this year.

Susan will send out information to the teams so those swimmers who wish to have their swims observed at High School State must notify Merle by January 15. The parents, coaches, or swimmers should send to Merle the swimmers legal first name, middle initial, last name (as listed on the USA Swimming registration card), date of birth, MT Swimming team, and the high school team. Merle will have all the swims by the swimmer observed at the meet. Swimmers must be currently registered athlete members of Montana Swimming/USA Swimming prior to the start of the meet. There will be no deck registration at the meet.

Lanny adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Huckeby