

Montana Swimming House of Delegates,

The Montana Swimming Long 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 Larry Johnson who did a great job of running the meet.

We are also pleased to report that Montana Swimming now has several new certified officials and some new trainees who should become certified this fall. As we continue into the short 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.

For the past year 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, Missoula, and Bozeman. Plus we have worked one on one with several other persons and teams to certify administrative officials.

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.

The Montana Swimming officials met September 27 in Bozeman. They updated the MT Swimming minimum certification guidelines for officials and the new guidelines are posted on the website. A chief judge clinic was also presented.

Montana Swimming was represented by several officials at Junior Nationals, Senior Zones, Age Group Zones, and senior Sectionals. New this summer for zones is the officials mentoring program. Each LSC may send a mentor and a mentee to each meet and they will be reimbursed up to \$252 for hotel expenses.

The MT Swimming Senior Championships are in Butte November 14-16 and we encourage officials to officiate at this meet as well as at the Junior BC Championships in Great Falls February 21-22 and MT Swimming Short Course Championships March 6-8 in Butte. Susan Huckleby is the meet referee for the Senior Championships and Short Course State. Merle Gunderson is the meet referee at Junior BC Championships. High School State will be held in Missoula February 13-14.

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 Huckleby and Duane Luterbach
MT Swimming Co-Officials Chairs
October 2014