

Montana Swimming 2020 Annual Fall Officials Meeting
October 3, 2020
Zoom Meeting Minutes

Montana Swimming Officials Chair Lon Huckert opened the meeting at 12:00 pm. The meeting was held as a zoom virtual meeting due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions regarding social distancing.

Roll call was taken. In attendance were Ken Kunz, BAC; Rosanne Flann, BAC; Dax Rice, BAC; Tracy Flikkema, BMA; Lon Huckert, BOZ; Matt Yovich, BOZ; Eric Belasco, BOZ; JP Maganito, BOZ; Ron Huckleby, BTST; Susan Huckleby, BTST; Marc Nynas, BY; Mike Klein, BY; Rick Frye, BY; John Thurmond, BYSC; Stephanie Boysen, HLST; John Steinhoff, HLST; Jennifer Renshaw, HOT; David Affleck, MAC; Kim Hiday, MYST; Merle Gunderson, UN; and Darrell Bauman, UN. Susan volunteered to take minutes.

The agenda is attached. The group agreed to postpone nominations and voting on the officials awards until later in the meeting.

Old Business:

Review Officiating Requirements: Officials need to submit their 2021 USA Swimming registration form and payment to Stephanie Boysen. Other requirements include having a current background check (BGC), current athlete protection training certificate (APT), and current concussion certificate. Montana law requires youth officials and coaches to complete the concussion training requirement annually. Send copies of certificates to Stephanie.

12 & Under Tech Suit Ban: Effective September 1, 2020, 12 and under swimmers will not be allowed to compete wearing tech suits in all sanctioned, approved or observed meets *except* Junior Nationals, US Open, National Championships, and Olympic Trials. (USA Swimming rules article 102.8.1.F) A technical suit is one with the following components: any suit with bonded or taped seams regardless of its fabric or silhouette or any suit with woven fabric extending beyond the hips. (Note – a suit with woven fabric and sewn seams that does not extend below the hips is permitted. A suit with knit fabric and sewn seams not extending below the knees is permitted.) More information is posted on the website including pictures.

New Business:

Review and Update Officials Certification Documents for 2020-2022: M/S/P: The group discussed and voted to approve the officials' certification documents without changes for 2020-2022. The documents are reviewed every two years.

The group expressed concern over both a lack of training opportunities for apprentices and swim meets for officials to qualify for re-certification and to be eligible work at LSC championship meets in 2020 and 2021 due to restrictions in place because of the COVID-19

pandemic. The group felt adding a COVID addendum to the official certification requirements to cover these situations.

The group also discussed the clinic requirements for trainees. If trainees need a clinic, they should ask their local referee if he/she/they will hold a clinic. Also other referees hold clinics at swim meets. Susan regularly offers clinics and briefings at meets where she is the meet referee as well as for individuals looking to be certified as chief judges, starters, referees and admin officials. The fall MT Swimming officials meeting counts towards clinic attendance especially for officials seeking N2/N3 certification.

Officials Committee: M/S/P: The group voted to form an officials committee who will have the authority to deal with situations and make changes as needed to officiating requirements in the LSC throughout the COVID pandemic.

Officials Committee Members: Lon Huckert, chair: Tracy Flikkema; Susan Huckleby; Ken Kunz; plus an athlete member to be named.

2020-2022 Officials Certification Documents COVID Addendum: M/S/P: The group voted to add a COVID addendum to the officials' certification documents. Ongoing changes may be made and approved as needed by the officials committee.

The COVID addendum will include (but not limited to) the following items as discussed during the meeting:

- Allow trainees 2 years to complete training requirements.
- Allow one half (1/2) of the stroke and turn required training time to be completed by a trainee under the direct supervision of a trainer (certified in the position for one year or more) on the deck during practice time. The trainer must sign the training hours and a referee must sign for final approval before submittal to the Montana Swimming Officials Chair.
- Allow the officials committee the authority to waive requirements for staffing swim meets.
- The COVID addendum will be in effect throughout the COVID-19 pandemic or until revoked by the Montana Swimming Officials group.
- The initial document will be developed by the committee and emailed to the officials for review.
- The final document will be emailed to officials and posted on the website.
- Changes and updates after the final document is approved will be posted on the Montana Swimming website.
- Allow the officials committee the authority to make changes as needed to the certification requirements, training, situations, officials' reimbursement, meet staffing, and meets.

Administrative Official Training: All meets require either an administrative official (AO) or administrative referee (AR) to assist with the dry side timing requirements. Several people have asked to be trained in the AO position. Training could be done via zoom and there are several

training PowerPoint presentations available as well. AOs should know the correct procedures to set up a Meet Manager database, run all the required meet paperwork, check for exceptions, seed a meet, handle entries and results, and how to make correct timing adjustments. Matt, Susan, and Dax all volunteered to teach an AO workshop.

It was mentioned teams should plan to include trainees learning to operate the timing console and computer at meets. The console and computer operators should be contacted in advance of the meet so they can make arrangements to include the trainees and discuss with trainees in advance of the meet the proper operation of the equipment.

Officials Reimbursement Form: Officials may be reimbursed by Montana Swimming their USA Swimming registration fee annually and the background check fee every two years if the official meets the requirements. Officials must officiate at least five swim meets each year (September 1- August 31) not including their home swim meet if the official's children are competing in the meet and also excluding, intra-squad meets, duals and time trials. The form is posted in the website under the officials tab and must be submitted by August 31.

The group discussed the requirements and how meeting those requirements may be very difficult during the COVID-19 pandemic. The group decided to allow the officials committee to update the document to allow officials to work fewer meets (number to be determined) and allow home meets, dual meets, intra-squad meets, and time trials to also count toward the total number of meets worked annually for reimbursement. Once the document is modified by the officials committee it will be emailed to the officials for review and approval. The document will then be sent to the MT Swimming executive committee to final approval.

COVID-19 Concerns: The group discussed various concerns in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of those concerns include:

- Restrictions in place by the CDC, state, county and facility;
- Operating capacity limits set by the state and county health departments and the facility - facilities may operate at up to 75 per cent capacity per state rules but rules vary by county.
- BAC may only have 49 people maximum on deck due to limits other than COVID-19 restrictions;
- Lack of space to properly social distance during the winter months during swim meets. The Bozeman Swim Center is a great place for meets during warm months because the swimmers can stay outside and only be inside the facility during their events.
- How do we handle spacing requirements during cold months? Would a tent with heaters be an option? Are nearby school classrooms or a gym available?
- Capacity concerns limit the size of swim meets and will affect how the championship meets are conducted.

USA Swimming is very conservative in their approach to return to competition.

Virtual Meets: Virtual meets are not new. Teams may host a virtual meet with other teams in the same state or other LSCs. Each team competes in the same events but at different

locations. Results are merged to produce the final results. Meets can be live streamed to show what is happening at each meet location.

2021 Short Course Championship Meets: The MHSAA State high school swimming championships are currently planned to be held February 12-13, 2021 in Missoula. Montana Swimming Short Course State is planned to be held February 25-28 in Polson. The Junior BC Championship is planned to be held February 20-21 at a location to be determined.

There are some proposed changes that will be discussed at the HOD meeting tomorrow that may change several aspects of the MT Swimming championships including location and dates. The Montana Swimming Fall HOD meeting will be a zoom meeting on October 4.

One alternative idea for the 2021 SC State is to hold two meets - one on Polson and one in Butte splitting the teams between the two venues. To deal with the capacity issue, the meets would be conducted over two weekends with the 12 and under meet February 18-21 and the 13 and over meet February 25-28. Both meets would be the 3 1/2 day format with prelims and finals. The Junior BC meet would be held in conjunction with SC State on the same days as above. The Junior BC swimmers would swim in a timed finals session between prelims and finals.

Concerns were expressed about the number of officials needed to run two meets in two different locations over two weeks. Also concerns were expressed about teams bidding to host meets without having officials. For the championship meets both the meet referee and administrative referee must apply for the position with Montana Swimming.

Stroke discussion: The stroke discussion was postponed until a later date.

Awards: The group discussed the annual officials' award requirements. The following officials were nominated and voted to receive the awards. Congratulations!

Excellence in Officiating Award: Rosanne Flann, BAC

Mark Hallgrimson Award: John Thurmond, BYSC

Officials Chair Election: Lon Huckert was elected the Montana Swimming Officials Chair for a second two year term.

Duane Luterbach Passing: Long time BAC official and former Montana Swimming Officials Chair Duane Luterbach passed away in March following a heart attack.

There was no further business to discuss. The meeting adjourned at 1:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Hucceby
October 5, 2020



Montana Swimming Official's Meeting Agenda

October 3, 2020

Zoom Meeting

1. Roll Call 12:00 pm
2. Old Business
 - a. Review Officiating Requirements
 - USA Swimming Application
 - Background Check
 - Athlete Protection Training
 - Concussion Training
 - b. Tech Suit Ban – September 1, 2020

No Technical Suit may be worn by any 12 & Under USA Swimming athlete member in competition at any Sanctioned, Approved or Observed meet.
 - c. Excellence in Officiating Award
 - d. Mark Hallgrimson Stroke and Turn Award
 - e. Other
3. New Business
 - a. Update Registration with Stephanie for 2021
 - b. Update Officiating Documents – review and approve (2020-2022)
 - 2018-2020 Montana Swimming Requirements to Officiate
 - 2018-2020 Stroke and Turn Official Training Requirements
 - c. Admin Officials
 - d. Covid-19 Concerns
 - e. Virtual Meets
 - f. Short Course State Meet (Missoula)
 - MT Swimming SC Junior B-C Championships – Feb 20-21
 - Location ?
 - MHSA Montana High School State Meet – Feb 12-13
 - Missoula
 - MT Swimming Short Course State – Feb 25-28
 - Polson
 - g. Officiating discussion – Fly, Back, Breast and IM
4. Officials Chairman nomination / election
5. Adjournment