

Montana Swimming 2021 Annual Fall Officials Meeting
October 2, 2021
Team Meeting Minutes

Montana Swimming Officials Chair Lon Huckert opened the meeting at 6:00 pm. The meeting was held as a Teams virtual meeting due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Roll call was taken. In attendance were Ken Kunz, BAC; Dax Rice, BAC; Tracy Flikkema, BAC; Lon Huckert, BOZ; Eric Belasco, BOZ; JP Maganito, BOZ; Susan Huckleby, BTST; Marc Nynas, BAC; Mike Klein, BY; Stephanie Boysen, HLST; John Steinhoff, HLST; Kim Hiday, MYST; Merle Gunderson, UN; Joe Reynolds; Michelle Schermerhorn, MYST; Shawn Moe, MYST; Steve Qunell, GAC; Christina McColley, BOZ; Tracy Carroll; Greg Smith; Riley Kunz; Ben Dean, UN; Greg Smith, HAV; Clark Montgomery, BAC; and Maria King. Susan volunteered to take minutes.

The agenda is attached.

Old Business:

Review Officiating Requirements: Officials need to submit their 2022 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.

There was no other old business.

New Business:

Presentation on Officiating at the 2021 US Olympic Trials: Susan Huckleby gave a PowerPoint presentation on officiating at the US Olympic Trials in Omaha, Nebraska, in June. She shared numerous photos and stories about her experience.

Discussion of Meet Referee vs Deck Referee Requirements: Dax Rice felt the certification requirements should be separated for meet referee and deck referee. Some persons only want to be a deck referee. Questions were asked if the administrative referee certification should also be separated from the other referee certification. Different LSC certifications can be set up in the OTS. Others felt separating the meet referee and deck referee certification would hurt smaller teams who may only have one referee available. Deck referees would most likely need to complete all the same requirements as the meet referee with the possible exception of serving as a meet director.

A subcommittee will be formed to investigate the possibility of splitting the referee certification requirements and will report back to the group. The officials' certifications will be reviewed next year, and changes can be made at that time.

Referee Certification Review Subcommittee: Dax Rice, Susan Huckleby, John Steinhoff, Tracy Flikkema, and Ken Kunz.

Officials Subcommittees – Education and Governance:

The group discussed forming an education subcommittee. The committee could produce monthly educational talks, webinars, monthly meetings, and trainings for the officials.

Education Subcommittee members: Susan Huckleby, Dax Rice

The group discussed forming a governance subcommittee to review legislation and make changes to the by-laws, rules and regulations manual, and the policy and procedures manual from the official's perspective.

The LSC has a governance committee already. The governance committee does not make changes to the by-laws, rules and policies but updates the governing documents. Changes to the governing documents are made by the HOD and/or the executive committee. The executive committee currently reviews all proposals and makes recommendations on each item prior to the fall HOD meeting. The officials could review the proposals and make comments on behalf of the officials at the HOD meetings. The officials chair has a vote at the HOD meeting and can speak for the officials group. There are other officials who have a vote in the HOD meetings as well and can offer the officials perspective on legislation. The group proposed having a subcommittee review legislation and comment on it at the fall HOD meeting.

Legislation Review Subcommittee members: Dax Rice, Lon Huckert, and Susan Huckleby

Rescind Temporary Covid Officiating Changes Enacted Last Year:

M/S/P: It was moved and seconded to rescind the temporary Covid officials training changes enacted last year effective today. The motion passed.

The COVID addendum changes that were passed last year and are now rescinded include (but were not limited to) the following items:

- Allow trainees 2 years to complete training requirements. - Rescinded
- 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. - Rescinded
- Allow the officials committee the authority to waive requirements for staffing swim meets. - Rescinded
- Allow the officials committee the authority to make changes as needed to the certification requirements, training, situations, officials' reimbursement, meet staffing, and meets. - Rescinded

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: Dax Rice, BAC

Mark Hallgrimson Award: Mike Klein, BY
Mike Klein (BY) and JP Maganito (BOZ) were nominated.

2022 Short Course Championship Meets: The MHSAA State high school swimming championships will be held February 11-12, 2022, in Great Falls. Montana Swimming Short Course State will be held February 24-27 in a location to be determined. The Junior BC Championship will be held March 5-6 in Bozeman.

2021 Montana Swimming Long Course State Challenges: Dax Rice was the meet referee. Several challenges happened during the meet and were discussed by the group.

- An official was punched on the deck by a spectator. The spectator was removed from the deck. There were extenuating circumstances. The official was walking the side and nicely asked the person to step back so he could pass. The person failed to move. The official extended his arm to pass in front of the person, however the spectator had recently had surgery and the official touched the area that was painful. The spectator lashed out and punched the official on the shoulder. The spectator left the area, and he was not allowed on deck for the rest of the meet. Dax got a description of the spectator and what team the person was from. Dax then spoke with that team's coaches about the incident. In the future using cones and ropes or some type of barrier and gates to secure the walking area for the officials on the sides of the pool should be done. Involve the meet director in setting up the deck. The CJs should be ready to help clear spectators out of the way so officials may walk the deck. It is illegal to assault a youth sports official in Montana. Be careful of delaying the meet if police get involved in a situation. The official did not want to press charges.
- There were two coaches with expired credentials at the meet Dax contacted them prior to the meet reminding them to get their credentials updated. He allowed them to coach on deck Thursday and Friday of the meet with expired credentials. One coach got credentials updated on Friday. Dax finally removed one coach on Saturday who still hadn't updated their credentials. The coach got the credentials updated later Saturday. Stephanie explained that coaches are not allowed to coach on deck with expired credentials as it is a liability issue. Clubs should be aware of when coach credentials expire. Referees can check credentials using Deck Pass at the meet. Stephanie can also email the meet referees a list of the coaches and officials showing when each person's credentials expire. If a referee has a question about a person's credentials, email Stephanie. Do not let coaches with expired credentials coach on deck at a meet.
- A swim parent verbally assaulted a coach on deck while two other coaches were present as witnesses. The action may have been the result of Dax removing the coach with expired credentials from the deck. The parent apparently lashed out at a coach from another team thinking the coach had something to do with the other coach being removed from the deck or may have thought it was a case of favoritism causing the coach to be removed. Dax checked if the coach was ok. He then spoke with General

Chair Matt Yovich and spoke with the two witnesses. Dax talked with the parent and explained the parent's actions by verbally assaulting a coach won't be tolerated. Dax removed the parent from the meet. Matt spoke with the club and the club will deal with the parent. Questions were raised if Montana Swimming could ban fans who act inappropriately on deck. How would we communicate between meets if a person was banned to keep the person off the deck at future meets? Dax does not know how the club handled the situation with the parent.

- An athlete posted inappropriate content about another athlete on social media during the meet. Dax didn't see any of the posts. The posts were brought to Dax's attention. It's not the meet referee's job to police social media at the meet as that is a safe sport concern. Dax contacted the coaches of the athletes involved and let them deal with the situation. The incident happened between prelims and finals. It was possible the athletes involved could have been withdrawn from finals by their coaches which would have affected the finals seeding. Brenda Huckert, the Montana Swimming Safe Sport chair, was involved and followed up on the issues.
- Concerns were expressed about being involved in a situation with a person causing a problem. Could the person pull a knife or gun on you or react violently in other ways? Discussing how to handle these types of situations is important. Safety is important.

Stroke discussion: There are no new USA Swimming technical rule changes, and no high school technical rule changes this year.

There was no further business to discuss. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Huckleby
November 23, 2021



Montana Swimming Official's Meeting Agenda

October 2, 2021

Teams Meeting

1. Roll Call 6:00 pm
2. Old Business
 - a. Review Officiating Requirements
 - USA Swimming Application
 - Background Check
 - Athlete Protection Training
 - Concussion Training
 - b. Other
3. New Business
 - a. Discuss last summer events – Olympic Trials, Futures, Speedo Championships
 - b. Discuss Meet Ref vs Deck Ref requirements
 - c. Discuss Officials Subcommittees
 1. Education Subcommittee
 - a) Develop MT Officials curriculum and host monthly education meetings
 2. Governance Subcommittee
 - a) Works with LSC Governance Committee to provide officials perspective
 3. Elect Chairs for new committees
 - d. Covid-19 Concerns
 1. Rescind temporary Covid Officiating Changes
 - e. Mark Hallgrimson's Stroke and Turn Award
 - f. Excellence in Officiating Award
 - g. Short Course State Meet (Missoula)
 - MHSA Montana High School State Meet – Feb 11-12
 - Great Falls
 - MT Swimming Short Course State – Feb 24-27
 - TBD
 - Referee?
 - MT Swimming SC Junior B-C Championships – March 5-6
 - Bozeman
 - Referee ?
 - h. Officiating discussion – Fly, Back, Breast and IM
4. Adjournment