Florida Swimming Officials Committee
January 20, 2015 Meeting
Minutes Prepared by Thomas N. Tiedt

Participants
Stephen Plapp – Chair
Mark Davis – Vice Chair
Jeff Breault – Area 1 Representative
Roger Deary – Area 1 Assistant Representative
Ellen Johnson – Area 2 Representative
Thomas N. Tiedt – Area 2 Assistant Representative
Bart Smith – Area 2 immediate past Area Representative
Kay Caldwell – Area 3 Representative
Tom McCabe – Area 4 Representative
Doug Garthwait – Area 4 Assistant Representative
Matt Wilson – Area 5 Assistant Representative
Judy Wojcik – Area 6 Representative
Joe Glennon – Area 6 Assistant Representative
Helen Kelly – Florida Swimming Executive Director
Scott Kimmelman – Vice Chair, Florida Swimming Board of Directors
Vicki Lawson – Principal, www.strokeandturn.com
Chad Pennell – Account Coordinator, Scient Inc

The telephonic meeting was called to order by Stephen Plapp at 8:02 PM.

AGENDA
Minutes
The minutes of the December 9, 2014 committee meeting were approved without objection.

Stephen Plapp, on behalf of the committee, thanked Jeff for his service to prepare the minutes over the past several months.

Stephen Plapp thanked Thomas N. Tiedt for stepping forward to prepare the committee minutes.

Area Representative Changes
Stephen Plapp announced changes in Area Representation.

Area 1: Roger Deary is ending his 18 year term and will remain as the Area 1 Assistant Representative until a successor is chosen. Jeff Breault is the new Area Representative.
Area 2: Bart Smith has elected to step down. Ellen Johnson is the new Area Representative. Thomas N. Tiedt is the Assistant Representative. On behalf of the committee, Stephen Plapp thanked Bart for his service and looks forward to seeing Bart on deck.

Area 6: Joe Glennon is the Assistant Representative.

**Athlete Representatives**

Stephen Plapp seeks input from Athlete Representatives. Reminded via email today by Helen Kelley, none were present for this meeting.

**Certified Clinic Instructors**

Stephen Plapp noted that the Policy and Procedure Manual specifies that when the Area Representative changes there is an opportunity to redefine Certified Clinic Instructors (CCI). For clinics in an area the Area Representative should be advised. Stephen noted that clinic instruction is critical for retention.

**Host Team Officials Report**

Stephen Plapp asked Mark Davis to work with Bob Griffiths for a report on hosting teams and their number of officials affiliated with the team. Matt Wilson noted that athlete numbers on the team is important information on this matter. Ellen Kelley noted that we use athlete numbers at end of August. Mark Davis will get on this report tomorrow.

**Officials Registration/Apprentice Forms**

Stephen Plapp reported that Temporary Registration and Apprentice forms are out. Effective Date for an official could be clinic date, registration date or first appearance on date. Stephen asked that we don’t overwhelm Helen Kelley with changes.

**FHSAA**

Stephen Plapp asked Kay Caldwell about status of discussion with FHSAA regarding officials selection. Kay Caldwell will be contacting FHSAA soon and invites input for that contact.

**Online Officials Training Proposal**

Stephen Plapp reported that an outside vendor, [www.strokeandturn.com](http://www.strokeandturn.com), is offering to perform web-based (Internet) FL LSC Stroke & Turn training.
Chad Pinnell presented their offerings. Until 2015, they were mostly a community effort in Virginia and surrounding states. In 2014, they trained over 700 candidates. The benefit of their offering – provide lessons with a consistent knowledge base, which can get lost in ‘live’ training. They use high-definition videos. LSC instructors can use the web site portal to monitor the progress of students. A new web site will be published in 2015.

Vicki Lawson stated that the training page of the web site can be customized for the LSC. The program works as an annual subscription, thus the student/official can return for reviews. The cost varies from $19.95 to $24.95 depending on volume of students. They have a 9 to 5 call center. The program is only Stroke & Turn at this time. Expansion to other certifications is planned.

Roger Deary reported that he subscribed to this service for a non-USA Swimming team in Jacksonville. The program worked well and monitoring of student activity was useful. A student not taking the classes can be pulled from access to the program. Roger plans on signing up again this year. The web portal brings up a topic, explains the rule, shows videos of right/wrong, then asks questions before the student can go on. While the program does not replace apprenticing, it could replace clinics.

Judy Wojcik asked how often content is updated. Vicki Lawson answered that an update is underway with the assistance of a USA Swimming Referee content provider. The 2015 version is totally redone.

Mark Davis asked if the program is compatible with Windows and Macs. Chad Pinnell responded yes; it is web based and adapted for phones, tablets, PCs and Macs.

Stephen Plapp suggested the program could augment our current AO and ST program. They will probably do an in-person demonstration in the future to the committee. The rate of retention seems to be greater than our existing program and an online recertification clinic could be useful. Stephen will send out additional information via email.

**Area Reports**

Area 1. Jeff Breault’s written report is attached. Area 1 has 58 officials, lost 6 for personal reasons. Had a Stroke & Turn Clinic at Cecil Field recently. With 4 meets planned there this year, this venue is a good facility for clinics. Jeff noted that there are clinic attendees who have not begun apprenticing. Jeff recommended to coaches to register candidates before clinics but that request did not get disseminated. Jeff noted that clinic attendees must accomplish their apprenticing (minimum requirement - 20 hours) within 60 days of their Effective Date.

Area 2. Ellen Johnson’s written report is attached. Area recently had 2 clinics (Ocala, Winter Park). Four officials decided not to renew for family reasons. Two officials are returning after being off the last couple of years. There are 2 teams whose
officials registrations are awaiting submission by the team coaches. Clinics are planned at the Area 2 Championship in Orlando and at Winter Haven.

Area 3. Kay Caldwell reported that Area 3 has 113 officials. Several have not completed registration. There is a planned clinic in Clearwater. Kay Caldwell will choose her Assistant Area Representative in the near future.

Area 4. Tom McCaleb reported that Area 4 has 26 officials, lost 3, everyone else has completed recertification clinic. One new candidate took the Stroke & Turn Clinic: interested and excited – did registration, test and background check within a week of clinic.

Area 5. Debbie Landis was represented by Matt Wilson. Area 5 has recertified 56 officials. Five did recertification clinic but not test. Fifteen – no testing. Debbie Landis is following up with these officials. There is a group not going forward (kids no longer involved). There were 4 clinics this past weekend, one in Naples and 3 in Ft. Myers.

Area 6. Judy Wojcik’s written report is attached. Area 6 has 54-55 officials (one from YMCA crossing over to Area 6 from Area 2). One team has had a lapse in officials. Interested retirees in the area have been invited to clinics. Area may loose 10-12 officials, ending up with 44 officials. Recruitment continues.

**Florida Swimming Championships**

Spring FLAGS: Debbie Landis – Meet Referee. Other lead team members to be defined. Stephen Plapp will apply for N2 OQM status.

Stars: Judy Wojcik – Meet Referee. Other lead team members to be defined.


Stephen Plapp reported that no assignments have been made for the long-course championship meets.

**New Business**

None

**Next Official Committee Meeting**

Stephen Plapp reported that he will set up an in-person Officials Committee meeting at one of the LSC championship meets.

**Meeting Adjourned**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 PM
WRITTEN AREA REPORTS

Area 1
Officials currently registered: 49
Officials not registered: 9
Officials not re-certified: 4
Total population: 62

6 officials have left officiating.

Of those who have not registered and/or been re-certified, all but 2 have been contacted and are in the process of completing the process.

The following individuals were appointed as Certified Clinic Instructors:

Robert Thompson
Roger Deary
Kristy Gavin
Sam Borgert
Jeff Breault
Susan Talwar
Don George
Stephen Plapp
Jeff Breault

A clinic was held on 01/18/2015 for new stroke and turn officials at the JAXPARKS meet in Jacksonville. 5 individuals attended the clinic.

Rick Chu completed his apprenticeship for deck referee. Phyllis Powell completed her apprenticeship for starter.

Area 2
2 re-certification clinics were held the first two weekends of the year in Ocala and Winter Park. Every official who wanted a re-cert clinic has had one.

4 officials in the area have decided not to renew for very valid family issues.

1 official is coming back after being gone for 2 years.

2 entire teams and 7 individuals have not registered for 2015. They are all in the process of getting that taken care of.
CCI’s have been selected and have agreed to serve in that role.

Joint clinics are being planned for all levels at Area 2 Champs in early March at the Y and at the Winter Haven meet in late April.

Clinical Instructors for Area 2 are:

Ellen Johnson
Tom Tiedt
Bart Smith
Mike Brewer
Rick Mills
Melissa Hellervik-Bing

Area 4

I have lost 3 out of 26. Another 4 still have some deficiency (not yet renewed membership, BGC or APT out of date, recert. test not yet taken); I’m in communication with all of those to nudge them to get it all done, hopefully before this weekend’s ATAC meet.

I have one new apprentice S&T official since the first of the year. He has already completed the clinic, the apprentice membership, the certification test, and the BGC, all in the space of a week, so he’s good to go this weekend.

Area 5

Recertification continues. 56 of 79 (71%) of non AO-only officials have completed the recertification requirements, or are new officials from 2014. Of those, six have not completed their non-athlete registration. Four clinics were held this past weekend, with a total of eight attendees. Five officials have completed their clinic, but still need to complete testing. There are 15 officials who have completed neither their clinic nor their testing. Of those, I think that at least seven of those will not renew, and that number could be as many as 10. Debbie is working with those who have not completed a clinic to assess who will and who will not be moving forward.

Area 6

We had 54-57 officials and 5 teams that hosted meets in 2014. There are about 5-6 more new ST officials either finishing their apprenticeship or just starting. We have had several from other areas continue to train over on the east coast.

All teams in our area, even those who do not host, are again being encouraged to have officials and most coaches, if not all, appreciate having a representative of their own team when going to meets. It helped in the past to have a coach or two speak in
a coaches briefing that they were turned away from a meet because they did not have any officials. 😊 We regularly ask at coaches meetings for their assistance in asking their parents become part of the official’s team.

Re-certification year definitely hurt our numbers- we may lose up to 10 but the reasons have varied. Some were gone well before clinic and testing started last summer.

We have had many officials train to higher levels this past year moving up in LSC and National certifications but we lost several good officials this membership year either to moving to other LSC’s, chronic illness, or coaching conflict. Many others have scaled back drastically or only work sessions at their home pool so we are having to continue to recruit at the ST level.

We continue to cross train with Florida Gold Coast officials assisting meets where our teams overlap in the south end of area 6 and within those 3 or 4 counties. It is sometimes challenging to not confuse differing protocols and LSC specific regulations so the A6 leadership is attentive to varying procedures and information that will need to be corrected. We continue to work together. The All Star Meet upcoming at the end of March is always a good time for officials from each LSC to get to know each other. Requests for assistance at meets and regular updates are communicated by the A6 leadership and we continue to hear from FGC on their requests too.

Again this year, I plan to give additional responsibilities to a couple others as they are willing and able in the development of A6 officials and continue to encourage some of our up and coming leaders and those who regularly do meets over in the area to take on other duties. Thanks TO CCI’s Chris, Melissa and Dave who have helped train and recruit as well as Joe Glennon who will be the new assistant Area 6 representative.