

Meeting of the Florida Swimming Officials' Board, December 4, 2013

There was no pre-prepared agenda submitted

Attendance:

- Area 1 Roger Deary
- Area 2 Bart Smith
- Area 3 Kay Caldwell
- Area 4 Tom McCaleb
- Area 5 Deb Landis
- Area 6 Judi Wojcik

Mark Davis, Officials' Committee Vice Chair

Jeff Smith, General Chair

Helen Kelly, Registration/Membership, Times Chair

Coaches: Bill Vargo

Identified speakers: Dave Nesper

Old Business

AO Position. Need to submit standardized language from annual meeting for publication and make material corrections to the apprenticeship form and the power point training slides. Minimum requirement for certification for experienced operators is 2 sessions. Training for inexperienced or new officials may be considerably longer. McCaleb, Deary and Plapp to submit language and correct forms.

Wojcik discussed need for controlled sessions for instruction of apprentices and suggested that sign-offs should be done by area reps based on recommendations by people actually working with the apprentices. Some apprentices will require many more than the two minimum sessions.

New Business

Davis discussed the need to standardize the process of reporting clinic attendance, FL Swimming registration, OTS tracking. The National Officials' Committee is working on this process and there may be changes in Q1 2014. In general, the process should be: clinic, testing early in apprenticeship, registration early in apprenticeship to allow tracking on OTS and afford insurance coverage, APT and background checks to be completed prior to issuance of certified status. Signoff should be accompanied by formal review.

Smith. Review of Officials' Policy and Procedure document needs to be undertaken to insure conformity with FL Swimming P&P Document.

Deary has contacted Area 1 officials introducing Assistant Area Representative, Jeff Breault and has named large club official's contacts. This is a recommended structure within each area of the LSC to facilitate communication and cooperation in staffing

meets, holding clinics, etc. Encourage the use of experienced officials who may no longer have club affiliations with participating swimmers to stay involved as mentors for less experienced officials and to fill in gaps where needed.

The BOD FL Swimming will meet in February prior to Championships. Since no Officials' Committee report was made at the General Session 2013 we should make one in February. Suggestion solicited from committee on topics. Davis asked area reps for needed reports. Quarterly membership updates except during the first 3 months of the year when monthly reports showing renewals, etc. are needed.

Championship assignments. Recommendations for officials requested from the Area Reps. Will refer to past assignments. Discussion of assigning officials with the potential to run championship meets as understudies to allow them to see the process without being directly responsible.

Kelly indicated that she can provide email lists sorted by Area, club, official's status to assist in disseminating information.

Recertifications will be due in 2014.

Caldwell. Has heard that some areas have scheduling and sign up boards posted on line so officials can see where they are needed and can sign up to work meets at a central location. She is to report back information on this process. Alternatively, Facebook or Linked in may work in this way. Suggestions are welcome. There are many officials who are not affiliated with a club and are not regularly contacted about meets where their help is needed. Better communication here could help solve some staffing problems.

Cost reimbursement. Smith. The FL Swimming BOD will have to approve any reimbursements for travel to national meets or LSC Championships.

Meet Announcements. It was past practice for the committee to contact the officials named on meet announcements to ensure their willingness and availability to serve. It is the preference of meet referees to be afforded the opportunity to review and to have input into the production of the meet letter. In furtherance of that goal, it was decided that Kelly will forward Meet Announcements to Davis and Plapp for review, to contact the named officials to verify their willingness and ability to serve as listed and to make suggestions about the letters to avoid the problems associated with changing the dates on last year's letter. The Area Reps were also encouraged to watch for upcoming meets in their Area and to work with the Meet Directors in setting up officials etc.

Plapp is to seek to have standard read only access to OTS established for all Area Reps.

FHSAA. It was agreed that there should be an attempt made, in cooperation with FL Gold Coast Swimming, to try and more equally distribute officials for FHSAA District and Regional competitions. Plapp and Davis will initiate this. Caldwell and Nesper indicated willingness to assist.

Respectfully submitted

Stephen E. Plapp

Chairman, FL Swimming Officials' Committee