

Pending Minutes of the Officials' Committee Meeting/Teleconference

Tuesday, July 18, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Stephen Plapp, Committee Chair, at 8:02 p.m.

Attending were Stephen Plapp, Chair; Roger Deary, Vice Chair; Area Representatives Jeff Breault (Area 1), Mike Brewer (Area 2), John Jansen (Area 3), Doug Garthwait (Area 4), Deb Landis (Area 5) and Joe Glennon (Area 6); Area Assistant Representatives Brett Ewald (Area 3) was also in attendance.

The Minutes of the February meeting were not available at this time.

The Agenda for this meeting was introduced and approved without additions.

Area Representatives reported the following:

1. Area 1 (Jeff Breault) - All is fine, nothing new to report
2. Area 2 (Mike Brewer) - Ellen Johnson is ordering new name tags, please contact her by Friday, July 21 if one is needed.
3. Area 3 (John Jansen) - Two new Administrative Officials, one Meet Referee and five Stroke & Turn Judges recently certified.
4. Area 4 (Doug Garthwait) - Nothing new to report.
5. Area 5 (Deb Landis) - Nothing new to report.
6. Area 6 (Joe Glennon) - Preparing for Senior Championships and trying to shepherd some new certifications.

Old Business:

1. National Meet Attendance Reimbursement Policy has been updated and aligned with the policies for the athletes and coaches. Now included in P& P Manual.
2. Retention and recruitment is becoming a critical issue as more meets are being sanctioned and run with fewer available officials. In particular, teams are getting and running meets without a full "slate" of home officials and very few visiting officials are volunteering. The Chair pointed out that the true minimum number of officials need to run a meet is several more than is in the rulebook and we may want to address this.
This issue will be a major topic of discussion at the Annual Meeting in October. Please work on ideas for how we can better meet the needs of the local athletes in terms of staffing meets.
3. Clinic Packages are in the process of being updated by Jeff Breault and Joe Glennon. Updates to the Stroke & Turn package has been completed and published to the web. Jeff Breault has completed a first draft of a revised Deck Referee package and Joe Glennon is working on the Starter package. Will include what is available with these minutes.
4. Exit interview concept being developed by Joe Glennon and Alec Kercheval and should be ready for discussion at Annual Meeting.
5. Joe Glennon is also working on a first draft of a Long Term Plan for the Officials' Committee and we'll publish an outline to the Committee in late September for discussion at the Annual Meeting.

New Business:

1. Pending changes to the Committee membership are:
 - Stephen Plapp, Chair has served for four (4) years and will be "term limited" out of the position in 2018; Stephen plans to stay involved in the LSC governance in some form.
 - Mike Brewer has assumed the Area 2 Representative position from Ellen Johnson; Ellen has served for four years and is in a similar situation to Stephen.
 - Debbie Landis (Area 5) will also be leaving the Committee due to term limits; Deb believes that Tim Jacobson will be willing to move into the position for 2018.
 - The remainder of the Committee membership will be staying in place.
 - Roger Deary stated he would be interested in assuming the Chair position if the Committee and LSC General Chair gave consent.

2. A Meet Referee Best Practices Training Session was proposed by the Chair and Vice Chair. Group felt it would be beneficial and the Chair and Vice Chair will further develop the concept with the possibility of holding the session at the Annual Meeting.
3. The National Certification Instruction Guide now includes Open Water (OW) certification in it. The local LSCs are being encouraged to include OW officials in their own certification programs and as part of their Officials' Committee. Discussion focused on to what extent we wanted our LSC to adopt these concepts with particular concern expressed over the legal issues involved. It was pointed out that our officials are being asked to help with several other organizations' (YMCA, Masters, etc.) meets and we need to keep this in mind moving forward. The Chair may wish to appoint a task force/subcommittee to further investigate the issues and make recommendations to the Committee.
4. The Chair announced two pending issues before the National Officials' Committee:
 - A change to the National Meet Dress code requiring meet shirts over black pants, slacks or skirt with black belts, socks and shoes and
 - Possible National Certification for Administrative Official position (in addition to Administrative Referee).

A date for the next meeting was not set.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Deary, Vice Chair