

Official's Committee Meeting (Orlando)

July 11, 2015

Meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m.

Attendees:

Committee Members- Stephen Plapp (chairman), Coach Clay Parnell, Jeff Breault, Ellen Johnson, John Jansen, Joe Glennon, Debbie Landis, Judi Wojcik, Athlete Grace Easterling, Mark Davis, Former chair- Melissa Helervick-Bing.

Non Committee Members- Matt Mathieson, Chris Wojcik, John Russo, Shannon Edelman, Jim Young.

Minutes from immediate past meeting were approved, motion-John Jansen, 2nd-Ellen Johnson.

Each Area represented gave a brief synopsis of recruiting and training. Area 4 was not represented. Area 2 Ellen Johnson stated multiple same day meets continue to be a challenge to staff. Area 5-Debbie Landis encouraged us to remind our officials they are welcome to volunteer at any/all meets they attend not just their local club meets. Also, Debbie mentioned that as mentors to always encourage rather than quiz our apprentices. We continue to learn after certifying, so encourage asking questions about what you've seen or think you saw. Area 6-Judi Wojcik shared the "Bring a Buddy" idea she uses to ask for help in recruiting new Officials. Athlete Rep-Grace Easterling added she liked the bring a buddy concept.

Committee Reports:

Newsletter will return after the Championship Meet season- Judi Wojcik. Judi is always looking for material and input for the newsletter so please email her with articles, questions or ideas.

Clinic Packets Jeff Breault has updated the Stroke & Turn Clinic Packets. They will be added to the Florida Swimming website this week after a couple of final updates. The new Apprentice Official form is now on the website under "Officials," then "Forms" tabs.

Training- Mark Davis reminds our goal is to simplify our process to get new Apprentices out on the pool deck quickly so they see how easy it is to officiate. Instructions are on the Apprentice Official form-once the clinic is complete, fill out the form, and on

the day of the first session worked, submit the form to either the Meet Referee or CJ and they will date the form that day and send it to Florida Swimming. Have fun on deck, learn a lot and know you are now insured!

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Meet Referees- Please send the completed form to Florida Swimming, Helen Kelly and to the Officials Committee (names/addresses on the form) at your earliest convenience. Monday after the meet is OK, but sooner is better so the form does not get lost.

New Apprentices can walk out on to the deck in their street clothes, once the form is in the hands of the Meet Referee and begin apprenticing. If some time passes between the clinic and the first Apprentice session, date the form on the day of the session worked.

Mark Davis proposed utilizing the StrokeandTurn.com online training service. The service was discussed and voted on and the motion failed.

Budget-John Jansen explained the sample budget and with a few final adjustments it will be submitted to Florida Swimming's Treasurer and Helen Kelly for the Board of Directors and House of Delegates to consider at the October annual meeting.

Melissa Helervick-Bing discussed past budget issues/policies and possible solutions.

OTS tracking activities- Jeff Breault discussed his research into who input activities which were a few Meet Referees. Discussion followed as to what should be input and Melissa Bing was asked to share what she looks for in selection National Evaluators and staffing for National level meets. Melissa said she does not look at manual inputs by Officials, rather she reviews only "system tracked activities" additionally she looks for at least one instructional and one learning activity for each Official applying to the National decks.

Chairman Stephen Plapp discussed a couple of situations which happened recently at meets which may have violated Code of Conduct rules and will continue to keep the committee advised once proceedings conclude. Stephen encouraged Meet Referees that a hostile environment on the pool deck should not be tolerated and reviewed options to consider for handling the various situations. Also, no one has the authority to deny a properly certified Official to work on any deck except USA Swimming, Board of Review. All certified Officials can work the deck for Florida Swimming sanctioned

meets. Although championship meets have required minimum sessions for new Officials.

Plapp also shared that he would like to spend time selecting leadership positions for championship meets in 2016, at the annual meeting in October, and asked committee members to be ready to nominate Officials for these positions.

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Recertification for Administrative Officials in 2015 was discussed and the committee agreed to require the Administrative Officials test prior to the end of the year (2015) to recertify as an Administrative Official. In 2016 to bring all Officials into a same year re-certification process, all Officials will re-certify, with Administrative Officials attending a clinic like past years, with their separate break out session. No testing for A.O's is planned for 2016 re-certification.

Our next meeting will be a phone conference in mid-September and the date and call in information will be published.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Thank you to all those in attendance.