Minutes of the Officials' Committee Meeting/Teleconference
Tuesday, January 17, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Stephen Plapp, Committee Chair, at 8:04 p.m.

Attending were Stephen Plapp, Chair; Roger Deary, Vice Chair; Area Representatives Jeff Breault (Area 1), Ellen Johnson (Area 2), John Jansen (Area 3), Deb Landis (Area 5) and Joe Glennon (Area 6); Area Assistant Representatives Mike Brewer (Area 2), Brett Ewald (Area 3), Alec Kercheval (Area 4) and Tim Jacobsen (Area 5) and Dave Nesper (Area 6) and Matt Stoneberg and Bart Smith

The Minutes of the October meeting were not available as they must be transcribed from the recording of the meeting.

The Agenda for this meeting was approved without additions.

The Vice Chair read the FL Vision and Mission Statements.

Area Representatives reported the following:
1. Area 1 (Jeff Breault) - Submitted a written report (attached)
2. Area 2 (Ellen Johnson) - Submitted a written report (attached)
3. Area 3 (John Jansen) - No Report
4. Area 4 (Alec Kercheval) - Recertification progressing, needs one clinic entered into OTS.
5. Area 5 (Deb Landis) - Recertification going well, running recertification clinics as needed. At present, only 2 need clinics, some have registration issues to resolve and it appears only 1 or 2 officials will not recertify.
6. Area 6 (Joe Glennon) - Wrapping up recertification. Several new apprentices in process.

Old Business:
1. Meet Reports are to be sent to the Area Reps by the FL Office or the MR in order to help track official/apprentice participation through OTS.
2. Name Tags have been ordered and received by Ellen Johnson. They will be sent out this week.
3. Discussion on the Administrative Referee position within FL followed. FL does not certify the AR position, only the AO; national level has the AR position. FL Meet Referee include AO certification and the only meets that require an "AR" are the LSC Championship level and above and MR is usually assigned to this position. Logic is similar to Chief Judge.
4. Discussion on CJ followed. National N2 certification is required by FL rules for person to be assigned as the lead CJ in FL Championship meets. While FL does/will not certify CJ at present, training materials to be posted to FL web site for use by local MR's in introducing/training officials in this position.
5. Clinic Packages
   • Clinic packages are in the process of being updated by Jeff Breault and Joe Glennon. Updates to the packages to be presented to the committee in the near future.
   • USA Swimming web site is also updating the training resources in the Officials' section.
   • AO clinic specifically needs to be updated with the new USA time reconciliation incorporated.
   • Starters need to be required to take the timer test so they can appropriately hold a timer’s briefing.
6. The LSC Championship meet assignments were discussed. Chair had already made All Star and summer Sr. Championship assignments due to host requirements. These assignments were moved, seconded and passed unanimously. Chair will request the BOD approve the assignment of one (1) AO per course (per flight when "chase" starts are used) for LSC Championship meets beginning this year.
7. Travel Policy - The Chair indicated that his intention was to place the officials' reimbursement under the policies for athletes and coaches to make all travel reimbursements uniform within the LSC. Motion to submit this to the BOD was made, seconded and approved.

New Business:
1. The idea of Exit interviews for officials that stop working meets was introduced. Joe Glennon and Alec Kercheval volunteered to develop a process and bring it back to the committee for implementation.
2. Recruitment and retention issue was briefly discussed. This is an important issue and ideas are needed - coaches' support, bigger "stick", other incentives were topics to explore
3. The following meets will be submitted for OQM consideration:
   • Spring & Summer Senior Champs and FLAGS
   • Southern Zones and Sectionals
   • GCST Invitational and BSS Invitational in early summer
   • CAT Jingle Bell Invitational and Gator December Invitational
     Finding/funding Evaluators could be a concern with so many meets.

Next meeting set for Saturday, February 25, 2017 between sessions of Senior Champs in Orlando.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Roger Deary, Vice Chair

Attachment
Happy New Year! I hope everyone’s batteries are sufficiently recharged. Unfortunately, as I grow older there seems to be less and less to recharge.

**ANNUAL ADMINISTRATIVE BURDENS**

About a quarter of the officials in Area 1 have not yet registered as non-athlete members for 2017. I realize there is a rush at the end of the year and that some of you are at the mercy of your teams when it comes to submitting the applications. If you have any problems with registration, please contact me. If you no longer plan of officiating, please let me know so I can remove your name from my mailing list and stop annoying you.

**UPCOMING SWIM MEETS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEET</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>CONTACT</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JaxParks Swim Classic (EAJ)</td>
<td>Cecil Aquatics Center</td>
<td>01/20/2017</td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>Robert Thompson</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13611 Normandy Blvd</td>
<td>01/21/2017</td>
<td>8:30 am*</td>
<td><a href="mailto:robertnayr@att.net">robertnayr@att.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jacksonville, Florida</td>
<td>01/22/2017</td>
<td>8:30 am*</td>
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*The second session for each day will start 30 minutes after the conclusion of the morning session.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEET</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>CONTACT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bolles School Sharks TYR</td>
<td>Cecil Aquatics Center</td>
<td>02/03/2017</td>
<td>4:30 pm</td>
<td>Sue Talwar</td>
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<td>February Meet</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:talwarsue@aol.com">talwarsue@aol.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jacksonville, Florida</td>
<td>02/05/2017</td>
<td>8:30 am*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The second session for each day will not start before noon (12:00).

These tend to be large meets with two courses and/or 10 lanes operating for some of the sessions. If you are interested in working these meets, please contact the Meet Referees shown above. The meet letters are on the Florida Swimming web site. If you plan on working either meet, make sure you are up to date on OTS and have completed re-certification. If you have any questions about either, please contact me.

**CLINICS**

I will be conducting a stroke and turn clinic at the JaxParks meet on Saturday, January 21, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in the hospitality/meeting room. I will be at all sessions on Saturday and Sunday and can make myself available to those interested in attending a clinic at another time or date. If you know someone who is interested in becoming an official, please pass this information on to them along with my email address: shotputdaddy@gmail.com.

I also plan on offering a clinic during the Bolles meet in February. I will be forwarding more information on this later.
**FLORIDA SWIMMING AREA 1 OFFICIALS NEWSLETTER**

**RECERTIFICATION**

I want to thank everyone who participated in last year’s re-certification. I think it went well but could be tweaked. If you have any suggestions, please forward them to me and I will pass them on to the committee chair.

There are several of you who have not yet attended a re-certification clinic. If you are interested, I will be available during both upcoming meets.

**FLORIDA SWIMMING OFFICIALS’ COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE**

The Florida Swimming Officials’ Committee held a teleconference on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 8 p.m. Several topics were discussed:

**National Meet Attendance Reimbursement Policy**

Currently, Florida Swimming reimburses area officials for travel expenses incurred attending national championships. The committee will propose to the Board of Directors that the officials’ reimbursement policy mirror that for coaches and swimmers, which compensates travel expenses incurred to other national non-championship meets.

**Clinic Forms and Materials**

A revision of the Deck Referee Clinic Packet has been submitted to the Committee. A revision to the Starter Packet is in progress.

A suggestion was made that training materials be devised for the position of Chief Judge. Although the LSC does not certify the position of chief judge, officials are frequently called upon to serve in that capacity at LSC championships. Having these materials available would better prepare these officials for fulfilling the duties of a Chief Judge.

**2017 Florida Swimming Championship Official Assignments**

The Committee has nominated officials to serve in assigned positions for the Spring and Summer LSC Championships. The Committee chair is in the process of contacting those officials.

**AR Certification Status**

Florida Swimming does not certify the position of Administrative Referee at the LSC level. Instead, officials may be certified as administrative officials. Any official certified as a meet referee is certified also as an Administrative Official. All officials who had previously been
certified as Administrative Referees had their certifications changed to Administrative Official. This does not affect those who were certified N2 or above as Administrative Referees.

**Club Officials Requirement for Sanction**

Florida swimming requires that at least 3 officials (Meet Referee, Starter, Head Stroke & Turn Judge) be named in the meet information letter to receive a sanction. In addition, if these officials (does not have to be the name on the meet letter) are not present during the session the times do not count. Unfortunately, sanctions have been issued without these conditions having been met. Part of the problem stems from teams seeking sanctions without having sufficiently qualified officials affiliated with the team. This necessitates seeking officials from other teams. The Committee is looking for ways to enforce the rules without denying sanctions but encouraging those teams seeking the sanctions to recruit officials to staff their own meets.

**RECRUITMENT**

I keep plugging away. Like it or not we are ambassadors for our sport and how we conduct ourselves on and off deck goes a long way towards encouraging others to join our ranks. Each year we lose about 5-7% of our officials. So far this year I am aware of at least 6 officials who will not be renewing their registration.

**AREA 1 BY THE NUMBERS**

As I do each year, I try and summarize the efforts of the officials in this area and the burdens we all share in trying to bring a fair, safe, and enjoyable environment for swimmers to achieve their goals. We are one of the few sports that does not compensate its officials and I am constantly amazed and gratified by the time and effort put in by the volunteers in white and blue.

**MEETS HOSTED BY AREA 1**

There are 19 teams affiliated with Florida Swimming in Area 1 with 72 officials spread amongst 5 of them. These 5 teams hosted 21 USA sanctioned/observed meets totaling 79 sessions during 2016.

In addition, Area 1 hosted 4 District and 2 Regional High School Championship meets.

**RECRUITMENT/RETENTION**

Officials Registered:

- 12/31/2015: 73
- 12/31/2016: 72
9 new Stroke & Turn Judges were certified during 2016. Of those, 3 attended clinics during 2015 and 6 attended clinics during 2016.

Total Clinics Conducted during 2016: 9
Attendees: 24
Certified: 6
Active Apprentices: 5

A 25% (6/24) certification rate is close to the LSC average.

**MEETS/SESSIONS WORKED**

The following table summarizes the meets/sessions worked by Area 1 officials during 2016 and compares it to those from 2015.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
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<td>TRACKED MEETS</td>
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<td>TOTAL MEETS</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEAN SESSIONS/OFFICIAL</td>
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<td>18</td>
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*These numbers reflect the officials who actually worked meets. Some officials, though registered through the end of the year, did not work any sessions.

The most meets (all types) worked by any one official was 45. The most sessions (all meets) worked by an official was 131.

For all you do, thank you.

Jeff Breault
Area 1 Representative
Florida Swimming Officials Committee
AREA 2

January, 2017

The area gained two officials from relocations into the area recently, but as of today, 3 officials have decided not to continue officiating. All 3 had kids graduate or move on to other sports.

Two officials earned new certifications:

1 stroke and turn judge
1 meet referee

CLINICS:

STAR held an admin clinic and a stroke and turn clinic
PA and NTCA held stroke and turn clinics
BD asked for a clinic at their upcoming meet against PA

REGISTRATIONS:

The area still has about 30 officials that plan to continue officiating in 2017 that are not currently registered or certified. Several emails were sent to the individual officials in the last six weeks without much progress made. This week we began sending emails to the officials and head coaches by team showing their current roster and what was needed to bring everyone current. That has had positive results, as some of the issues were miscommunication between the official and coach regarding how the 2017 registration was being handled. In several cases, each thought the other was handling it and no one handled it. We had one last recertification clinic in late December and everyone that requested a recertification clinic has received one. Thanks to Quinn Sampson for all his help with the clinics.
B Champs East was co-hosted by area 1 and area 2 and held in Jacksonville. Only two area 2 teams participated, so both hosts were very appreciative of the area 2 officials not involved in the meet that drove up to work. The meet was a big success.

Ron Nardozzi Award- the area has decided against renaming or adding Ron’s name to the current Fred Cruciger Award, but instead decided to add an annual award for Area 2 officials that would recognize the official that most exemplifies Ron’s character and have that award presented annually at the Ron Nardozzi Meet at Highlander or at Area 2 Champs. A selection committee would be set in place and details are still being worked out.

Upcoming meets:

TPA this Saturday-Sunday
CFM on 1/21
BD-PA-STAR Tri meet @ PA- January 28th
NTCA -Feb 3-5
Area 2 Champs hosted by BD – March 4-5