

## Florida Swimming Officials Committee Conference Call

Date: February 6, 2014

### Participants:

Jeff Smith, General Chair Board of Directors  
Stephen Plapp, Chair  
Mark Davis, Vice Chair  
Roger Deary, Area 1 Representative  
Jeff Breault, Area 1 Assistant Representative  
Bart Smith, Area 2 Representative  
Ellen Johnson, Area 2 Assistant Representative  
Kay Caldwell, Area 3 Representative  
Tom McCaleb, Area 4 Representative  
Judi Wojcik, Area 6 Representative  
Dave Nesper  
Matt Wilson  
Scott Kimmelman  
Randy Reese  
Bill Vargo  
Eric Bing  
Tom Teidt  
Dale Porter, Age Group Vice Chair  
Melissa Hellervik-Bing  
Clay Parnell

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m.

Plapp advised participants that the call was being recorded and that minutes would be prepared by Breault. Eric Bing requested that the notes used as minutes be posted on the Florida Swimming Web Site. Plapp agreed.

### Old Business

None

### New Business

1. Bart Smith will be stepping down as Area 2 Representative. Ellen Johnson will take his place and Dave Nesper will be her assistant. Smith will remain as long as necessary to assist with the transition. Plapp will move forward to secure the necessary approvals from the board.

2. Officials assignments for upcoming championships were discussed.

a. Spring Senior Championships

MR: Roger Deary  
CJ: Ellen Johnson  
AO: Dave Nesper

b. Spring FLAGS

MR: Mark Davis  
CJ: Chris Wojcik  
AO: Mark McCaw

c. Southern Sectionals hosted by Florida Gold Coast

MR: Jay Thomas

d. All Star Duel Meet

- 1) Plapp stated that the Officials Committee (OC) does not recommend officials for this meet and that the host club is responsible for securing officials. Coach Scott Kimmelman (of host team) stated that they had not been responsible for this task in the past and that Bart Smith had been assigned by former OC chair Matt Wilson for the last 2 years. Bart Smith agreed to serve as the meet referee for this year's meet. Plapp will discuss the other official assignments with Smith later.
- 2) The Senior Circuit will be run between sessions at the All Star Meet starting at noon on Saturday and resume after the morning session at noon on Sunday.
- 3) Joe Massimino will serve as Administrative Official and operate the Hytek. Plapp stated that there would be no need for an Administrative Referee if the Hytek operator was a certified AO.

e. Summer Flags

MR: Don George  
CJ: Unassigned  
AO: Eva Gronke

f. Summer Senior Champs

- 1) Plapp stated that none of the positions have been assigned. Plapp is open to suggestions/recommendation from the OC.
- 2) Per Kimmelman Eva Gronke has agreed to work the Hytek.

3) Kay Caldwell volunteered to serve as either MR or CJ. Plapp agreed to assign her as the MR.

g. Summer Zone Sectionals

MR: Mark McCaw or Bob Griffiths

CJ: Unassigned

AO: Unassigned. Matt Wilson stated that Pam Wilson was interested in serving as AO for the Zones. Plapp will contact her to confirm the meet she is interested in.

3. Questions were raised over giving officials credit for distance sessions worked and sessions worked at non USA sanctioned meets (high school; YMCA).

- a. Per Plapp, prior interpretation was that only sessions worked during USA sanctioned meets counted for the purposes of certification. This would exclude YMCA and high school meets. Furthermore, distance sessions broken out from other stroke sessions did not count for purposes of apprenticeship.
- b. Bart Smith stated that since USA sanctioned meets require 3 officials only those officials assigned to the session should receive credit for working distance sessions. He also does not believe apprentices should receive credit for distance sessions. He would leave it to the MR discretion as to who actually worked the session. He also does not believe any official should receive credit for working non USA meets (high school).
- c. Judi Wojcik stated that DR and SR apprentices who work distance sessions should get credit for those sessions since this is something they need to learn. She noted that some DR/SR have come through without having to pay attention to that kind of deck (keeping count; DNF).
- d. Bill Vargo suggested that Plapp appoint a sub committee to review the policy. The committee would make a recommendation to the Board of Directors (BOD) which would then approve/disapprove.
- e. Dave Nesper expressed a concern that some officials might not receive credit for a session if they were unable to work the entire session due to family issues. He wondered if crediting a session as worked could be left up to the discretion of the MR.
- f. Plapp tabled the discussion for now and requested that anyone interested in serving on such a committee send him an email.

4. Policy & Procedures Manual

- a. Jeff Smith stated that we have never had a BOD approved Policies and Procedures (P&P) manual. He appointed a committee to review and revise, if necessary, the existing P&P. Smith has given the results of this review to Plapp to solicit feedback from the OC.
- b. Bill Vargo stated that since Jeff Smith had appointed the committee, the OC had no vote in the matter. Once it had completed its task Smith could take the committee's recommendations to the BOD for approval/disapproval. He noted that if the BOD approved the P&P it could still be tweaked at a later date. If, however, the BOD disapproved the recommendations Smith could send it back to the OC chair

for additional discussion.

- c. Eric Bing wondered if the whole OC had a say in the matter before the P&P were submitted to the BOD.
  - 1) Bill Vargo replied that no, the General Chair has the authority to appoint a committee and take its findings to the BOD. Vargo stated that Smith was simply doing the OC a favor by putting the product out for comment. He really is not required to do so.
  - 2) Roger Deary commented that he wanted to give OC members a chance to address their concerns with the proposal and, with Smith's permission revisit the sections members had issues with. He noted that the main concern among the members was the impact of the revisions on the certification requirements.
- d. Dale Porter asked whether the BOD needed 20% of the members present to be athletes in order to consider the proposal.
  - 1) Jeff Smith replied that the BOD was required to invite the athletes but if they did not show up any vote taken was still valid.
- e. Plapp stated that the primary concern expressed by some members dealt with the proposals to reduce the apprenticeship time it took to go from the initial certification for stroke & turn to beginning the process for starter and referee. Some OC members had expressed the opinion that such a reduction would lower the standards and result in putting unqualified officials on deck. Others believe that a reduction in time would actually encourage more officials to join up and remain.
  - 1) Jeff Smith stated that instead of looking at it as lowering FS standards, he preferred to think that that the revisions were intended to bring FS certification requirements more in line with those of USA Swimming.
- f. Plapp suggested that Roger Deary and Tom McCaleb, the committee members primarily responsible for drafting the revisions, consider an amendment requiring apprentices to be mentored by officials who have achieved N2 certification or employ certified trainers/evaluators similar to the National certification protocol. The result would be better training in place of longer training.
- g. Kimmelman clarified that the revisions were not reducing the apprentice time for ST and SR but were reducing the time it took before you could begin apprenticing for the next position.
- h. Deary stated that the revisions eliminated the requirement that an official serve 6 months on deck as a certified ST before commencing his/her apprenticeship for SR. The actual certification requirements for ST, however, changed very little. He also stated that the committee followed the US Swimming standards for DR. Deary does not favor reducing the number sessions that an official must work to be certified, relating how during his previous tenure as area 1 representative an official had gone from ST to MR in 15 months without ever serving on deck. No official, he asserted, should move up without such experience.

- i. Kimmelman expressed concerns over the reduction in the number of sessions because some teams set meets up creating multiple sessions consisting of limited number of events.
  - 1) Plapp stated that this was addressed by not giving credit to apprentices for distance sessions worked.
  - 2) Deary stated that by definition, a session consists of all scheduled strokes completed by all age groups in a segment. Separating distance events by scheduling a break in between may create separate segments for timeline purposes but not for purposes of apprenticeship.
- j. Kay Caldwell suggested that if the hours on deck were reduced the OC should look at the apprentice forms and possibly include a check list which would record what the apprentice actually experienced while on deck. She also suggested that a comment section be added for each mentor.
  - 1) Deary stated he and McCaleb were willing to revisit the clinic materials after the BOD had made its decision.
- k. Jeff Smith stated that no date had been set to present the committee's finding to the BOD; he wanted to wait until after this teleconference before scheduling a vote. He reiterated that in order for the P&P to be ratified it needed the BOD approval and he expects that to occur in March.
  - 1) Bart Smith asked if that meant that the OC has no say in the matter.
  - 2) Plapp stated that the OC does have a say in crafting the document but the BOD has final say in its ratification.
- l. Melissa Hellervik-Bing stated that it is important that any proposal made by the committee has the endorsement of the OC. If the document goes forward without such an endorsement by the OC it sends a message that the LSC does not want.
  - 1) Plapp agreed and stated that was why he was addressing the concerns of the members who did not want the apprenticeship period being shortened with requirements about the level of training as a trade off.
- m. Matt Wilson asked what motivated the proposed changes.
  - 1) Jeff Smith replied that he had been asked why Florida Swimming's standards were more stringent than those of USA Swimming.
- n. Roger Deary stated that the proposed certification guidelines requiring 5 sessions worked as a stroke and turn judge before beginning to apprentice as a starter were taken directly from USA Swimming's minimum standards. As a compromise, he suggested requiring 10 sessions instead of 5 as an intermediate step. This would make Florida Swimming's requirements more stringent than USA Swimming but less stringent than what the LSC had in the past.
- o. Randy Reese questioned why the certification requirements for Florida Swimming were more stringent than USA's. This would be analogous to setting more difficult times for FS swimmers to qualify for

Senior Nationals. He suggested adopting the USA standards.

- p. Eric Bing stated he preferred that the standards be kept as they are if not raised. He is concerned that if we lower the standards to put more officials on deck they might not be making the right calls for the swimmers.
  - 1) Reese countered that you might have an official who was a former swimmer who knows more about the rules than anyone else but is eliminated from serving because he does not have the time on deck.
- q. Deary pointed out that the proposed revisions did not actually change the requirements to become a stroke and turn official. He believes that one reason Florida Swimming has such good officials is because they spend so much time on deck. He noted, however, there is a concern that we do not have enough people coming up through the ranks and the goal was to shorten the time frame required to advance after they had been certified as ST.
- r. Melissa Hellervik-Bing believes that since the committee is writing up policy and procedures that involve the OC it is important to have the support and endorsement of the members of the OC. She suggested that the document be sent back to the entire OC for comments.
  - 1) Plapp asked that any such comments be emailed to him with cc to Deary and McCaleb referencing the sections their comments pertain to.
- s. Jeff Smith requested that a roll call of the OC be taken to see who was for or against the proposal in its current form.

Member	For	Against	Abstain	Note
Roger Deary	X			
Bart Smith		X		
Kay Caldwell		X		
Tom McCaleb	X			
Judi Wojcik		X		
Debbie Landis		X		Cast by Matt Wilson
Scott Kimmelman			X	
Mark Davis	X			
Bill Vargo	X			
Clay Parnell	X			
Randy Reese	X			
Eric Bing		X		
Totals	6	5	1	

- t. Bart Smith expressed reluctance to support the measure because Jeff Smith did not answer Matt Wilson's question as to what motivated the proposed revisions.
  - 1) Jeff Smith stated that he had answered the question pointing out that the P&P had to be approved by the BOD and that he had been asked by an official why FS standards were more stringent than US Swimming.
- u. Reese added that it was also more difficult than high school swimming where all you need to do to become a referee is take a test.
- v. Davis suggested that apprentice sessions for SR certification be increased to 10. He would also change the DR requirement from 15 hours apprentice time on deck to 20.
- w. Parnell supports the proposal adding that most of the requirements include the phrase "or more" which gives the trainer the opportunity to tell those apprentices who might not be grasping the process as fast as others that they need more time.
- x. Deary will mail the USA Swimming Standards to OC members.

#### 5. Assistant Area Representatives

- a. Plapp advised OC members that he has asked the assistant area representatives to draft a position description to include how they can be of assistance to the area rep.
6. Killmelman raised the issue of paying the expenses of officials travelling to the All Star Meet. He also asked whether the cost of the OC chair travelling to the meet should be covered by Florida Swimming. Jeff Smith agreed to address the issue with the BOD. Plapp noted that the host club usually picked up the cost of the room but Florida Swimming paid for travel. He also noted that cost of the named officials (MR, CJ, AO) at championship meets was covered by Florida Swimming.

It was then moved and seconded that the meeting end and it was adjourned at approximately 9:09 p.m.

Notes and minutes prepared by Jeff Breault