Proposed Florida Swimming Rules and Regulations Change:
Submitted by Jack Goltz
January 2, 2006

At the October, 2005 Annual Meeting, the House of Delegates voted on changing rule 238.4.7. After discussions with several attendees, I have concluded that my original proposal was not passed as intended or written, and there was confusion what was being voted upon. The intent and written proposal was to simply increase the amount paid to our assigned officials at championship meets. This pay had been unchanged for over 15 years.

There was no proposal or amendment to change rule 238.4.6, a rule that permits out-of-pocket expenses for appointed officials. Somehow, out-of-pocket expenses were included in the discussion and may have influenced the vote. It is my understanding that some people thought the new pay structure would eliminate the need for out-of-pocket expenses. This was not part of the proposal, and discussions with various attendees have indicated that there was no proposal or amendment that would eliminate this rule.

The 2005 Book's Wording:

238.4.7 FS will pay the Head Referee $200.00 and the Administrative Referee $100.00 at the following FS Championship Meets when approved by the BOD.

My original Proposal in October:

FS will pay the Head Referee $400.00 and the Administrative Referee and the Chief Judge $200.00 each at the following FS Championship Meets when approved by the BOD.

Reasoning given in October for changing 238.4.7:

1 - The fee structure prior to October, 2005 had been in effect for at least the last 15 years. Lost income from time off from work, transportation, hotel, and meal costs have all changed over the last 15 years and these numbers don't mean the same thing that they did 15 years ago.

2 - We (the BOD) approved a chief judge to be used a couple of years ago in addition to the Meet and Administrative Referees – we should add that position to our rules.

3 - The officials' committee has been able to stay within our budget for several years and there will be no need for increasing that budget to meet this change.

In addition, the Board of Directors should realize the significant time and effort spent by our assigned officials. This time can include approximately 70 hours of preparation and actual time on the deck for such a meet, which comes to less than three dollars an hour for the meet referee and half that for the other two positions under the old rule and pay

scale. Out of pocket expenses are not an unreasonable benefit to these appointed officials when some of them have driven over 700 miles to attend a meet. We are also trying to equally represent the six areas of Florida Swimming in our assignments resulting in meets running consistently throughout the LSC – this requires a certain degree of travel. Again, we have been able to stay within our budget and will continue to do so with this proposal.

So, the proposal for the February 5, 2006 BOD meeting is:

238.4.6 FS shall reimburse the assigned officials for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses, as determined by the Executive Director and Officials' Chairman, at the FS Championship meets. Reimbursement rates will be approved by the BOD.

238.4.7 FS will pay the head Referee $400.00, and the Administrative Referee and Chief Judge $200.00 at Florida Swimming Championship Meets which include FS Junior Olympic Championship, FS Senior Championships, and may include FS vs FG All Star Dual Meets (when hosted by FS) and Sunshine State Games (when hosted by FS and defined as a championship meet).