

Florida Swimming Officials Committee Meeting  
October 11, 2008  
Crowne Plaza, Orlando, FL

Attending: Melissa Hellervik-Bing (official's chair), Steve Altheimer (vice Chair), Roger Deary (Area 1 rep), Jerry Karp, Don George, Stephen Plapp (Area 1 asst rep), Bob Griffiths, Eva Gronke (Area 3 Rep), Helen Kelly, Sue Kelly (Area 4 rep), Debbie Landis (asst Area 5 rep), Tom McCaleb, Gina Mayer (athlete rep), Stuart Michelson, Kevin Mooren, Peter Nawrocki, Tom Nelson, Duke Torbert (Area 2 rep), Mark Wilson (Area 6 rep)

1. Meeting called to order at 11:10 am by Officials Chair Melissa Bing.
2. Roger/Eva (motion/second) to approve the minutes. Approved unanimously.
3. Congratulations to Robert Thompson who won the Fred Cruciger Award and Shawn Stewart, winner of the Al Soltis Award.
4. Rules revision on reimbursement to officials changing the flat fee to a per diem. The new rule will go into effect on January 1, 2009. See attached for wording. Presented for information because it was approved at both the last Officials Meeting and the previous Board of Directors Meeting.
5. By-Law Addition (Article 23) on number of officials required for a meet and the repercussions if the minimum is not met. See attached for wording. Eva Gronke/Roger Deary (motion/second). Approved unanimously. This will go before the House of Delegates for approval on Sunday.
6. Discussion of Draft Term Limit Proposal. See attached.
  - a. Point #2 Assistant Area Representatives have "no vote" at the meeting. It was agreed that the assistant representative should be able to vote if the area representative provides notice that the assistant representative will attending on behalf of the area representative. The document will be revised to indicate this change.
  - b. Discussion of #4 which indicates Area Representatives must be a certified official (but does not require the person to be a referee).
  - c. Discussion of #9, Term Limits.
  - d. Change number of coach representatives (238.1.1.(d)) to "at least one coach representative."
  - e. Motion: Section 238.2.3(c). In the event an Area Representative notifies the Official's Chair of his/her inability to attend a meeting of the committee, the Area Representative may designate a Florida Swimming certified official from that area to vote in his/her place. Duke Torbert/Eva Gronke (motion/second). Approved unanimously.
  - f. Motion: Once a person serves as the Chair of the Official's Committee for two terms (four years) he/she is ineligible to fill a position on the official's committee

for a period two years. Sue Kelly/Debbie Landis (motion/second). Motion fails 4/3.

- g. This Draft, with the revisions, will go before the Technical Planning Committee, Board, and House of Delegates for approval.

7. Team Size vs. Number of Officials per team. Number of swimmers has dramatically increased due the Trials and Olympics effect. Chair Melissa highlighted the teams that don't have enough officials to sanction a meet based on the August 31, 2008 numbers.

8. New meet referee report. Referees will now use the USA Swimming online meet referee report to record officials' sessions for all meets. The session timeline and recording of the three minimum officials will continue to be accessed through a new report on the Florida Swimming website designed by Steve Altheimer. It is proposed that the session timeline will be accessed online as well.

9. When a meet is sanctioned, a copy of the meet letter will be sent to Chair Melissa. She will send the meet letter to the designated meet officials (meet referee, starter, and S&T official) and will also log the meet on the official's tracking. Chair Melissa presented a tutorial on OTS.

10. Chair Melissa discussed the use of OME for Championship meets and advised that she would be sending out a short OME instructional video created by Jay Thomas.

11. An Officials and Training Task Force has been created to work on training new officials. Bob Griffiths and Roger Deary are heading up the task force. Officials are encouraged to volunteer for this task force, send suggestions on training, and send policy suggestions. Steve Altheimer is chairing a task force that will define the responsibilities of the Area Reps. Steve will use both volunteers and/or suggestions.

12. Florida Swimming Assigned Championship Meet Officials. A list is being circulated to the Area Reps for suggestions of names to be considered for Championship meets.

13. New Business.

Chair Melissa suggested that we invite Dan McAllen to a Florida Swimming championship meet, who will conduct clinics for officials and fill some of the championship assigned positions. It was agreed the "first choice meet" we will invite him to is JOs in Gainesville, February 2009; second choice would be Sr. Champs in Orlando the following week.

Report from Chair Melissa from the USA Swimming Convention in Atlanta.

- There is a new rule concerning suits for 12U events. The suit may not cover the neck or extend beyond the shoulder, nor past the knees. Bob stressed the common-sense element of this rule (there may be religious reasons for exceptions or a short swimmer may have a suit that extends slightly past the knee). This rule goes into effect on May 15, 2009. There will be more information on the intent.

- Discussed modifications for swimmers with physical disabilities. The same modifications are not required for a swimmer at every meet; it is up to the meet referee's discretion.
- Swimmer's names will no longer be required on DQ slips, but it's highly recommended that they're included to assure accuracy and a double-check system.
- Pace clocks must be turned on during warm-ups.

Steve Altheimer recommended we suggest to the board that Florida Swimming Officials should not be compensated for working a Florida Swimming meet. If non-monetary compensation/gift is offered to an official, the compensation should be offered to all officials at the meet. Reimbursements of reasonable travel expenses are exempt from this rule.

15. Motion to adjourn (Roger Deary/Eva Gronke, motion/second). Meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stuart Michelson