



Treasure Coast Swimming Conquistadores

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Florida Swimming Board of Directors
National Officials Committee USA Swimming

Dear USA Swimming officials and coaches,

I am writing this letter requesting an appeal to gain back the meet sanction for the Florida Swimming Area 6 Championships held by Treasure Coast Swimming March 8-9, 2008. After conferring with Pat Lunsford (USA Swimming Vice President of the officials committee), I was advised to write a letter explaining the unfortunate circumstances that were unavoidable to my knowledge, that lead to the withdrawal of our meet sanction. Due to the wrong information given to me, our sanction was withdrawn after the meet because the referee (Charles Travers) agreed to start and referee the meet, as our starter's (Mark Wilson) father had passed away. I feel that the swimmers should not suffer as the meet was conducted and there were no advantages under the conditions. The following is an account of the circumstances and how they came about.

As the meet manager, I secured all of the positions that were required by Florida Swimming. Charles Travers (referee) Mark Wilson (Starter), Janine Long (Head Stroke and Turn), Judy Wojcik (Meet Marshall). The sanction was awarded to our team by Helen Kelly.

Three weeks prior to the meet, my father passed away from an illness that he had but was not critical until the last few months of his life. I spent the entire holiday season and spring flying back and forth to hospitals up north to try and deal with his dire situation. It was a very emotional time for me, but I continued on with the meet plans and our team was supportive to help do what they could to have the meet run professionally.

One week before the meet, I received an email from Mark Wilson, our starter, stating that his father just passed away and he would not be able to attend the meet. With just having lived through the experience, I understood and passed on my condolences. I then sent out an emergency email to the head referee and all of the teams involved with the meet, that we were in need of a starter for the meet. I did not receive one reply.

I spoke to Charles Travers about the situation, and he informed me that he could perform both duties at the meet as starter and referee. I trusted his judgment (as he is a certified Florida Official) and I believed he was knowledgeable of the rules.

The night of the meet I received a phone call from Mark Wilson, asking if I secured a starter. I told him I didn't have any replies or concerns from any of the teams I emailed. I also informed him that Charles accepted responsibility of both the starter and referee. Mark, not feeling well at all, offered to come but I told him that Charles said it was fine. I, feeling for the man, certainly didn't want him to have to deal with anymore than he was if it were not necessary, as Charles had me believe.

This is where I feel lie the problem. Had the referee told me that the meet could not be run under the one starter/referee I most certainly would have had Mark come to the meet. As a certified referee, I feel that Charles should have known this rule and relayed the correct information to me.

I did everything I was supposed to do as the host team. I don't feel that the host team and swimmers should be penalized for a situation that the referee could have had us avoid. I appreciate the work that the officials do so much. That is why I blindly trusted Charles, I respect what they do for our sport emphatically.

Our team put out a lot of money and time to host the meet. We paid for the officials hotel room (2 nights), compensated him for the meet, rented out the pool for the weekend, purchased awards and other supplies, and provided hospitality for the officials and coaches. We are a very small team, and any meet we have means a great deal to us. Any profits that are made from the meet help pay the assistant coaches salary. With out our meets, we could not have a coach.

It is the swimmers that are suffering now, not the official. They swam, and some made cuts for meets that they should be able to attend. There were no advantages under the circumstances. I feel that any reprimand should be directed towards the official. The swimmers times should stand and the sanction should be awarded back to the meet so results can be official. I think the situation could have been avoided had the correct information been given to me. I ask for your approval of this appeal and the award of the meet sanction.

Thank you,

Scott Barlow
Head Coach
Treasure Coast Swimming