

Officials Committee Conference Call – Sept. 26, 2013

Matt Wilson, Chair; Debbie Landis, Pat Baker, Steve Plapp, Bart Smith, Tom McCable, Kay Caldwell, Tom Tiedt, Jack Goltz, Bill Vargo, Jeff Smith, Helen Kelly, Emma Donohue, Jackson Auer, Clay Parnell, Melissa Hellervik-Bing, Dave Nesper, Jim Kelly, Bob Griffiths, Judi Wojcik, Randy Reese

Meeting was called to order at 8:08pm. Wilson informed the participants this is a prep meeting for annual officials committee meeting to be held Saturday, October 5 at 10am during the FL Swimming Annual Meetings.

1. Motion to approve meeting minutes from last Oct. Approved and seconded. Motion passed.
2. Asked if new items need to be added. No additions.
3. Recap of information from convention: Bob Griffiths, increase in fees/dues, changes to FINA technical rules that are automatically adopted by USA Swimming. Breaststroke rules were avoided. Hands must be separated at two hand touch for BR and FL. Slight change to verbiage on the rules for submerged prior to finish in BK, but intent stays the same. BK starting ledge is now approved. Sectional operational changes, for which FL is in compliance.
4. Positions open for nominations: Bob Griffiths has declined the opportunity to remain at Vice Chair and would like to have others have the chance. Area 4 Rep may not step down, as earlier indicated. Area 5 Rep, Mark McCaw, is termed out. Debbie Landis is filling the position. Area 6 Judi W. eligible for another three-year term. She stated she's willing to accept another term as she couldn't find anyone else interested. Matt Wilson has declined filling the Officials Chair position for another term. Vargo asked whether chair and vice chair nominations come from the entire committee, as he wants nominations to be carried on to meeting at Howey in the Hills. Names for consideration: Vargo nominated StevePlapp for OC and tom McCaleb for VC. Tom turned down the offer. Plapp voiced willingness to accept nomination. Possible Area 1 replacements would be Roger Deary, Sue Talwar or Jeff Breault. Vargo says Bylaws don't allow for vice chair on the Officials Committee, thus nomination for vice chair is pointless. Kelly replies Bylaws, Policies & Procedures and Rules and Regs don't agree with each other. Presents a problem. Kelly suggests someone streamlines all the documents so they agree. OC does it for OC, and other groups do it for other committees. Jeff Smith says the chair is appointed by the general chair, after recommendations from the committee. Goltz said the vice chair is needed to be a right-hand person to aid in the process and should be chosen by the chair. Vargo wants to bring forward nominations and others can be brought forward for consideration before the annual meetings in October. Wojcik suggested a committee to bring forward nominations. Smith says any recommendations should work and a committee isn't necessary. Any other suggestions should be brought forward via email to Wilson. Wilson will bring forward all nominations during Officials Committee meeting in October.
5. Admin Official update: Certified 35-40 for AO and AR. Those apprenticing have found the process productive and eye-opening. Question about the requirements, very little feedback received. Wilson asked for concerns or questions. Griffiths said there's a misunderstanding with AO. Scoring and timing systems operators do not have to be certified or registered as members. The AO is supposed to know enough about all the operations to guarantee the

operations are done correctly. Griffiths explained how this position came about, from the USA Swimming Times Committee to Rules & Regs. Times entering into SWIMS were not always accurate, and thus trained people/officials should be educated on the process. Wilson mentions approval process allows for anyone in the LSC certified in the position to be able to teach and sign off on those apprentices. Vargo comments he supports the FL minimum standards for the AO position, but has a problem with the fact the position wasn't brought to the board for discussion. Griffiths mentions position must be in place. Bylaws allow the training/certification of officials belongs to the Officials Committee and doesn't require Board approval. Griffiths comments the implementation and communication process was short-circuited, but we had to get moving on the program as time was running out. Vargo responds that the board never approved the OC recommendations. McCaleb also argues that the OC elevated the requirements. Goltz question to Helen: how many times submitted weren't good? Her response was that she "constantly" receives feedback from USA Swimming that times from FL are often problematic. Reese question how many times were the questions about times found to be problematic. There are no quantifications. Griffiths has had to help "numerous" operators learn how to adjust times correctly. They just don't understand what they're doing, according to Griffiths, or understand how those operations should be done correctly. There are a lot of untrained people out there not doing these adjustments correctly, or "trained" people who didn't learn correctly early on. Wilson mentions the need to make sure the kids are getting the real times they should be credited. Landis supports the comment. Parnell questions what the requirements are for the admin official. Griffiths answers, registration membership requirement, attend clinic also used in other LSCs, four tests being consolidated into one test, at least two apprentice sessions. Only difference is the four session, but experienced folks were given some credit for that knowledge on those operating systems. Parnell asks if they need to be certified at another official position. Griffiths said no, they don't need to be stroke & turn, or other positions. Wojcik says operators don't have to be proficient on reconciling times but they need to recognize the ultimate responsibility falls on the shoulders of the admin official and meet referee. McCaleb says you don't have to be an operator, who doesn't have to be an AO to understand the times are correct. Griffiths says AO and MR need to be educated on those processes. Griffiths suggest the process and certification go forward, Vargo agrees, but repeats it just needs to go in front of the board. Smith says it is an agenda item for the board of directors. Wilson replies that it's up for discussion at the OC meeting at the annual meetings. Discussion between Vargo and Griffiths that all board meetings and committee meetings need to be open and properly notified. Smith invited everyone to the 6pm board meeting on Saturday,

9:14pm move to adjourn, seconded, approved since there was no opposition.