

Southeastern Official's Committee Meeting Minutes - Friday, 19 July, 2013 @ 2:15 PM

Members Present: Kelly Berger (Athlete Rep), Larry Alexander, Donna Williamson & Dave Smith. Area Rep present – Stephanie Nadeau

Agenda Items:

- Athlete Representative issues
- Revised excel database
- Revised minimum standards (again)
- Next year's budget
- USAS Officials workshop
- Discussion of certification of AOs and meet refs for prelims/finals meets
- Discussion of the list of officials able to run Southeastern Championships

Kelly expressed her thoughts that so far, the meet seemed to be running smoothly. She enjoyed attending Convention last year but would not be going this year. Ben McCreary, the junior rep, should be going.

Revised excel database – We agreed to eliminate the columns 'Address, City, State, and Zip code'. The rationale is that these columns are no longer needed. Back before the OTS, we mailed certification cards out to our officials and we needed the data. Now we do not.

Revised minimum standards – USA-S has revised their minimum standards. The adjustments to our minimum standards were discussed. We agreed to adjust the SES Official's Minimum Standards to reflect the changes made by National, and to reword a few of the descriptions under the different positions to make them clearer. The revised minimum standards should be sent to Tom to be posted on the web site within the next few weeks.

Next year's budget – We've increased our National conferences/workshops amount by approximately 10% due to a rise in travel expenses. We also increased our budget for radios. Long term, we will start purchasing a couple of radios each year until we get to 18-20. This will give us the capability of using radios at two different pools at the same time, and to give us the ability to loan a six-pack of radios out to a club for their use and training, preference to prelims/finals meets.

USAS Officials workshop – The National Official's Committee is hosting an official's workshop in Phoenix mid-October. We'll get one, and maybe two positions. Our committee came up with three names, just to have flexibility in case one of the first two cannot go.

Discussion of certification of AOs and meet refs for prelims/finals meets – We currently have the required training for an AO on our minimum standards. The clinic is on the web site under Officials and is a PowerPoint presentation. Everyone agreed that the best choice for Administrative Official would be someone already familiar with Hy-Tek Meet Manager software. Once they receive some training on the timing system and complete two sessions under an experienced referee and complete the four on-line tests – Administrative, Clerk of Course, Timing and Timing Judge, we should be able to certify them in

time for the September deadline from USAS. As a reminder, we are now requiring that the computer operator, when faced with a timing issue, go to the 'calc' screen in meet manager, create a report and print it out. Then the AO/AR would review the sheet, using order of finish where available and determine whether the time needs an adjustment. The 'calc' screen shows the primary or pad time, the button time, the difference between the two and an adjusted time that the system recommends. We need a definite reason not to accept the pad time. We either did not get a pad time or there is some reason, such as a large differential between the pad and button times, to not accept the pad time. Of course, we have to deselect the 'use' square next to the lane we want to accept the pad time for, and the yellow highlight will remain.

The certification of prelims/finals meet referees is more subjective. I briefed what I do, but there are other ways that some committee members might use. I have my timed finals meet ref be the admin ref for a prelims/finals meet, with me supervising. It allows someone to start out slow, just helping the computer operator with time issues, then ramps up as the events start to close and we get to putting results out in case someone wants to scratch from finals. When you add in a DQ log and a No Show log, invariably the individual will go thru a period when they are overwhelmed. It's a good training to show them that if they are a prelims/finals meet ref, they need to have help in admin and if there are enough bodies – help with the assignments of the meet.

Discussion of the list of officials able to run Southeastern Championships – Below is a review of what we discussed at the last meeting.

- A prelims/finals meet referee
- Chief Judge experience at a Southeastern championship meet or higher
- Admin referee experience at a Southeastern championship meet or higher
- Available to work all sessions of the Southeastern championship

Besides Walter, Larry, Donna, Stephanie, Ronette and me, we have Steve Karman right now. Additional folks that may be added to the list were discussed. We now have the list of potential SES Championship meet refs down to a manageable group of six names in addition to Clark Hammond and Jack Dowling. It takes time to season someone and maneuver them into positions as CJ and Admin at Southeastern Championship meets, then convince them to commit to an entire meet.

It does us no good for one of us on the committee to always be the meet ref. We have created a criteria that we can sell to promising officials, then we need to follow through and give them the opportunity to be the lead CJ, the Admin Ref and the Meet Ref. We also need to encourage them to work higher level meets and to challenge them to do something outside their comfort zone (an example – at the Richard Quick meet at Auburn, I submitted Al Ness and Robby Dellinger as additional evaluators for a number of N2 evaluations).

Other Items – We will begin to certify our referees as LSC Administrative Referees within the next couple of weeks. Most of our referees will qualify although we still have a few that have not completed the Timing Judge, Clerk of Course and Administrative tests on-line.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45.