

Officials Committee Report 24 April 2005

Accomplished since 28 February 2005 (Prior to 24 April 05 Committee Meeting)

- 1000 “Virginia Official” patches with the USA Swimming shield logo have been purchased and will be distributed beginning immediately. These will be distributed to currently certified officials to replace the old patches, and will be given to newly certified officials.
- Planning for the Swimposium this Fall is ongoing. Carol Burch of USA swimming has contacted us and will assist in the planning. This year’s Swimposium will be subsidized by USA Swimming.
- Planning for Referee’s Clinics in the fall is beginning.
- Working on a guidance document dealing with an athlete’s right to a hearing if they’ve been suspended from competition for a conduct violation. The draft document has been sent to Wells O’Brien, Joel Black, Dan McAllen and Bruce Stratton for review and comment. No action to be taken until their comments are received.
- Newly certified Referees: George Smith (BAC), Dave Chandler (CCA), Mary Ferrari (SWAT).
- George Smith (BAC) and Doug Sisco (GATR) were chosen to attend the USA Swimming Officials Workshop in Colorado Springs, May 28-30, 2005. The workshop is geared towards Referees certified within the last two years.

Committee Meeting Report (24 April 2005)

- Chair’s report
 - The current status of Referee trainees was reviewed. A number of candidates who were previously approved pending completion of timing judge training have not yet completed timing judge training. It was decided that potential candidates will be encouraged to complete training first and they will then be considered. Approval can be done via email and not await an Official’s Committee meeting.
 - A Referee training clinic will be a required component of any future Referee training. This clinic will not be restricted to Referee trainees, but may be attended by anyone, and those who may be future candidates for Referee training will be encouraged to attend).
 - Mary Ferrari (SWAT), Dave Chandler (CCA) and George Smith (BAC) have completed training and are now certified at Referee.
 - The protracted amount of time that it took to recertify all of our Referees was discussed. While no ideas surfaced as to how to make sure the process occurs in a more timely fashion, it was agreed that it should not drag out as long as it did.
 - George Smith and Greg Ryder to attend USA Swimming Officials Workshop.
 - The distribution of name tags remains a challenge. The consensus is that we should continue distributing them, but in doing so we need to redouble our

efforts to get them out to individuals in a timely fashion. We will try to coordinate two or three large orders each year, and order them for individuals that are coming up on a year of service rather than waiting for it to occur.

- We have not received a reply from USA Swimming with respect to the “Suspension of Right to Participate” document. Because some have expressed strong feelings that such guidance is not needed, it was decided that the document should be tabled until such time as we might receive guidance from USA Swimming.
- Committee members were asked to communicate to the chair their desire to remain on the committee for the next two years, and also to recommend an additional individual from their region to serve.
- The new VSI Officials Patches with the updated USA Swimming shield logo were distributed. All officials should receive one so that everyone has the same patch.
- Regional reports (clinic status, referee recommendations, status of existing trainees, special needs/problems, etc.)
 - 1S: Cathy Rudolph (via email): No current Referee candidates and trying to get others to train at Starter. Janet is working on getting a couple of ODAC officials to take the starter test. Had 4 people at April 16 S/T clinic. Two cancelled at last minute, and two good prospects couldn't attend
 - 1P: Michael Downs. Will be running clinics as needed. Have not yet started trial Chief Judge training, but hoping to do so. Trying to get all Referees without Timing Judge certification through the certification process.
 - 2: Pat Donohue: Upcoming S&T clinic. Discussed need to make sure meets are open to all officials for sign-ups.
 - 3: Greg Ryder (via email): Mary Ferrari and Dave Chandler completed Referee training. Avis Aheron to start training shortly. Getting more officials into SW VA.
 - 4: Skip Gaskill: Three individuals coming along for Referee training; will recommend as they become otherwise eligible.
 - Specific candidates for Referee were discussed.
- Swimposium: Mary Scott has been in contact with Carol Burch from USA Swimming. We reviewed the list of potential facilitators. Jeanine Dennis, Charlie Mallory, and Don Hart were the top choices. It was felt that it is important to bring in a national caliber Starter.
- We briefly discussed suggested changes to the current DQ slips, but this was deferred pending the outcome of proposed FINA (and subsequent USA Swimming) rules changes.
- Three suggested changes to the current USA Swimming Rules and Regulations were discussed. It was decided that all three should be forwarded for action at the upcoming USA Swimming convention. The proposed changes are appended to the end of this report.
- We need to finish the Standard Officiating Clinic outline. Michael Downs will work on this and we will approve via email.

- Referee recertification clinics will begin this coming Fall. Michael Downs and Kevin Hogan will put these together. We will likely offer to clinics in two locations. We will also investigate taping the clinic for those that cannot attend.
- Administrative Referee certification was discussed. There was not strong support for offering the position as separate from our current Referee certification, or as Referee/Non-Starter. The consensus was that there was much value in the training process as it now exists. There was, however, a recognition that we need to do a better job of training Administrative Referees, particularly with respect to those functions that are specific to our Senior Championship meet.

Appendix-Proposed Changes to the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations

Proposed Rule Change 1.

Background: The no-recall false start rule was in part put in place because it is thought that an athlete's first start is generally their best start, and that to recall a race therefore penalizes those athletes that did not false start. By rule, if the Starter inadvertently recalls the heat because they believe there is a false start, there is no false start charged even if the Referee would have otherwise confirmed the false start. As a consequence of this rule, a swimmer starting before the starting signal has been given is afforded a "second chance" to swim. The proposed change would remove this second chance if the Referee independently confirms the Starter's observation, while still allowing for the norm to be that we do not recall for false starts.

C If the recall signal is activated inadvertently, no swimmer shall be charged with a false start and the Referee independently observes and confirms the starter's observation that a violation occurred, the swimmer or swimmers who have false started shall be disqualified. The Starter shall then restart the race upon signal by the Referee.

Proposed Rule Change 2.

Background: Prior to the adoption of the no-recall false start rule, there was specific language in the starting rule that excused a swimmer from a false start if the false start was caused by the swimmer's reaction to the "Stand" command. Despite the fact that this language was dropped from the rule, the philosophy continues to hold. The proposed change restores the language so that the philosophy is grounded in the rule.

D A swimmer who would otherwise be charged with a false start may be relieved of the charge if the false start was caused by the swimmer's reaction to the "Stand Up" command.

Renumber the current "D" as "E"

Proposed Rule Change 3.

Background: Prior to the adoption of the no-recall false start rule, there was specific language in the starting rule that specified that the starter was responsible for enforcement of the correct starting position. Despite the fact that this language was dropped from the rule, the philosophy continues to hold. The proposed change restores the language to the rule.

D A swimmer shall not be disqualified for an illegal starting position at the start if the race if the race is permitted to proceed with or without a recall. Enforcement of the correct starting position is the responsibility of the Starter, who, with the concurrence of the Referee, may impose the appropriate penalty for violation before the starting signal is given.

Renumber the current "D" as "E"