

Wisconsin Swimming Officials Committee
Tuesday, July 19, 2005

Members present: Bruce Barbee, Joe Barta, George Geanon, Judy Linsley, Tim McAvoy, Cindy Maltry, Ben Radloff, Steve Suprenant, Jackie Vargas, Susan Zblewski

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 by chair, Susan Zblewski. The June minutes were reviewed and approved.

Summer State Meets

12-under: George and Judy reported that they had a successful meeting with Nancy Roos and Matt Miller from the host club SSTY. Matt expressed two concerns about officiating: false starts and non-continuous turn violations in the backstroke. These will be discussed at the officials meetings prior to each session. George reported that there is an extreme shortage of officials signed up to work the meet. Part of the problem is that the meet conflicts with the Speedo sectional meet. Another problem is the fact that there are not many officials who have children who will be swimming at the meet. Committee members reviewed the list of officials and agreed to contact those who had not yet signed up.

13-over: Bruce and Steve have been in contact with meet director Jennifer Pennings regarding the meet information. Clarification is needed on the breaks – whether in-water or out of water. Jennifer also will provide a list of officials who have signed up.

Recertification Clinics

The following dates are suggested for the fall recertification clinics, subject to availability of sites and committee members:

Waukesha: Wednesday, November 2 and Tuesday, November 8 at UW - Waukesha
Madison: Thursday, November 3 and Monday, November 7 at site TBD
Appleton: Tuesday, November 1 at Appleton YMCA

Suggested topics include health and safety issues (concerns about blood, vomit, etc.) the disqualification process (writing and delivering DQ slips), and meet reports (should they be completed by the meet referee). Other topics will be solicited in the fall mailing to officials and through the WI Swimming website.

Officials List/USA Swimming confidentiality

Judy has received a few more e-mailed permissions to release information from officials who did not respond to the earlier mailing. Still, there are many officials who have not granted permission. It was decided that the officials list on the website will include the name and club affiliation of all registered officials, but address and phone will only be published with permission.

New Official Certification Clinics

The committee decided to promote small clinics. Judy shared a copy of the flyer that will be included in coach's packets at the summer state meets and sent to officials in the fall mailing. We as officials need to recruit potential new officials. Once a clinic is established, it should be advertised on the website so that others have the opportunity to attend.

Apprentice Protocol

This topic was tabled until the next meeting.

Recruiting New Officials

Some incentive ideas for recruiting and retaining officials were discussed. Clubs should be encouraged to pay the USA Swimming dues for officials who are affiliated with their club. The LSC budget could include money to buy a shirt, nametag, and mini rulebook for new stroke and turn officials (about 50 per year @ \$30) and a briefcase/bag/tote for new starter/referees (about 10 @ \$10).

Situations

There was discussion regarding some situations that have occurred recently at meets:

At the WGLO, a 10-year-old swimmer from MN qualified for 3 final events, but the coach only scratched from 2 of them. When the swimmer did not show up for finals, she was disqualified from the rest of the meet due to the WI scratch rule. Perhaps a meet committee could have addressed this situation.

A swimmer was positively checked-in for the 1500 free, but then didn't want to swim. Could that swimmer still do a time trial later if they did not show up for the 1500 free? It was decided that this was okay because the time trial had a different sanction than the meet.

There is concern that any changes to the meet information cannot be made without approval by the sanction chair. The committee feels that the meet referee and meet director should be allowed to make some changes at their discretion, especially with regards to including unscheduled breaks if needed when a meet is running too fast for swimmers to recover between events. Patty Kramer will bring this up at a rules committee meeting.

At the WGLO, some training officials used a mini-session (1500 free only) to count as an apprentice session. This should be done at the meet referee's discretion. If the session is only a few heats, it might not provide enough opportunity for an adequate apprentice experience.

Should there be any penalty or consequence for a swimmer in finals who makes no apparent effort? Some committee members felt that a disqualification for unsportsmanlike conduct would be appropriate. Since it is difficult to know the reason a swimmer is having a "bad" swim, it would be hard to enforce a penalty in cases like this.

New Business

Cindy reported that the Bird Bath Meet had a mix of USA Swimming and YMCA officials. Some of the YMCA officials were making erroneous calls, such as non-continuous motion on the backstroke during the swim. Be sure not to assume that any official knows the USA Swimming Rules, and include a stroke briefing with all officials prior to the meet.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is Tuesday, August 16th at 7:00 pm at UW-Waukesha.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Linsley, August 10, 2005.