

Officials Committee Meeting Minutes: December 5, 2006 (Tuesday)
Wisconsin Swimming, Inc.
University of Wisconsin Center, Waukesha

Participants: Joe Barta, George Geanon, Patty Kramer, Judy Linsley, Tim McAvoy, Ben Radloff, Dave Wardecke, Susan Zblewski, Chair

Susan Zblewski convened the meeting at 7:10 PM.

Review of October 17, 2006 Minutes: Steve Brandl and Frosty Girdley were the observers for the Division 2 High School Girls State Meet instead of George Geanon.

Review of Recertification Clinics: The open discussions were well received by officials. There was general agreement that the discussions did not need to be separated for starter/referees and stroke/turn officials. Officials also agreed that they did not want to take the exam in lieu of a clinic unless the exam was done as a group at a clinic and used as a discussion tool. It was suggested that the officials committee could identify key test questions to use for discussion.

Participants were also asked about their opinions on having a Swimposium instead of a recertification clinic. The consensus was that the opportunity for camaraderie was the most important aspect of the clinics. Some officials do not like the fact that Swimposiums only occur on one date, forcing some officials to take the exam because their schedule does not allow them to attend. There was a suggestion that if a Swimposium were held in the Milwaukee area, there still should be recertification clinics in other areas.

There is still a need to develop a list of official advisors by club. This was discussed at the clinics, but not completed. Patty Kramer will develop the list from the clinic evaluations.

Discussions regarding stroke/turn apprentices were very useful. It was suggested that apprentices not be placed at the start end of the pool because it is too crowded with timers and swimmers. Apprentices are able to see much more at the turn end.

One clinic discussed a concern about officials who are not comfortable volunteering to officiate outside of their own club or geographic area. There was much discussion about how to help officials feel welcome in these situations.

New Officials Training Clinics: Dave Wardecke and Cindy Maltry will conduct a clinic in Green Bay on 12/10/06. LAKE plans to host a clinic in January. Patty Kramer will conduct a clinic in Stevens Point on 1/18/07. That clinic will be at a YMCA and concern was expressed that the participants should also become USA Swimming officials.

Patty reported that she is out of mini rulebooks. She will order more when the 2007 version is available.

Judy Linsley reminded trainers to send participant's permission slips to Patty (who compiles them and sends them to Judy) so that they can be included on the officials lists on the WI Swimming website.

Joe Barta asked if we could get a breakdown from the online tests to see what questions are missed.

National Certification Meets: The Nike meet, hosted by WEST, Dec 8-10, 2006, is a national certification meet. Susan Zblewski reported that there would be enough officials to cover the deck. Paul Young has sent protocol information to the starter/referees who have requested to be evaluated by the observers.

Officials Committee Membership: There was discussion about accepting applications for membership on the Officials Committee. This would help officials who are seeking to advance in the new national certification levels. Currently committee members are recruited through recertification clinics or by invitation. It was decided to table this discussion. It was suggested that a future agenda item be a discussion of the committee format – its purpose or function, who should be on the committee, and how to get new members.

Code of Conduct: George Geanon passed out USA Swimming's guidelines for discipline and decertification. Committee members should read these and they will be discussed at our next meeting.

LSC Championship Responsibilities: The use of two meet referees is not consistent with USA Swimming. Instead, the committee should appoint a meet referee and a head chief judge. George has created a document that delineates their responsibilities. The committee agrees that this is a good approach. It will be tested at the upcoming short course state meets. Committee members should review the document and be ready to discuss it at our next meeting.

LSC Short Course Championships: Ben Radloff and Tim McAvoy expressed interest in serving as appointed officials for the 12 & under meet. Appointments will need to be made in January.

New Business: Patty reported a concern from the LSC committee. Dave Joyce currently serves as the NTV and records coordinator. He feels that these functions should be divided and the NTV coordinator should be an official.

There was a question about the butterfly stroke rules – is the hand part of the arm? This affects the decision on underwater recovery. The consensus was yes, the hand is part of the arm.

The committee would like feedback from the national evaluators on these starter issues:

- When should a starter stand a heat?

- What is expected for swimmers to be stationary or motionless?
- What constitutes starting movement?

There was a question about relay entry rules. Can a swimmer swim both the 13-14 and senior relays in the same meet (200 free relay in both categories, for example)? This should be specified in the meet information.

There was discussion about providing incentives to officiate. A suggestion was to provide a shirt or satchel to officials who officiate at least a certain number of sessions per year. This will be considered at a future meeting.

It was suggested that there be an official of the year for both starter/referees and stroke/turns. This would be announced on the WI Swimming website at the same time as swimmer and coach of the year.

George is working on a document about why and how to become an official. This will be a great addition to the officials page on the WI Swimming website.

Next Meeting Date: January 16, 2007 (Tuesday).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Linsley, February 10, 2007