

AD HOC OFFICIALS COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 23, 1993
MINUTES

The Ad Hoc Officials Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Sally Ann Dillon at 9:00 am. Committee members present were: Judy Gillies, Ron Marcikic, Patricia Diehl, Joan Smith, George McVey, and Krista Phillips. Jan Kavadas sat in for Northwest representative Carolyn Kent, who was absent.

Handouts were distributed to committee members and others present at the meeting: "Good swim Officials", USMS Rules Differences prepared by Nancy Ridout for PMS as well as the Differences distributed to USS Officials Chairmen in January. A current committee roster was distributed for corrections.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Masters situations - test questions. Were submitted to Anneliese Eggert (USS Officials Chairman) who has accepted them and distributed them to all USS LSC Officials Chairmen with the revised test this year. USS has produced videos on backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly which will be previewed at the USS Officials meeting between 11 am and noon today in the Emerald room. In conversation with Anneliese a replacement for Larry Rice, our USS liaison to the committee, was discussed. She will ask at her meeting for a replacement. Janet Kavadas recommended Ron Van Pool from PNSA who might be a likely candidate.

2. Criteria for Officials Certification. Janet Romayko from Connecticut requested approval earlier this year for their Certification program. She was sent suggestions and her group is still working on the project. Possibly Janet's group will be interested in the finished project from our Pilot program.

While re-evaluating our Criteria for Officials Certification, a question was raised regarding the number of sessions required to become trained. After some discussion, it was clarified that the requirement is four 3 hour sessions, which could take place in one weekend, if necessary. It was noted that the Criteria was distributed to all USMS Officials chairmen in January. It was suggested that officials need to be "competent" before they are considered officially trained and carded, regardless of how many sessions they trained.

A further discussion regarding Certification involved the USMS officials getting training time at USS meets. It was clarified that USS will only train officials who have gone through their clinics. They will not allow other officials to work at their meets. They require that you are non athlete members of USS for insurance purposes. PMS and some other LMSC's reimburse their officials the USS fees after they work a specific number of meets.

Bill Koerber from Colorado questioned our constant reference to USS when they have officials who are with CASO and High School Federation. It was pointed out that USS has officials in all LMSC's but High School Federation and YMCA are supplying officials more regionally. They are all recognized by our rule book as approved certifying bodies, as well is the San Diego/Imperial program. CASO is not and it is not the committees intention to end up recognizing hundreds of individual certification programs throughout the country. The USMS program will become recognized. Since all of the CASO officials are also High School Federation, there is no reason to have CASO apply for approval. CASO could use our "new certification" (the pilot program) if they want to be recognized but since they are already high school officials they are covered by USMS liability because their group is approved.

Sanction requirements were discussed and it was clarified that only one officials must be "carded" and they do not have to be the Referee. The LMSC can be more specific regarding which officials must be "carded".

3. Committee member's contact with assigned LMSC's. Sally was able to make contact with a couple of LMSC Officials chairmen. John Erickson from the Wyoming LMSC says his organization has not had a meet in a number of years. They were informed that they did not get enough competition they could always register and swim with USS as 19+ swimmers if they would like to compete. Their times may or may not be eligible for top ten or records. Sally's other contact was with Mike Hale from Midwestern LMSC. Their chairman is concerned that so many swimmers are unaware of the rules. He feels the meet managers should be given very specific directions emphasizing that the rules should be followed regardless of the training of the officials. Swimmers do not get disqualified for infractions on a consistent basis. Mike and Sally discussed having a column in SWIM MAGAZINE each issue about officiating. Something short, entertaining, and dealing with a specific topic each time. Educate the swimmers about infractions from an "officials point of view". Sally suggested that the next chairman of the Officials Committee should arrange for someone to write the articles, presumably an experienced official. George McVey suggested that swimmers might become more interested in purchasing rule books as they become more educated about rules.

A discussion of officiating at the Nationals this year brought out the problems at Santa Clara where there was a shortage of officials. Larry Rice received a number of cancellations on the Tuesday before the meet

and he scrambled all weekend to keep officials on the deck. A number of USMS members volunteered to help out. At Minnesota, many comments regarding how well run the meet was, related to the outstanding officiating. One key reason was because they had such a large number of officials available. Rules were enforced properly.

Judy Gillies shared that she announces over the Public Address System at meets that swimmers should contact officials, who she introduced, if they have any questions about the rules. She has been in contact with chairmen from Border and Colorado this past year.

Joan Smith has been unable to communicate with Bruce Clark in Hawaii and she announced that PMS has a new chairman of Officials: Mike Moore.

Krista Phillips sees representatives of the LMSC's near her off and on throughout the season. She communicates regularly with them regarding rules and rules changes. Krista is concerned with the lack of attention to the "no diving" rule during warmups. At practice this morning swimmers were diving constantly. She was told this morning, "don't police, just get in and swim" after saying "no diving in" to others. No diving is emphasized by Krista but she finds the swimmers are still not responding enough. The committee discussed the problem at length and decided to **send a message to the Coaches Committee, the Risk Management/Safety Committee, and the Championship Committee regarding our concerns. We would like to see NO DIVING enforced for workouts and meets and we would like to see entry forms reinforce the NO DIVING rule.**

The committee encourages meets to post warm up procedures and to more properly see that all warm up procedures are followed. It was suggested that the announcer should stop the meet and make announcements regarding inappropriate actions in the warm down pool. Judy Gillies brought up that the Arizona people plan to enforce the rules for the upcoming Nationals but they have found that people have trouble understanding our rule regarding entering feet first with one hand on the deck. It was unclear to many as to how a person would do this. The committee took a close look at Rule 102.4.2 and decided to **ask the Rules Committee to recommend an emergency rule change to read: Swimmers must sit down and slide in feet first to enter the pool.**

4. LMSC's still needing Officials Chairmen: Members need to continue to encourage the LMSC's who have not appointed Officials Chairmen to do so. Those LMSC's are: Arkansas, Lake Erie, Metropolitan, Montana, New Mexico, North Texas, South Texas, Utah, and West Texas (which apparently did not register this year).

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Proposed rules or legislative changes of concern to the Ad Hoc Officials Committee: It was determined that there were no proposed changes that the committee needed to take a stand on other than our suggested change of the rule previously mentioned.

2. USMS Officials Certification Program: Adoption of San Diego/Imperial's Pilot Program:

SD/I received a \$500 grant last year to produce written materials and a video tape for training USMS Officials. Copies of the written materials were distributed and reviewed by Ron Marcikic. Committee members will read through them and meet Friday at noon in the main lobby for discussion. A viewing of the video will take place in the hospitality room immediately after today's meeting. Viewing at other times can be arranged through Sally Dillon. At first glance, the committee was very pleased with the materials and commended San Diego/Imperial for an outstanding effort.

Cost for reproducing the written materials and video tape is expected to be around \$10.

It was suggested that we allow orders to be taken through the National Office and then after notification from Dot Donnelly, the Ad Hoc Officials Chairman will send out the materials. We need to have "Officials" cards printed which may add to the cost slightly. The LMSC's would distribute them after they train.

Renewal of certification was discussed and it was pointed out that the guidelines do require attendance at a meeting to review changes on an annual basis. An index or table of contents needs to be added. Other suggestions may arise after the committee meets on Friday.

3. Other: Joan Smith shared some NCR type DQ slips that are much easier to read that she obtained from a recreation team. They were used at Minneapolis for relays and they were well accepted.

It was MSP to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 am