

official's Liaison Report

Meet Name USMS Long Course Nationals 2008 Date: August 14-17, 2008

Location Mt Hood Community College, Gresham, OR Pool configuration 50 m

Meet Referee Jacki Allender Administrative Referee: Herb Schawb Head Starter

Approximate Number of officials each day:	Day 1	Day 2
	Day 3	Day 4

Was there an adequate number of officials to cover all deck positions: Yes

Were there enough officials to provide relief: No

How long was the average S&T shift: 400 IM start end: 20 on 20 off; 200 Free: 45 on 15 off in rotation.

It worked best when Start end and Far end each had their own rotation with changing ends each rotation (shade at the Start!). One official worked an extra shift which resulted in confusion over whether breaks were 15' or 30'

Approximately how many officials were provided by the host LSC/LMSC:

14+ PNSA: 6 Chicago 1 Canada 2 Georgia 1 Texas 1 Arizona 1

Conditions for officials: Start End had good shade: sides and far end very little to none.

Quality of officiating

Were the officials briefed in the differences between USMS and USA swimming rules? Difference sheet was passed out; some discussion; Kathy Casey (Rules Committee) attended all briefings. See below.

From my observations how would you rate the quality of the officiating - did they step up to the edge; were they friendly to the swimmers; did they explain the DQ's; did they notify the swimmers.

The officials were excellent and responded to approved protocol. I believe they were appropriately friendly to the swimmers (I don't think they should interfere prior to the start.) The protocol for the meet required that Chief Judge use the radio to call a "possible" DQ and they completed the DQ slip to be signed by the judge. The slip was sent to Deck Referee; if confirmed the swimmer was called to the Deck Referee for notification. This procedure avoided the need for judges to track down swimmers - especially difficult in a LC pool — and insured swimmers were informed using correct language.

How would you rate the quality of the Starters - did they rush the starts (no); were they patient with the swimmers exiting the pool (encouraged swimmers to get to the side when available); were the starts equitable(yes); were there many false starts(no).

Did the host make the officials feel welcome: were there any officials gifts(pins, meet shirt).

Overall observations of the performance of the officials crew and the operation of the meet.
Generally good.

Referee Jacki Allender was recovering from a cold including laryngitis and delegated briefings to Al Smith.

Meet was approved for N7t S&T recert and Chief Judge recert; N3 Certification/ recert for all except Administrative Referee.

Meet length: The estimated meet length required that all events 200m and over be deck seeded — did not seem to cause swimmers any problems. The warm-up period was shortened as well — I think that starting at 7:30 AM rather than 8:00 could have been an issue. With the earlier start, should the warm-up have started earlier (6)?

The most difficult problem was swimmers who took (much) longer than their entered time. In one instance this occurred even though the entered time was verified as valid. (Was there a subsequent injury?) This discrepancy will occur when swimmers are allowed to enter events (3) for which they have not qualified. The computer was able to allow known slower competitors to swim through 2 heats. The *Nationals Enquirer* suggested that :any swimmer who does not make his/her seed time in a distance event will have to swim the event again by him/her self in the moonlight at 11:30 PM." This will not happen!

Stroke briefing: The discussion following the handout did result into a discussion of differences in FINA, USMS, differences. Butterfly — arms over the water, elbows out of the water; Breaststroke — elbows in contact with the water. I have no notes for the briefing on the 16th; probably because this time was completely taken over by sorting out S&T assignments.

Starters and Deck Referees were established in rotations. Hotel rooms were available for those working all days. No swimmers were allowed to be these deck officials. Stroke & Turn officials: There was daily confusion over scheduling and assignments. Officials who were swimming had given availability, but it was not used in scheduling. Example: I scheduled Saturday to officiate only and was not given an assignment initially. When I advised Al Smith prior to our meeting that I was swimming the 400 free (and 100 back) and would be available for the rest of the day; he assigned me to work the 400 free (2 minutes later) originally. On the 14th, 2 officials worked until midnight

on the S&T assignments for the 15th which were completely redone during the briefing meeting.

Official/swimmers were not generally assigned to the stroke walking position. On my officials' day, I volunteered to walk but was told I would not be assigned to that position. However, the next day, an official/swimmer was assigned to walk the deck (totally sunny) when he was between events. Al Smith said he did not have anyone else, although I was through swimming for the meet at that time.

At the initial briefing, introductions were begun twice but never completed. Al Smith asked to see credentials for those from outside Oregon (Jacki had checked these) but never completed the task. Applications for recertification were available; officials were asked to give their USA-S certification number so that Jacki could input attendance data.