

Minutes of the USMS Officials Committee Meeting Monday, January 14, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Central Standard Time.

Attendance: Pat Baker, Carolyn Boak (Championship Committee Liaison for SC Nationals), Kathy Casey, Charles Cockrell, Judy Gillies, Jan Kavadas, Charlie Kohnken, Leo Letendre (VP-National Operations), Ted Haartz, Fred Pigott, Ed Saltzman, Herb Schwab (Meet Referee for SC Nationals), Jim Sheehan (USA-Swimming Officials Committee Chair).

Short Course Nationals

The committee discussed preparations for USMS Short Course Nationals at the University of Texas in Austin. Herb Schwab is the Meet Referee, Tom O'Brien is the Administrative Referee. Both were officials at Long Course Nationals last summer. Ted Haartz is the officials liaison.

- Arrangements have been made for observation of swims so that times may be used for USA-Swimming entry and qualifying purposes.
- Pat Baker and Fred Pigott will be National Evaluators. Herb plans to submit the application to USA-Swimming for N2/N3 evaluations. We will include this approval on the Applications to Officiate.
- Charlie Cockrell will modify the form used for Federal Way and The Woodlands for Applications to Officiate. We will get these posted on the USMS web site with a link on the USA-Swimming Officials Web Page.
- The officials uniform will be standard white shirts and blue pants/shorts/skirts.
- Discussion on pool measurement. Walt Reid does not have an initial measurement for the Texas Swim Center pool. The initial measurement must show all 8 lanes in both courses. The post-session measurement to confirm the bulkhead placement must be in three locations (two outside lanes and one the center lanes). USMS recommends that the bulkhead also be measured prior to the session to confirm placement. The host LMSC should retain copies of the pool measurements (initial certification and post-session confirmation) and a copy should be sent with USMS record applications.
- Herb plans to provide the USMS Briefing Notes to officials prior to the meet to cover USMS rules differences and information specific to masters meets. These can be reviewed, along with questions, at the pre-session officials briefings. Herb will also follow up with Ted offline with any

questions prior to the meet. Rules Committee representatives will also be at the meet if needed.

- Discussion on relay splits. There was a blanket request made in Federal Way for all relay lead-off splits to be recorded. Officials were in place to judge all finishes and it is easier to simply record all splits rather than separate them out by swimmer request. All individual lead-off splits were also recorded with the exception of backstroke splits. Austin will plan to use this same system and information will be provided to swimmers at check in advising them that lead-off splits will be recorded.

National Championship Officials Database

Fred Pigott has volunteered to maintain a National Championship Officials Database.

- Meet hosts will be asked to provide a roster of officials with their post-meet reports.
- Ed Saltzman has several (~20) years of results from USMS Nationals with lists of officials that can be used. Fred will look at what is available and determine how far back to go or whether to start with 2007 meets.
- How long should officials remain on the database if they are not active? The Committee agreed to look at what data is available and we can revisit after Austin to determine what is feasible.

FINA Officials Policy

The Committee discussed the policy for FINA Officials.

- The policy covers selection of officials to the FINA Officials masters list, selection of officials World Championship meets, and travel reimbursement.
- The travel budget is consistent with the Coaches Committee policy.

MSA to approve the FINA Officials Policy as written.

Other Comments:

- USA-Swimming policy is to always have a Referee and a Starter. The committee can address this in selection to the list if desired.

- Kathy Casey is checking the FINA Rules differences section of the USMS rule book for accuracy.

LMSC Minimum Standards

The committee discussed the draft LMSC minimum standards for officials. The following key points were made:

- There was consensus agreement in a standard of having an LMSC Officials Chair knowledgeable of rules and officiating, but leaving enough flexibility for LMSCs to find the best person available. Consensus agreement that we should be able to provide some type of workshop periodically.
- USA-Swimming conducts an LSC Officials Chairs meeting every 2-3 years, but conducts a training clinic every year aimed at the newer referees in the LSC.
- The committee consensus was to include a standard that all deck officials (Referees, Starters, and Stroke and Turn Judges) should attend a clinic every two years. We should include information in the standards on what constitutes a clinic and emphasize that pre-meet briefings can satisfy this need. Officials should sign-in at meets so that Referees are aware of who is working and what certification/experience levels are represented. The committee will also be proactive about providing briefing materials.
- The committee consensus was to add a standard that LMSCs should “maintain” a database of officials. There was agreement that this standard can also be satisfied by having access to an LSC officials database.
- Discussion on Meet Reports. The committee agreed with this standard, but in some cases the meet reports (with rosters of officials) go to LSC Officials Chairs. Many LMSCs have agreements with their LSC counterparts that USMS meets may count for training and re-certification session requirements. For USMS sanctioned meets, the LMSC Officials Chair should receive meet reports from the Meet Referees, but a copy can be provided to the LSC.
- Question regarding insurance coverage. We do not require officials to be members of USMS. The insurance section of the USMS Handbook indicates that meet volunteers (including officials) are covered by both personal accident and liability insurance. There is no membership requirement. Some LMSCs do pay for USMS membership for their officials and this can be encouraged.

The draft standards will be updated with comments from this meeting and we will review again in February. Following the February meeting, we will begin circulating these amongst LMSC Officials Chairs and conducting the LMSC workshops.

Pre-Meet Briefing Notes

An updated set of pre-meet briefing notes have been provided to LMSC Officials Chairs. Committee members were also asked to review any recommended changes.

- Charlie Kohnken suggested including something about disability swimming.
- Jan Kavadas suggested separating out the facility considerations from the officials information.

Leo Letendre reported that the On-Line Registration system is almost ready to go!

The committee will meet again on Monday, February 11 at 7:00 p.m. Central Standard Time.

The meeting ended at 8:30 p.m. Central Standard Time.

Charles Cockrell
USMS Officials Committee Chair