

Officials Committee, Wisconsin Swimming, Inc.
Meeting Minutes, October 1, 2002
University of Wisconsin Center, Waukesha

Attendees: Dan Lapin, Judy Linsley, Patty Kramer, Bob Schwartz, Susan Taylor, Susan Zblewski

Call to Order: Susan Zblewski, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M.

Review of Minutes: Minutes of the June 3, 2002 meeting were approved by consensus.

Request for Waiver - Starter/Referee Qualifications: Susan Zblewski reported that Jackie Vargas requested an exception to the minimum qualifications for participating in a Training Clinic for Starter/Referee. Vargas completed her requirements to become a Stroke and Turn Judge in the Spring 2002 and has worked 20 or more sessions as a Stroke and Turn Judge, including several sessions of the LSC Long Course Championship Meet. Wisconsin Swimming's minimum qualifications require working ten sessions within the last year. By consensus, the Committee approved Vargas' request for a waiver.

Review of Fall (Madison) New Officials Clinic: Steve Surpranent and Patty Kramer conducted the Clinic at Edgewood High School on September 29th, which had eight Stroke and Turn Judge and one Starter Referee participants.

Agenda for Annual Re-Certification Clinics: While several of the topics identified for discussion at the Clinics apply to Starter/Referees, the Committee decided to conduct the Clinics as one group rather than dividing the Clinics into two sections, one for Stroke and Turn Judge and one for Starter/Referee. The Committee believed that all Officials could benefit from the entire agenda. Topics for review include:

- Required Number of Officials:
 - Sanctioned Meets
 - Approved Meets
 - Observed Swims
 - Time Trials
- Meet/Administrative Referee Responsibilities
- Training and Certification Requirements for Officials
- Stroke and Turn Rules & Deck Jurisdictions
- Head Set Etiquette
- Radio and Bell Sources
- Questions and Answers

Points of Emphasis During Re-Certification Clinics:

Number of Officials: Wisconsin Swimming Rule 4.4 prevails in determining the number of Officials required for any Approved or Sanctioned Meet, including dual and triangular Meets.

Wisconsin Swimming Rule 4.4: “There shall be a minimum of three certified deck officials (at least 2 of which must be certified starter referees) present on deck during the course of a meet at all times. The Referee and the Starter (two different people) also may serve as Stroke and Turn Judges on their respective sides of the pool. There shall be assigned at least one other official on deck at all times.”

Deck Jurisdictions: “Walk” the deck to maintain swimmers within their jurisdictions; maintain “balance.”

Strokes:

- 1) IM: Crossover turn on backstroke conversion to breaststroke during individual medley.
- 2) Breaststroke: *arms* in same horizontal plan during stroke – legal if both hands drop.
- 3) Backstroke: Swimmer may be submerged *at touch* of backstroke finish, not prior to the finish.
- 4) Head Position: Butterfly, freestyle, and backstroke all require the swimmer’s head to break the surface of the water at the 16.4 yd (15m) mark.
- 5) USA Swimming Rule Interpretation – Freestyle and Butterfly: Pat Lundsford, Officials Committee Chair: Swimmer may be submerged “momentarily” during either of these strokes as the intention of the Rules are having the strokes swum on the surface of the water, but not to prohibit some momentary submersion.
 - a. USA Swimming Rule 101.4.2 (Freestyle) reads in part “Some part of the swimmer must break the surface of the water throughout the race....”).
 - b. USA Swimming Rule 101.2.2 (Butterfly) reads in part “The swimmer must remain on the surface until the next turn or finish.”
- 6) Referee Role: Review disqualifications prior to writing (or having someone else write) disqualification slips or otherwise advising swimmers.

Starter and Referee Positions: When a sufficient number of Stroke and Turn Judges are available to position them at the start end of pool, both the Starter and Referee should be positioned on the same side of the pool.

Place Finishes (Picks): Only the Starter needs to determine the order of finishes, if an insufficient number of Officials is available. This record is given to the scorer along with the manual times. The Referee then handles disqualifications and getting swimmers to the blocks (whistles). Note: USA Swimming Rules 102.11.3 and .4 provide that the Referee may have no other duty (than refereeing), except for dual Meets when the Referee also may function as a Stroke and Turn Judge.

WIAA Girls High School Swimming Championships Observers (November 15-16, 2002, University of Wisconsin Natatorium, Madison): The Committee suggested that Zblewski contact

the following Officials to function as USA Swimming Observers: *Division 2*, Friday: Michelle Koehler, Bob Schwartz; *Division 1*, Saturday: Don Heinz, and Bob Schwartz.

While the Committee acknowledged that having only two USA Swimming Officials on deck for an eight-lane pool and a major competition was “not the best,” the Committee acknowledged that the WIAA unlikely would permit any additional USA Swimming Officials on deck. However, Zblewski said that she would make such a request. Zblewski also will contact Dave Joyce, LSC Records and NTV Coordinator, to determine the forms and information that the Observers must provide to him from this Meet.

New Committee Members: Zblewski will contact the following Officials regarding their becoming members of the Officials Committee: Don Heinz, Rich Hubbard, and Jackie Vargas.

Recruiting Athletes: Zblewski will review Rules to determine whether any prohibition exists against one Club from recruiting athletes from another Club.

Request for Review: One Official has asked the LSC Review Committee to consider his compliant of another Official’s action. The Committee suggested that Zblewski inform the LSC Review Committee that, as Chair of the Officials Committee, she had attempted to set an Officials Review Meeting last June, when the Official making the complaint advised her that he was relocating out of the LSC shortly and, thus, was not available for a hearing. Since several months have elapsed since he initiated his compliant and he has not pursued his compliant timely, the Committee suggested that Zblewski also request that the LSC Review Committee not to review the matter. If the LSC Review Committee concludes that the compliant should be reviewed, the compliant should be referred to the Officials Committee, consistent with USA Swimming’s recommendation for first reviewing any complaint about an Official by the other Officials.

LSC Handbooks: Kramer, on behalf of the Committee, will request LSC Handbooks for each member of the Officials Committee from Carol Graham, LSC Membership and Registration Coordinator. Members have frequent need to review LSC Rules and Procedures contained in the Handbook.

Adjournment: By consensus at 9:40 P.M.

Prepared by _____
Patricia Kramer, Member
Officials Committee

January 21, 2002