

Wisconsin Swimming Officials Committee
Thursday, February 4, 2004

Members present: Susan Zblewski, Joe Barta, Judy Linsley, Jackie Vargus, George Geanon, Patty Kramer, Lynee Phelps

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 by chair, Susan Zblewski. There were no minutes to review.

The first order of business was staffing for the State Meets. Susan and Jackie will be Meet and Administrative Referees for the 12 and under meet at Schroeder YMCA. Lynee and Joe will staff the 13 and over meet at Carthage.

There was some discussion about when to hold Spring clinics, especially as there are quite a few weekends that have multiple meets. The Spring certification clinics are scheduled as follows:

April 24	Madison Edgewood College	Starter/Ref and Stroke & Turn - Patty And Steve
May 1	Appleton YMCA	Starter/Ref and Stroke & Turn - Patty and Lynee
May 22	Arrowhead HS	Starter/Ref and Stroke & Turn - Judy and Dan

Judy and Michele Koehler will work the WIAA State Meet as USA Swimming officials.

Susan proposed that there be coordinators within the Officials Committee who would be responsible for some of the duties of our committee. They are as follows:

Certification – Patty
Recertification – Dan
Website – Steve

Joe had a question about shadowing at the State Meets. He has been approached by a Starter/Referee trainee who has limited amounts of times available to shadow. It was decided that a Starter/Referee trainee could shadow one on one at the State Meets. Each session could only have one shadow with the Referee and one shadow with the Starter, and each shadow would be limited to two sessions per meet. The Committee agreed to permit shadowing for starter/referee candidates because of the significant learning experience available at a LSC Championship Meet. However, the Committee agreed to continue its policy of not permitting stroke and turn judge candidates to shadow at LSC Championships as the experiences at non-championship meets are usually more valuable because more violations are possible than among elite swimmers at the Championships.

There was extended discussion about the lack of officials, and possible solutions to the problem. Bob Schwartz and Al Schmidt have both retired from officiating, and this committee, so there are 2 less senior Referees in Wisconsin. With the numbers of Wisconsin officials dwindling, recruitment is a priority. Judy mentioned her success using a direct invitation to get new people to come to clinics. We all need to target people that we know or see on deck who might be interested. The shortage of officials is going to be a real detriment to having such a large number of meets. Some teams who have no officials at all hold meets and have trouble staffing them adequately. Coaches will need to be more pro-active in recruiting officials from within their team parents.

Patty will make a full page "ad" to put in the summer meet heat sheets. It will include fall clinic dates and an invitation to attend. We will work on those clinic dates at our next meeting.

There will be no Starter/Referee rotation during sessions at the State Meets, as it is distracting to the swimmers.

There was a discussion of how to reward officials for their service and/or completion of training. Possible rewards mentioned were name tags, pens, and shirts. Other possibilities will also be explored.

Due to the loss of committee members Al, Bob, and Susan Taylor, Susan Z. will approach Steve Brandl - SHOR and Ben Radloff – BAC with an invitation to join us.

The next meeting is March-25, 2004 at 7pm at UW-Waukesha. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00