

Wisconsin Swimming Officials Committee
Thursday, March 25, 2004

Members present: Susan Zblewski, Joe Barta, Judy Linsley, Jackie Vargas, George Geanon, Patty Kramer, Steve Surprenant, Ben Radloff, and Lynee Phelps

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 by chair, Susan Zblewski. The February minutes were reviewed.

The first order of business was to introduce a new committee member, Ben Radloff. There was more discussion about adding additional members to the committee. Dave Wardecke - FCYM and Steve Brandl - SHOR were approved by the committee. Don Heinz-UN was suggested as a trainer. Susan will talk with them before our next full meeting.

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

Certification – Patty Kramer

Recertification – Dan Lapin

Electronics – Steve Surprenant

Information – Judy Linsley

Secretary – Lynee Phelps

Judy will begin organizing WI Swimming Officials roster information during the summer. This will allow information to be quickly distributed on a statewide basis. A future agenda item may be "Items/forms for Information Coordinator".

Susan proposed that the committee formulate a Wisconsin Swimming Officials Manual, to begin distributing at the Spring clinics. Copies of the Ohio LSC and Potomac Valley LSC manuals were used as examples. Copies of the Potomac Valley manual will be emailed to all committee members for review. On Wednesday, March 31, the clinic trainers will meet to go over agendas and assemble the manuals.

There was a suggestion that the term "shadow" be changed to "apprentice", which met with the committee's approval. This would encourage more hands-on deck experience for new officials, as opposed to just observing. It was also suggested that there be a list of committee approved evaluators for new Starter/Referee. These evaluators would be experienced officials with good mentoring skills. Starter/Referee final evaluations forms were discussed for possible use as a mentoring tool. It was suggested that such an evaluation would be best done in the last 3-5 apprenticeships so that a new official would have time to improve in any weak area, which also met with committee approval. These forms may also be used for both new and mentoring officials as a skills checklist. The forms will be emailed to committee members for review before the next meeting.

Making training relevant was an important topic. Any deck referee who is approached about a training session for a new Stroke & Turn official should use care when assigning that apprentice to another deck official. The referee should only assign the apprentice to the most competent Stroke & Turn official at that session. A Starter/Referee apprentice should be encouraged to consider the

clinic trainer as a mentor, and to call the trainer with any questions or problems. Any committee member who is interested in being a trainer may want to attend a clinic as an observer/presenter.

The Short Course State Meets were reviewed. Concerns were the very young timers and marshals at the 12-Under meet and the high number of DQs. The venue at Carthage was reviewed, with seating, distance and noise mentioned. Of key concern for both meets was the need for more officials at the regular season meets to help reduce the number of DQs late in the season. As of this meeting, there are only 14 people signed up for all of the clinics. Another flyer will be distributed to teams. Coaches will need to be more pro-active in recruiting officials from within their team parents.

Pat Lunsford will be approached about giving two Fall recertification clinics on a late September or early October weekend. He will be a Starter at the Athens Olympics. We will work on those clinic dates at our next meeting.

The committee will explore the possibility of having a member of the USA Officials Committee come to our summer Long Course State Meet to work with all participating Wisconsin officials. The National mentoring program may offer funds to help the LSC bring a top official to the state. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Officials who have been certified since last Spring will be contacted to see if they have received their name tags.

In new business, the committee has received approval for a Wisconsin LSC radio frequency license. The cost is \$70.00. The current plan is to introduce the new frequency for the 2004-2005 Short Course season. New radios will be an option if a meet host can provide enough old radios for every session. Information about the new radios will be presented at the next meeting.

Also in new business, a Referee Facilitator's Workshop will be offered by USA Swimming on May 29-30 in Dallas. At this time, Judy Linsley is planning to attend, with the possibility of additional committee members joining her.

The next meeting is Tuesday June 8, 2004 at 7pm at UW-Waukesha. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lynee Phelps., March 27, 2004.