

Rules Committee Minutes: March 10, 2005
Wisconsin Swimming, Inc.
University of Wisconsin Center – Waukesha

Participants: Patty Kramer (Chair), Gayle Lynch, Dale Nickels, Joe Schweitz, Don Steinberg

Old Business

4.7. Meet Host Responsibilities -- Meet Marshals: The Committee re-considered amendments to this Rule concerning Meet Marshal responsibilities and recommends clarifying that at least one Meet Marshal, in addition to a Red Cross certified Life Guard, must remain in the pool area at any time. In addition, the Committee recommends that the second Meet Marshal make periodic inspections of other parts of the pool venue, except during warm-ups, as required by USA Swimming Rule, 102.18. With the availability of coaches certified in life saving techniques and a certified Life Guard, having one Meet Marshal, make periodic inspections of the swim venue seems reasonable. Further, the Committee recommends that the LSC Safety Coordinator develop guidelines for specific Meet Marshal responsibilities.

4.7 Meet Host responsibilities -- Unescorted Swimmer: The Committee reconsidered an amendment to the Rule concerning an unescorted swimmer and recommends adding a Meet Host responsibility for assisting an unescorted swimmer, i.e., a swimmer without a coach at a Meet, in obtaining supervision at its Meet, consistent with USA Swimming Rule 202.3.2. The swimmer or swimmer's representative is responsible for advising the Meet Host of needing such assistance. Further, the Committee recommends amending the "Waiver Form" to request identification of any unescorted swimmer.

4.7 Meet Host Responsibilities -- USA Swimming Non-Athlete Membership: The Committee reconsidered an amendment to this Rule and recommends adding a Meet Host Responsibility for verifying USA Swimming non-athlete membership for Meet Director, Meet Marshals, Officials, and coaches, consistent with USA Swimming Rule 202.3.3.

4.8 No Smoking: The Committee recommends increasing from 50 feet to 100 feet the distance from the competitive swimming area in which no smoking is permitted and clarifying that no smoking is permitted in the swimming venue itself. Amendment is consistent with USA Swimming Rule 102.25.

New Business

Adaptive Swimmers: Committee members discussed means to accommodate needs of adaptive swimmers as their participation in Wisconsin Swimming Meets increases. The Committee asked the Chair to contact Cris Lewis, LSC Administrative Chair/Sanctioning Officer to learn the Meet requirements for a Meet Host's ***Meet Waiver Form*** especially as they might relate to identifying a swimmer with a handicap and any accommodation need/requested.

2.2.1.Q Entry Form: The Committee recommends eliminating the requirement for a Meet Host to include a Meet Entry Form with its Meet Information and amending 2.2.1.Q to read “See Wisconsin Swimming website (www.WisconsinSwimming.org) for electronic Meet Entry form or contact the Meet Entries Coordinator for form, if submitting entries manually.”

Glossary—National Time Verification: The Committee recommends updating this definition to eliminate reference to a three-part form that no longer exists.

Glossary – Observed Swim: The Committee recommends amending this definition to include “Observed Meet” and to expand definition consistent with its recommendation for including an observed swim as eligible for record consideration.

1.4.2 Distance Event Rule, Example: Delete “2” and re-number “3” to “2.” Housekeeping to eliminate typo.

2.4.4.A. Meet Final Results Distribution: The Committee recommends amending this Rule to permit the Meet Host to send Meet Final Results to participating teams in electronic form unless a team requests receiving printed Meet Final Results. Further, the Committee asked the Rules Chair to review with the LSC Treasurer, Administrative Chair, and Registration Coordinator the Meet Host responsibilities for providing Meet Final Results.

2.4.6.C. Formatting Time Trials: The Committee recommends clarifying that a Meet Host must format Final Results for Time Trials in the same order as the Meet Final Results for entry into the USA Swimming SWIMS database. Further, the Rules should state that mixed gender events are not acceptable. Recommendation made consistent with needs of LSC Records Coordinator and LSC Registration Coordinator to enter Results into SWIMS database.

2.7.5 Proof of Time: The Committee recommends adding as acceptable proof of time a printout from the USA Swimming SWIMS Database. Recommendation made at the request of coaches during Coaches Meeting at LSC 2005 Senior Short Course Swimming Championships. In making amendments to this Rule, the Committee also recommends adding conditions, consistent with current practice, concerning an outstanding proof of time, including a Time Trial at the Meet is not acceptable proof of time, a swimmer disqualifying in an individual event must prove his/her time, and a swimmer/relay team may not compete until the proof is made or penalty paid. The Committee notes that the Rules already specify that a team may not participate in a future Meet until any outstanding penalty is paid.

2.8 Meet Entry Fees: The Committee recommends combining all Meet Entry Fees/payments into one section and adding information on Championship Meet Splash Fees, Time Trial Fees, and Proof of Time Penalties.

4.4.1.B Scratching from pre-seeded Meets: The Committee recommends a housekeeping change for a typo as follows: Any swimmer not reporting for or competing in a preliminary....”

4.1.2 Scratching Events in Deck Seeded Meets (Closing time for seeding): The Committee recommends requiring that an event seeded on deck shall be closed for seeding not earlier than the start of the session in which the event is swim or, if the deck seeded event is the first event of the session, not more than thirty (30) minutes prior to the start the event. Currently, the Rule reads, “Events seeded on deck shall be closed for seeding no earlier than thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of the event.” Requiring the closing to be not sooner than the start of the session helps to insure that the swimmer and/or coach knows of the closing time and is present to check-in. also, specifying a closing time as early as the start of the session, gives Meet Management more time to seed the event correctly.

4.10 Meet Host Responsibilities for Safety: The Committee recommends a Rule concerning safety at Meets, as suggested by the Age Group Committee, to include no glass on deck, covering hot beverages, and requirements for dealing with weather at an outdoor Meet. The Committee further recommends adding to the Meet Information conditions for dealing with weather at an outdoor Meet.

7.0 LSC Records: The Committee recommends including a record achieved at an approved Meet or during an Observed Swim or at an Observed Meet as a swim eligible for consideration as an LSC record. Expanding conditions for a record consideration results from discussions by e-mails to the Rules Chair from some coaches and on recommendation from the LSC Records Coordinator. Also, the Committee recommends correcting the Meetings/Times that LSC Records are updated, updating the procedures for record consideration for a swim achieved at an LSC Sanctioned Meet, and providing for athlete recognition. The Committee asked the Chair to contact the LSC Records Coordinator to discuss a procedure for record consideration for a swim achieved in an LSC approved Meet or in an LSC Observed Swim/Meet.

10.0 Registration Corrections: The Committee recommends corrections to this Rule as suggested by the Registration Coordinator including correcting a typo in the “Policy,” correcting in 10.5.2 the number of months in a registration year for a first time USA Swimming member from fifteen months to sixteen months, and deleting the Rule 10.6 regarding Club Mergers and disbandment, as the Rule is no longer relevant.

10.4.2 Annual Registration Fees: The Committee recommends updating the annual fees for 2006 membership in USA Swimming and Wisconsin Swimming.

11.0 Fines: The Committee recommends amendments to this Rule for addition of 11.3.2 for a fine for failure to e-mail LSC Registration Coordinator the “Meet Back-up” and SDI within 7 days of the Meet; to amend 11.3.4 for failure to post Meet Information on the LSC website when reservation are not accepted; and 11.3.11 for failure for Meet Host to send Meet Reports as required. Such amendments are recommended at the suggestions of the LSC Registration Coordinator and Treasurer as aids in getting compliance with Meet sanctions/approvals. The Committee regrets the need to add to fines, but agrees that other written procedures and notices are inadequate and such records are needed for the efficient operation of the LSC. The LSC requirements are consistent with USA Swimming Rules 102.24 (Meet Results) and 202.2.10 (Meet Reports).

12.1.1 Central Zone Championships: The Committee recommends re-establishing the LSC contribution of \$125 (from \$100) toward a swimmer's expenses who represents the LSC in Central Zone Championships. Age Group recommends the increase and Finance reports funds available.

12.1.2 Other Qualifying Meets. The Committee recommends establishing reimbursement for swimmers representing the LSC in the Para Olympic Meets (summer and winter) at reimbursement rates like those made to comparable USA Swimming Meets, i.e., Nationals in Summer, \$500, and USA Swimming Open in winter, \$300, pending concurrence by the LSC Adaptive Swimming Chair and by the Finance Committee.

The Committee earlier had recommended to the LSC House of Delegates reimbursement for swimmers competing in USA Swimming Junior Championships in individual events of \$300 and in relay events only of \$150. The Committee discussed increasing those reimbursements, contingent on concurrence by Age Group, Senior, and Finance Committees, to \$500 and \$250 respectively. The Rules Chair will ask for input from these committees.

12.7 Central Zone/Team Wisconsin Coach/Manager Stipends: The Committee recommends including these stipends in Rule 12.7 as an LSC Travel cost.

Adjustments to Travel Reimbursements: The Committee, at its next meeting, will review all travel reimbursements as the amounts generally have remained the same for some time. The LSC Treasurer will provide the Committee with data on reimbursement patterns.

13.0 Athlete Representative: The Committee deferred consideration a draft revision of Rule 13 until the LSC Athlete representatives had time to comment on the draft.

Other Items

The Committee recommends reviewing the LSC by-laws in general, but specifically as they relate to notification requirements. The Committee also will consider adding to the Glossary definitions for Meet Committee, Classified Meets, and Unattached Swimmer.

After discussion, the Committee decided to make no recommendations regarding Invitational Meets.

Next Meeting -- Early to Mid May.

Prepared by _____ March 14, 2005
Patty Kramer, Chair, Rules Committee