

***Meeting Minutes: March 15, 2005***  
***Officials Committee, Wisconsin Swimming, Inc.***  
***University of Wisconsin Center – Waukesha***

**Participants:** George Geanon, Patty Kramer, Judy Linsley, Ben Radloff, Steve Surprenant, Jackie Vargas, Joe Barta, Susan Zblewski, Chairperson

**Meeting Called to Order:** Susan Zblewski called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM. Minutes of the January 24, 2005 were approved by consensus.

**Meet Report: 2005 LSC Senior Short Course Championships:** Steve Surprenant and Patty Kramer were the LSC designated Officials at for this Meet at Carthage College, February 25-27. Twenty-six Officials representing nine Clubs volunteered for the Prelims-Finals Meet. BST and SEAY have experienced, knowledgeable, and well organized staffs able to anticipate issues.

Unusual Items:

- Concern existed for the requirement for paper copies for proofs of time.
- The computer table crashed onto the pool deck from an elevated position between prelims and finals. No delay in the Meet occurred.
- Lots of discussion about providing “swimmer recovery time” during Finals.
- Two swimmers had injuries; one with a dislocated kneecap and one who collapsed and hit her head. Several swimmers got sick on deck.
- During the very early morning hours on Sunday, a large interior glass pane burst onto the deck area/pool; no one was in the pool area. Carthage staff/Meet Directors handled clean up well.
- Prior to competing the 400 Free Relays during Sunday’s Finals, the building’s security system automatically turned off lights at 8PM, except for security lights and interior pool lights. Meet continued as the security lights and the lights on the interior pool walls provided sufficient light to observe swimmers.
- Meet Directors received insufficient awards to accommodate ties; some awards were torn.

Some Suggestions to Refine Managing the Meet:

- Use Chief Judges to aid in collecting and reviewing disqualifications.
- Consider using the USA Swimming SWIMS database for proofs of time.
- Establish an awards schedule and a procedure.
- Provide the timeline in the Heat Sheets.
- Have consistent location for posting results and picking up seed cards and coaches heat sheets.

**Meet Report: 2005 LSC 14 & Under Short Course Championships:** George Geanon and Jackie Vargas were the LSC designated Officials at Schroeder YMCA, March 4-6. Over thirty Officials volunteered to work the Prelim-Finals Meet. Kudos to Meet Host, LAKE, for working well under difficult conditions due to Meet size/entries and facility limitations!

Unusual Items:

- Alteration of Meet Information occurred during Meet, prior to approval by LSC Sanctioning Chair, regarding open lanes during awards presentations and moving events to different pools.

- Meet Committee decided some issues, always by a 5-0 vote, including sustaining at least two disqualifications, which the Meet Referee permitted the Committee to review as a courtesy to the swimmers/coaches.
- Scratch requirements and positive check-in information was missing from Meet Information.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct by some coaches occurred toward Officials.
- Fire and police arrived and threatened to halt the Meet and evacuate the facility due to overcrowding. Additional “swimmer rest” space was opened.

Some Suggestions to Refine the Meet:

- Restructure Meet so facility can accommodate the number of swimmers entered and expected number of spectators for these age groups.
- Establish protocol for Officials when confronted with verbally abusive person on deck.
- Provide for the LSC Officials Committee or Chair to review Meet Information prior to sanction to limit the number of officiating difficulties.

**Nomination of LSC Officials Chairperson:** The Committee nominated Susan Zblewski for another term as Officials Chair. The election occurs at the June LSC House of Delegates meeting.

**2005 Spring New Officials Training Clinics:** Clinics scheduled for:

April 9, Saturday (Homestead HS, Mequon);  
May 10, Tuesday (Memorial HS, Madison); and  
May 21, Saturday (YMCA, Appleton).

The Committee continues to offer an option to conduct Clinics for individual Clubs perhaps in conjunction with their Meets. Patty Kramer will mail Clinic notices to all Officials.

**Discussion of Meet Information Format for Championships:** Deferred

**Officials List:** Deferred

**Officials Directory & USA Swimming’s Privacy Policy:** USA Swimming has a privacy policy, effective May 1, 2005, that requires an LSC to obtain a person’s permission prior to including the person in/on any document placed on a website. This includes the “Officials Directory” that is posted on the Wisconsin Swimming website. The Committee decided to send a mailing, along with the New Officials Clinics notice, to each Official and apprentice to ask his/her permission to continue to include contact information in the Officials Directory. Alternatively, an Official or apprentice may restrict contact information to some or none. Officials will reply directly to Judy Linsley either by e-mail or USPS.

**Situation: Use of Counters:** USA Swimming Rule 102.5.6 reads, “ A swimmer in any individual freestyle event of 16 lengths or more may appoint one counter....” In a Meet, a swimmer was disqualified for having a counter for an event of less than 16 lengths. Jackie Vargas obtained an interpretation from Bruce Stratton, USA Swimming Rules Committee Chair, stating that the swimmer should not have been disqualified. Instead, an Official should have advised the coach/counter of the Rule requiring at least 16 lengths and removed the counter from the counter during the event.

**Situation: Apprentices “Under Direct Supervision:”** USA Swimming Rule 102.12.2 reads, “Uncertified trainees may perform the duties of such position when they are under the direct supervision of a certified official.” Jackie Vargas received a second interpretation “direct supervision” from Bruce Stratton, this one to mean that the certified official is located next to or very close to the trainee. In essence, the certified official needs to have the same view of the situation as the trainee. The certified official may not leave his/her assigned position and place the trainee in that position, even for a short time during a Meet.

**Situation: Having Uncredentialed Individual on Deck:** In a situation in which a USAS team rented YMCA facilities, an uncredentialed individual was on deck cheering for a swimmer. The YMCA Coach said that the person need not have USAS credentials as the person worked for the YMCA. Bruce Stratton again answered suggesting that, prior to a Meet, the USAS team have an understanding with the YMCA as to whom may be on deck. Then the Meet Referee should remove from the deck any person not identified by the YMCA or not having USAS credentials.

**Headsets:** Susan Zblewski commended the Committee and Dale Nickels on good work in getting out information on the available of the new headsets. Dale posted the information on the LSC website. Members reported continued static in using them in some situations.

**USA Swimming Officials Clinic:** Clinic is scheduled for May 28-30 in Colorado Springs. The LSC provides pays a \$200 registration fee and transportation cost to attend the Clinic. The Committee nominated George Geanon, Jackie Vargas, and Ben Radloff in that order, depending their availability.

**Situations: Swimmer with a Disability:** Kramer reported a situation in which a swimmer with a hearing impairment entered a Meet. The Meet Referee, in accord with USAS Rule 105.3.1, assigned that swimmer, within the swimmer’s heat, to an outside lane near the Starter, so the swimmer could see more easily the strobe and hand signal start. Based on normal seeding, the swimmer would have been seeded first or second in the fastest heat for most of her events.

Following the Meet, the swimmer’s parent inquired about the change in lane assignments, stating that’s the swimmer with the hearing impairment did not need, nor want, nor ask for any accommodation. The swimmer’s peripheral vision was sufficient to see the start from any lane. This information was not offered during the Meet. While the action of the Meet Referee was consistent with the USAS Rule, the Committee agreed that a Meet Referee, as a courtesy, either should contact a swimmer or swimmer’s coach or should wait until contacted to determine if an accommodation is requested. The Committee agreed to add a discussion of swimmers with disabilities, that includes determining a need for any accommodation, on the Fall 2005 Re-Certification Clinic agenda.

**New Business: Allegation of an Official’s Violation of Code of Conduct:** George Geanon moved and Ben Radloff seconded establishing a Committee procedure as follows: **Notification to the Officials Committee of any disciplinary issue shall be managed by the Officials Committee in a closed session of the Officials Committee. The Officials Committee Chairperson shall retain the minutes of a closed session and any documents related discipline.** Motion passed unanimously.

**Closed Session:** The Committee moved to discuss receipt of a complaint alleging an Official's violation of the Code of Conduct in closed session.

**Next Meeting:** May 17, 2005 (Tuesday)

**Meeting Adjournment:** About 10:00 PM, by consensus.

Prepared By \_\_\_\_\_  
Patty Kramer, Committee Member

May 17, 2005