

Officials Committee Meeting Minutes: November 15, 2005 (Tuesday)
Wisconsin Swimming, Inc.
University of Wisconsin Center, Waukesha

Participants: Bruce Barbee, Joe Barta, George Geanon, Judy Linsley, Cindy Maltry, Tim McAvoy, Ben Radloff, Susan Zblewski, Chair

Susan Zblewski convened the meeting at 7:10 PM.

Review of September 28, 2005 Minutes. The following change was made to the wording for dealing with hostile persons on deck.

- If a non-credentialed person becomes belligerent with a Coach, then the Meet Marshal, Meet Director, and/or Meet Referee, depending on the availability of staff and severity of situation, should eject the person and/or call the police.

The minutes were approved as amended.

Re-Certification Clinics Review: The re-certification clinics generated great discussion and were well received by the participants. Following are concerns:

- Backstroke non-continuous turn rule. The committee reviewed the interpretation received from Bruce Stratton regarding the change in the rule. Bruce stated that the turn still must be continuous. The stroke briefing in our WI Swimming manual is based on the interpretation of the rules and may be inaccurate.
- Deck jurisdiction was discussed. The issue of concern is whether a balanced deck must be equally balanced. It was determined that it is acceptable to have stroke/turn officials covering lanes 1-3, 4-5, or 6-8, even though some are judging 3 lanes, and some are judging 2 lanes.
- Errors in writing disqualification slips have become a means for coaches to get dq's overturned. Valid infractions should not be thrown out for clerical or handwriting errors. Instead, they should be corrected as long as evidence of the infraction exists. We must be fair to all competitors, including those who swam legally. If a swimmer commits an infraction, and an official observes it in the appropriate jurisdiction, then the disqualification should not be overturned. This needs to be communicated to coaches at any coaches meeting as well as at the next LSC meeting.

Other points of discussion related to how to improve future re-certification clinics.

- Have a mandatory test every 3-5 years
- Pull excerpts from current tests for topics
- Spread the clinic dates out so that they are not so close together
- Cluster topics so that stroke/turn officials can leave when starter/referee topics are discussed

New Officials Certification Clinics: The Menomonee Falls Swim Club had requested a clinic for December 2005, but has now changed their request to March 2006. The committee noted that we are having fewer people registering for clinics. Small clinics at meets are good learning experiences, but are not generating enough numbers. Also, smaller clubs cannot afford to have their own people training at a meet that they are hosting. At our next meeting, it would be good to look over the meet schedule and select some meets for clinics. With more members of the committee involved in the training, it was suggested that we should develop a teaching binder.

Rules Changes: The changes to the breaststroke and backstroke rules were discussed earlier in the meeting, so this agenda item was skipped.

Meet Management Clinic: John Borja is willing to present a meet management clinic. Bruce Barbee will notify Dale Nickels of the date of clinic so that it can be posted on the WI Swimming website.

Officials Roster: Judy Linsley will continue to update the list monthly. Permission slips still trickle in.

Pool Contamination Guidelines: George Geanon presented a draft of guidelines that should be followed in the event that a pool becomes contaminated during a meet. Having clear guidelines will help us insure the safety of swimmers as well as helping us to keep good relations with school districts whose pools are used for meets. Venues generally have their own safety guidelines, so any guidelines that we prepare would supplement those. George will send the guidelines to Dale Nickels for posting on the WI Swimming website. Susan Zblewski will also present the guidelines at the next LSC meeting.

New Business:

The table of contents of the WI Swimming manual needs to be adjusted.

George Geanon voiced a concern over timers. It is important that timers are well instructed. During a meet, officials should observe the timers and be sure that they are doing a good job. One way to help people learn to become timers is to have them practice at an intersquad meet.

Next Meeting Date: January 17, 2006 (Tuesday)

Respectfully submitted by Judy Linsley, January 16, 2006