

Officials Committee Meeting Minutes: January 17, 2006 (Tuesday)
Wisconsin Swimming, Inc.
University of Wisconsin Center, Waukesha

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

Susan Zblewski convened the meeting at 7:07 PM.

Review of November 15, 2005 Minutes. The following change was made to the wording for dealing with disqualification slip errors.

- 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.

The minutes were approved as corrected.

State Meet Officials: George Geanon will be one of the appointed officials for the 12 & under state meet. Bruce Barbee will be one of the appointed officials for the 13 & over state meet. Each meet will have an additional appointed official to be determined by Susan Zblewski.

New Officials Certification Clinics: Tim McAvoy and Judy Linsley conducted a stroke and turn clinic on January 14, 2006. The clinic was held during the Elmbrook Escape to Hawaii swim meet. There were 8 participants. A clinic will be held on January 26 at the Fond du Lac Aquatic Center. Ben Radloff is planning to schedule a clinic during April to be held in the Madison area.

Officials Binders/Clinic Materials: An updated video is needed for stroke and turn clinics due to the changes in the breaststroke rule. There was some discussion about how best to distribute pre-clinic materials to the attendees of clinics. It was suggested that the materials be posted on the WI Swimming website. Further discussion of this was tabled until our next meeting.

USA Swimming Officials meeting: Traditionally there has been a meeting of officials from all LSCs during May (often Memorial Day weekend). Susan has not yet received information for this year's meeting.

Officials Roster: Susan Zblewski has a number of updates that need to be made. Susan will provide Judy Linsley with the information.

Rules Changes: Concern continues over how to officiate the breaststroke kick. Some officials are interpreting the new rule about allowing a downward butterfly kick to mean that an upward butterfly kick is not allowed. Video of the new rule exists on Swimming

World's website, but not on the USA Swimming website. Jackie Vargas will e-mail Bruce Stratton to get clarification of the new rule and to ask when the USA Swimming videos will be updated. It was agreed that we should not be over-officiating the breaststroke kick. Remember that officials are observers, not inspectors, and the benefit of the doubt goes to the swimmer.

WIAA Boys State Meet Observers: Ben Radloff will observe at the Division 1 meet. Susan Zblewski will find someone who will observe at the Division 2 meet.

New Business: Susan Zblewski read a letter sent to the committee by a certified starter/referee. The letter expressed concern that rude coaches intimidate officials and that there is a general lack of respect towards officials. In discussing the letter, it was agreed that the practice of appointing a meet referee on the day of the meet compromises preparation for the meet and contributes to a lack of respect. Susan will contact the concerned official to get more information.

It was noted that policies exist on appropriate coach behavior. It also was noted that some coaches are on deck but don't have current credentials. George Geanon will find out what USA Swimming recommends on how officials should handle these situations.

There was also some discussion of the use of a disqualification log at a swim meet as an official document. The committee agreed that a disqualification log is just a tool that helps the referee to keep track of the disqualifications. A log on a heat sheet would also accomplish this goal. The purpose of any log is to support valid disqualifications.

Next Meeting Date: March 21, 2006 (Tuesday). An agenda item at this meeting will be the recruit, retain, reciprocate information from the USA Swimming website.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Linsley, March 18, 2006