

Officials Committee Meeting Minutes: March 21, 2006 (Tuesday)
Wisconsin Swimming, Inc.
University of Wisconsin Center, Waukesha

Participants: Bruce Barbee, George Geanon, Patty Kramer, Judy Linsley, Cindy Maltry, Tim McAvoy, Ben Radloff, Steve Suprenant, Jackie Vargas, Dave Wardecke, Susan Zblewski, Chair

Susan Zblewski convened the meeting at 7:10 PM.

Review of January 17, 2006 Minutes: The minutes were approved as read.

State Meet Reports: George Geanon and Tim McAvoy reported that the 12-under meet went well. There were many officials who volunteered, and deck coverage was excellent. The only significant problems were with meet management and scoring. There was some confusion with positive check-ins of combined events when heat 1 swims in finals. The heat sheets listed a different heat number than the board in the pool, and some swimmers/coaches were confused. Some meet management problems could be avoided if a subcommittee of meet management and appointed officials jointly develop the meet information.

George distributed some useful information from the USA Swimming website:

- Official's briefing
- The Referee - Making and Overturning Calls
- What do I do if an official is making too many calls or missing obvious calls?
- Proactive situation resolutions for new referees
- Staffing multiple pools in the same venue
- Sanctions, approved, and observed swims

Bruce Barbee and John Borja were the appointed officials for the 13-over meet. Bruce presented their report. Deck coverage was excellent, especially considering that two pools were used during prelims. The use of chief judges helped the meet to run smoothly. The need for meet information to be jointly developed by meet management and appointed officials was noted. The preliminary events were run as combined age groups, but then split into 13-14, 15-16, etc. for finals. If an athlete wanted to swim in the senior event, but was not 17-over, the software wouldn't accommodate the request.

There was some discussion about how to best assign officials to deck positions at a championship meet. The committee agreed that administrative officials should be prudent and assign officials to avoid any perceived conflicts of interest. Foresight is better than hindsight. With so many officials volunteering, officials should be assigned so that all areas of the state are represented, especially in the positions of starter, deck referee, and chief judge.

New Officials Certification Clinics: A stroke and turn officials clinic is scheduled for April 18. Patty Kramer will be the instructor.

It would be helpful for trainers to have the answers to the certification tests prior to training. This will help the trainers to adjust their training agenda. Other training materials are available from Patty Kramer. Trainers should be sure to get the names of trainees to Patty prior to the training, so that she can send them information. Patty will also send the information to the trainers, so that they can get the information to any last-minute trainees.

USA Swimming Officials meeting: Jackie Vargas will attend the USA Swimming officials training in Colorado Springs, May 27-29.

Officials Roster: Patty Kramer, Susan Zblewski, and Judy Linsley discussed changes to the roster. Judy will update the roster on the WI Swimming website in April.

New Business:

Concern was expressed about the attire worn by some lifeguards during swim meets. The Red Cross requires "Lifeguard" to be visible on the attire. Patty Kramer will get more information on the requirements for lifeguards at meets and practices.

Ben Radloff reported that he is going to Colorado Springs on behalf of BAC to find out how to build a new pool.

There was discussion of the minimum number of officials for a meet. After reviewing the USA Swimming rules, the committee concluded that at least 3 officials are required. One of the officials must be designated as the referee.

The WGLO meet in July will likely be a national certification meet. George Geanon is pursuing this.

Next Meeting Date: May 16, 2006 (Tuesday).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Linsley, April 29, 2006