

Officials Committee Meeting Minutes: July 11, 2006 (Tuesday)
Wisconsin Swimming, Inc.
University of Wisconsin Center, Waukesha

Participants: Joe Barta, George Geanon, Patty Kramer, Judy Linsley, Cindy Maltry, Tim McAvoy, Jackie Vargas, Susan Zblewski, Chair

Susan Zblewski convened the meeting at 7:05 PM.

Review of May 16, 2006 Minutes: The minutes were approved as read.

Long Course State Meets: Paul Young and Joe Barta, the appointed officials for the 12 & under meet, have been in communication with Jennifer Pennings, the meet director. Patty Kramer and Steve Brandl are the appointed officials for the 13-over meet. At each state meet, every attempt will be made to assign the starter and deck referee from different clubs and different geographic areas.

Officials Roster: Judy has been working on providing a list of officials by club. This will be done during the summer.

New Officials “Mentor” Role: The need for more structure was discussed. It was decided that a skills checklist would be helpful. Cindy Maltry, Patty Kramer, and Tim McAvoy will work on the checklist.

The importance of having a “safe mentor” was also discussed. Having a mentor who is not affiliated with the new official’s club would help to eliminate any discomfort due to such close social ties. However, some new officials prefer to have a mentor from their own club because they already know each other. In either situation, it is important that the mentor be a good listener and not seem judgmental.

National Certification Meets: George is working on getting a cost estimate from Helen Brown, a national level official. The budget request will be made in September so that a national certification meet can be held during 2006-07.

Coaches Rules Seminar: Some concern was expressed about coaches who do not know the rules. A WI Swimming coaches’ rules seminar, similar to the meeting required by the WIAA, would be one way to help with this. Judy will ask Jeanne Drzewiecki, coaches’ representative, for her input.

Diversity: Tim shared a PowerPoint presentation that he is developing about drowning and the statistics that show that it is more common among African American males. Food for thought – how can WI Swimming be more inclusive?

Meet Incident: The Committee met to discuss a meet incident in closed session.

New Officials Training Clinics: Cindy Maltry and Dave Wardecke trained 12 new stroke and turn officials on June 12, 2006, in Appleton. Many of these new trainees apprenticed at the Bird Bath meet. With the end of the summer session near, it was agreed that any new officials training clinics would be better held in the fall.

New Business: Cindy noted that at the Bird Bath meet, someone who is not an official was heard talking on the new radios with what appeared to be a deliberate imitation of a false start disqualification call. Officials should be careful to make sure that any communication on the radio at a meet be from the officials working the meet.

There was some discussion about judging relay exchanges when an in-the-water start is being used. Some coaches have been seen physically touching the in-the-water swimmer. It was agreed that this any physical contact with a swimmer who is competing should not be allowed, but verbal instructions can be given. One way to prevent physical contact during a race is to have coaches and other swimmers remain at least 12 inches away from the edge of the deck.

Another concern about judging relay exchanges when an in-the-water start is being used is whether or not the next swimmer can leave the wall, then return and leave again after the incoming swimmer has touched. Rule 101.6.3G states that a swimmer can return to the wall to keep an exchange legal.

Next Meeting Date: September 12, 2006 (Tuesday). Members of the committee should be aware that dates for recertification clinics will be established by e-mail in order to have them ready for the fall mailing to all officials.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Linsley, August 17, 2006