

***Officials Committee Meeting Minutes: October 17, 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 Surprenant, Paul Young, Susan Zblewski, Chair

Susan Zblewski convened the meeting at 7:08 PM.

**Review of July 11, 2006 Minutes:** The minutes were approved as read.

**12-under Long Course State Meet:** Joe Barta and Paul Young were the appointed officials at the 12-under meet. Paul reported that the meet went very well. There were plenty of officials from a variety of clubs who volunteered. National championship protocol was used and was well received. The chief judge position was used very effectively. Because of the use of chief judges, deck officials worked without radios. This was very much appreciated by many officials. George Geanon noted that some officials were surprised that in order to work as a starter/ref at the 12-under meet, the official needed to be available for both prelims and finals. Some officials were disappointed that they would not be in the starter/ref rotation because they only came for one session.

**National Certification Meets:** Paul Young reported that the Nike meet, hosted by WEST, Dec 8-10, 2006, would be a national certification meet. Rick Biggs and Mike Bougie will be the national evaluators. Officials who want to be evaluated need to apply by the Nov 6<sup>th</sup> deadline (application is available on the WI Swimming website). There will be 3 starter/ref teams and 2 administrative refs. A minimum of 8 stroke/turn officials will be needed for each session. A social will be planned for Saturday, Dec 9. Judy Linsley is working on the social. Paul noted that Illinois and Minnesota officials have mentioned socials as a means to build camaraderie and increase retention of officials.

**Recertification Clinics:** The committee discussed agenda items for the upcoming recertification clinics. The following agenda items were suggested:

- Apprentice/Mentor/Advisor relationships
- In-water starts and relay exchanges
- Minimum number of officials on deck
- Possibility of using a recertification test every 4 years in lieu of a clinic
- Retention and recruitment ideas
- In-meet clinics
- Situations

Ben Radloff, Steve Surprenant, and Patty Kramer will be presenters at the Madison clinics. Cindy Maltry and Dave Wardecke will be presenters at the Appleton clinics. Susan Zblewski, Tim McAvoy, Bruce Barbee and George Geanon will be presenters at the Waukesha clinics. Patty will put together a “cheat sheet” to be used by the presenters.

**New Officials Training Clinics:** SEAY, LAKE, and BAC have scheduled or recently have hosted new officials training clinics. It is getting harder to schedule clinics in conjunction with meets as many school districts are now charging for use of their classrooms. It might be necessary to increase the cost to attend a clinic to cover any room fees.

**13-over Long Course State Meet:** Steve Brandl and Patty Kramer were the appointed officials at the 13-over long course state meet. Patty presented a report to the committee. Deck coverage was excellent. Patty noted that the officials meeting were especially helpful as many of the officials discussed their experiences at recent national meets. Overall the meet ran smoothly with no controversy.

**YMCA/USA Swimming Officials Reciprocity:** The YMCA has changed their stroke/turn rules to align with USA swimming stroke/turn rules. Because of this, it was decided that new USA Swimming stroke/turn officials could apprentice at any YMCA meet provided that they apprentice with a certified USA Swimming official. Bruce Stratton, a member of the USA Swimming Officials committee, agreed that this would be acceptable.

**WIAA Observers:** Susan noted that USA Swimming officials are needed to observe at the upcoming girls high school state meets. Susan and Dave Wardecke will observe at the division 1 meet, and George Geanon will observe at the division 2 meet. Susan will recruit one other official to observe the division 2 meet.

**LSC Meeting:** Patty Kramer will represent the officials committee at the next LSC meeting because Susan Zblewski will be unable to attend.

**Sliplless Meet:** Tim McAvoy reported on the attempt to have a sliplless meet, where any disqualifications would be reported on place judging slips. He tried to do this at a recent EBSC meet, but it was not well received by coaches. So instead the meet used DQ slips, but also recorded DQs on the place judging slips. From a meet management standpoint, the sliplless meet would work. Some coaches felt that swimmers should be given DQ slips regardless of their age. Other coaches want DQs to be notified in a timely manner, but don't necessarily feel that DQ slips are necessary. This topic will be tabled to a later meeting.

**New Documents:** George Geanon passed out LSC meet official responsibilities and code of conduct documents to be reviewed. Both of these will be reviewed at the next meeting.

**Next Meeting Date:** December 5, 2006 (Tuesday).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Linsley, November 29, 2006