



Staffing of Officials for Swim Meets ***Wisconsin Swimming, Inc.*** (August 9, 2007).

Meet Referee:

Wisconsin Swimming Policy 2 reads:

“2.2.1...Meet Information shall include the following: ...

R. Name of Meet Referee.....”

Interpretation: *The Meet Referee must be a USA Swimming certified Starter/ Referee, Referee, or Administrative Referee for all LSC sanctioned or approved swim Meets. The name of the Meet Referee must be included when the Meet Host submits its Meet Information to the LSC Sanctioning Chair for sanction or approval.*

Minimum Number of Officials:

Wisconsin Swimming Policy 4 reads:

“4.4: There shall be a minimum of three USA Swimming Certified Officials, at least two (2) of which must be certified starter referees, present on deck during the course of a Meet at all times. The Referee and the Starter, two (2) different people, also may serve as Stroke and Turn Judges on their respective sides of the pool. There shall be assigned at least one other certified Official on the deck at all times.”

Interpretation: Wisconsin Swimming, for all sanctioned or approved Meets including dual Meets, requires a minimum of three (3) Officials: one (1) Starter, one (1) Referee, and at least one (1) other Official. At least three (3) Officials, in these three designated Official positions, must remain, i.e., must be present, on deck at all times. If one of these Officials is absent from the deck, the Meet may not proceed until that Official’s position is staffed.

Required Minimum Staffing for Officials for Dual Meets:

A minimum of three (3) Officials is required by the policy above. The required Official positions are: Referee, Starter, and Stroke and Turn Judge.

Recommended Minimum Staffing for Officials for Other than Dual Meets:

The Wisconsin Swimming Officials Committee recommends the following *minimum* number of Officials for Swim Meets: Five (5) Officials with the following positions:

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| 1 Starter | 1 Referee |
| 1 Chief Judge | 2 Stroke/Turn Judges |

Rationale: Adequate staffing of Officials leads to:

1. Better communication between Officials, Meet Director, coaches, swimmers, and other Meet staff.
2. Better managed Meets.

Rationale: Under-officiated Meets may lead to:

1. Increased risk of missed infractions, for which swimmers may disqualify at higher level Meets when more Officials and often more experienced Officials conduct the Meets.
2. Increased risk of inaccurate disqualifications.
3. Fewer opportunities for Apprentice Officials to complete their on-deck apprentice sessions in a timely manner.
4. Increased risk of stress/burn-out for Officials.
5. Meet delays due to difficulties keeping pace with disqualifications and other administrative duties.

Summary:

The Wisconsin Swimming policy establishes the minimum number of required Officials at three (3). However, the Wisconsin Swimming Officials Committee recommends at least five (5) Officials for better officiated Swim Meets. The Committee recommends more than five (5) Officials for Meets with a large number of swimmers. Additional Officials always are welcome.