

*Officials Committee Meeting Minutes: February 13, 2007 (Tuesday)*  
*Wisconsin Swimming, Inc.*  
*University of Wisconsin Center, Waukesha*

**Participants:** Joe Barta, Bruce Barbee, John Borja, George Geanon, Patty Kramer, Judy Linsley, Cindy Maltry, Tim McAvoy, Ben Radloff, Jackie Vargas, Dave Wardecke, Paul Young, Susan Zblewski, Chair

Susan Zblewski convened the meeting at 7:08 PM.

**Review of December 5, 2006 Minutes:** Minutes were approved as read.

**Short Course State Championships:** George Geanon and Ben Radloff will be the appointed officials for the 12-under meet. Judy Linsley and Paul Friedemann were going to do the 13-over meet. Neither Judy nor Paul can be there on Friday am. There needs to be an appointed official who is at all of the sessions to ensure continuity. It was decided that either John Borja or Paul Young would replace Paul.

Recruiting officials for the meets is going slowly. There have been announcements on the WI Swimming website. E-mails have also been sent to officials.

**New Officials Training Clinics:** Tim McAvoy and Judy Linsley held a clinic at EBSC on January 13 for new starter/referees with 4 participants. Patty Kramer held a clinic in Stevens Point on January 18 for new stroke/turn officials with 11 participants. Patty also held a clinic at DFAC on January 30 for new stroke/turn officials with 7 participants.

BST has requested a clinic for new stroke/turn officials. Bruce Barbee and George Geanon will be the presenters. The clinic will be held at Carthage College and will be scheduled soon. LAKE plans to host a clinic on March 7 or 14.

Concern was expressed over the lack of new starter/referees. Ben Radloff suggested that we schedule a clinic rather than wait for people to request a clinic.

Patty Kramer presented data that summarized the number of recent trainees. There continues to be a concern about retention of new stroke/turn officials. It was noted that some new officials do not feel welcome on deck. Some new officials leave because their child is no longer swimming. It was decided to table this discussion until our next meeting.

**NIKE National Certification Meet:** The committee commended WEST and Paul Young for putting together the national certification meet. The meet drew 56 officials, with 18 of them receiving a total of 31 new or renewed certifications.

Patty Kramer will request \$500 to be added to the LSC officials budget each year to pay for national evaluators.

Some concerns about officiating in the WI LSC were identified during the national certification process:

- Meet information needs to be standardized, especially concerning proof of times and scratch rules.
- The meet referee is ultimately responsible for verifying times and resolving timing issues. At many meets, this is left up to the scorer with little input from the meet referee. The national evaluators noted that the first few timing discrepancies need to go through the referee to be sure that they are being handled correctly. After the referee is satisfied that the scorer is adjusting times correctly, then the scorer can be appointed to handle any future timing issues at that meet.
- The WI LSC needs to come to an agreement about how to setup the Colorado so that it either does or does not do automatic adjustments for backup times.
- The meet referee needs to be in communication with the meet director regarding exception reports, meet information, what will be said to coaches, and how to handle unusual situations.

A summary of the of the national evaluators' concerns is available on a document that George Geanon produced.

It was decided that our committee should develop training on the administrative referee position. The duties of the administrative referee should also be a focus of the fall recertification clinics.

Discussion followed about the best way to get this information to other officials. It was decided that Susan Zblewski would present the information to the LSC. Jeanne Drzewiecki, administrative chair, has shown interest in standardizing meet information. John Borja has a PowerPoint presentation about the Colorado and timing issues. At our next meeting, the committee will review John's presentation.

**LSC Appointed Officials Responsibilities:** There was discussion about appointing three officials for the LSC long course championships: meet referee, administrative referee, lead chief judge. George Geanon has developed a document that breaks down the responsibilities of each appointed officials. He will work on a final draft for our next meeting.

There is still interest shown by some coaches who want to be involved in the selection process for LSC appointed officials. The committee expressed concern that coaches would not necessarily select the most qualified candidates and might in fact select officials who would be potentially biased towards their club. It was agreed that the officials committee is best suited to make the selection of qualified, impartial officials for the LSC championship meets.

**Website:** A document will be posted on the WI Swimming website that describes the process for becoming an official.

**Foxjet Meet:** George Geanon presented a document that summarized his experience at a recent meet in Minnesota. Discussion was tabled until our next meeting.

**NTV:** There is a need for an official to serve as NTV coordinator. This was also tabled until our next meeting.

**New Business:** Judy Linsley reported that she asked the national evaluators about whether or not the hand is part of the arm when judging underwater recovery on the butterfly. The national evaluators said that the hand is the hand and is not a part of the arm. If only the hands were breaking the water's surface on the butterfly stroke, it should be considered as underwater recovery and result in a disqualification.

There was a discussion about the butterfly kick on the breaststroke pullout. Upward motion is irrelevant on the kick. The rule only mentions that a downward butterfly kick followed by a breaststroke kick is allowed. There cannot be 2 downward butterfly kicks.

**Next Meeting Date:** March 20, 2007 (Tuesday).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Linsley, March 18, 2007