

Officials Committee Meeting Minutes: March 20, 2007 (Tuesday)
Wisconsin Swimming, Inc.
University of Wisconsin Center, Waukesha

Participants: Bruce Barbee, George Geanon, Judy Linsley, Cindy Maltry, Tim McAvoy, Jackie Vargas, Dave Wardecke, Paul Young, Susan Zblewski, Chair

Susan Zblewski convened the meeting at 7:10 PM.

Review of February 13, 2007 Minutes: LSC appointed officials discussion was amended due to the fact that the notes of the discussion were not complete.

Short Course State Championships: George Geanon presented the report for the 12 & under meet. The biggest issue at the meet was the poor weather. Blizzard conditions existed on Saturday and snow continued on Sunday. A coaches meeting was held and changes were made in warm-up and meet times to allow earlier and/or more travel time for swimmers. While most schools and churches in the area canceled activities for Saturday evening and Sunday, the meet still was held. The Waukesha South custodians, meet volunteers, and swimmer families were commended for their willingness to continue the meet.

There was concern about the noise level during relays. This had been a problem at other meets held at Waukesha South, and still was a problem. It was suggested that in the future the relays could be staged, with only the current heat and the following heat allowed behind the blocks.

Paul Young presented the report for the 13 & over meet. There were a few concerns that would be handled by an administrative referee at other championship meets (Zones, Speedo Sectionals, Junior Nationals, for example). There were issues with some meet entries that were made at slower times than achieved by the swimmers. There was a change in the awards presentations in order to save time so that swimmers would not be at the pool too late at night. There were many computer network concerns, including losing connections to the south pool and training new Colorado operators at the meet. John Borja handled many of these situations as an unofficial administrative referee and gained a lot of valuable experience. Paul suggested that the officials committee appoint an official administrative referee at future championship meets.

There was concern expressed about the crowded deck at Schroeder. Because it was a short course meet, it was decided to position stroke and turn officials only at the ends of the pools, and not assign any walkers. While the deck coverage still was excellent, the absence of walkers allowed the deck crowd to squeeze closer to the edge of the pool. This is something that should be handled by the meet marshals.

A concern that applied to both the 12 & under and 13 & over meets was the lack of standardized meet information. This is something that needs to be worked on by the LSC committee and the administrative chair.

New Officials Training Clinics: Bruce Barbee and George Geanon held a clinic for new stroke and turn officials on March 12 hosted by LAKE with 10 participants. They also will be holding a clinic on April 19 at Carthage College hosted by SEAY. Dave Wardecke and Cindy Maltry will be holding a clinic in late April in Oshkosh.

The committee attempted to find a date for a starter/referee clinic, but was unsuccessful. It was felt that May was too busy with meets, and no one was available for summer dates. A scheduled starter/referee clinic would hopefully draw in officials from many clubs, and is sorely needed as the number of starter/referees has been dropping.

New Officials Retention and Role of Advisors: George Geanon reported that he attempted to assign advisors for new officials who trained in November. The advisor's role would be to support the new official throughout the training process. This differs from the mentor's role at the pool as the on-deck trainer during an apprentice session. It was decided that an entire meeting of the officials committee should be devoted to the topic of recruitment and retention.

Timing Recommendations: Discussion centered on how the WI LSC officials can move toward being more involved with timing issues. Paul Young reported that WEST is getting the administrative judge training course from IL Swimming. John Borja's PowerPoint presentation on timing issues will be revised based on the feedback that he received from national level officials at the Speedo Sectionals.

It was decided that a subcommittee would be formed to work on developing the administrative referee position in the WI LSC. The subcommittee will look at using the internet, offering administrative referee training, discussing timing issues as the main topic of recertification clinics, and creating an administrative judge or referee certification. George Geanon, Paul Young, John Borja, and Dave Wardecke will be on the subcommittee.

Online Test Scoring: Tim McAvoy reported that the online test coordinators are changing, and there is some concern that the online test process has problems. Statistics on pass rates are not available at this time. Susan Zblewski does receive notification whenever a new official passes the online test.

NTV: Paul Young was nominated to serve as the NTV coordinator. Patty Kramer will be proposing the position at the April LSC meeting.

Officials Compensation: Patty Kramer will be suggesting a change to the WI rules concerning officials compensation. Most officials serve as volunteers, and the rules will be rewritten to reflect this.

Officials Committee Positions: George Geanon presented a document on the Officials Committee: Mission Statement and Structure. The purpose, composition and structure of

the committee are discussed in the document. Members were given copies and asked to review the document prior to our next meeting.

Officials Chair Clinic: George Geanon was nominated to attend the clinic hosted by USA Swimming.

New Business: None.

Next Meeting Date: April 17, 2007 (Tuesday).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Linsley, April 16, 2007