

Officials Committee Meeting Minutes: April 15, 2008 (Tuesday)
Wisconsin Swimming, Inc.
University of Wisconsin Center, Waukesha

Participants: John Borja, George Geanon (chair), Patty Kramer, Judy Linsley, Cindy Maltry, Tim McAvoy, Ben Radloff, Paul Roehr, Kim Thompson, Jackie Vargas

George Geanon convened the meeting at 7:10 PM.

Review of January 15, 2008 Minutes: The minutes were approved as read.

Short Course State Meet Reports: Ben Radloff, meet referee, and Paul Roehr, head chief judge, presented the 12-under meet report. Overall the meet ran very smoothly and nothing at the meet was rushed. Ben prepared a set of written instructions for the announcer, Colorado operator, Hy-Tek operator, timer, and meet marshals. These instructions were very helpful. Ben will bring them to the next officials committee meeting, and hopefully they will be used at future state meets. Some concern was expressed about the need for meet marshals to supervise swimmers during warm-ups. Meet referees need to be sure to instruct meet marshals prior to the meet.

There was a very good turnout of officials, with a mix of experienced officials and first time state meet officials who gained valuable experience. Chief judges were used effectively during the meet, but for some officials it was their first experience working with chief judges. As chief judges become more commonly assigned at local meets, there will be more experienced chief judges at the state meets.

George Geanon, administrative referee, presented the 13-over meet report for Paul Friedemann, meet referee, and Don Steinberg, head chief judge. This meet also ran very well, with excellent deck coverage by officials. This was the first WI LSC championship meet with an administrative referee as an appointed position. George felt that the role of the administrative referee was not as useful as at Speedo meets because many of the duties were done by host club personnel rather than by the administrative referee. The administrative referee also needs to have better computer access at the meet. George recommended that we try the administrative referee again at the summer long course state meet, but with revised duties.

Officials Manual: Judy Linsley has received the draft manual from Steve Brandl and will review it in the coming weeks. Judy will pass the manual to Kim Thompson at the BST meet at the end of May. The goal is for all official committee members to have reviewed the draft manual so that the updated manual is available in the fall of 2008.

Recommended Deck Assignments: Paul Roehr presented the revised deck charts, and they were again well received by committee members. It was decided that meet marshals should be under the meet referee or the meet director. Paul will add the WI Swimming logo to the documents.

Tim McAvoy moved (Ben Radloff second) to approve the documents with the specified changes. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership subcommittee: Ben Radloff asked that members of this subcommittee e-mail him with their duties. Ben will compile the lists of duties and e-mail that information to the subcommittee members. The goal is for this subcommittee to meet over the summer.

Ben Radloff moved (Patty Kramer second) to change to an every 2-year recertification cycle, with all officials recertifying in even years starting with the fall of 2008. The odd years will have rules updates posted on the WI Swimming website as well as communicated to officials via e-mail or regular mail. There would be an optional educational meeting during odd years. Stroke/turn officials will still need to officiate 4 sessions per year and starter/referees will need to officiate 6 sessions per year in order to renew their license. The motion passed unanimously.

Speedo meets: The committee is very excited that the spring and summer Speedo meets are in the Milwaukee area. There is a lot to be learned at these meets about officiating in general, but especially about the administrative referee position. George Geanon commended WEST for the great job that they did hosting the spring meet, but was disappointed in the low turnout of WI LSC officials. The summer meet will be at Schroeder and hopefully more WI LSC officials will be able to participate.

New Business: The long course state meets are scheduled for July 25-27 (12-under) and July 31-Aug 3 (13 over). Judy Linsley will be the meet referee for the 12-under meet and Patty Kramer will be the meet referee for the 13-over meet. George will contact Al Brooks, Steve Surprenant, Tim Winberg, and Sue Dlugopolski to offer them other appointed positions.

George Geanon shared e-mail from Jeanne Drzewiecki, WI LSC sanction chair, about the need for meet information to be reviewed by the meet referee prior to any meet. Jeanne already reviews meet information prior to sanctioning, but agreed that it would be very helpful to have the meet referee also review the meet information. Currently the meet referee must be identified in the meet information prior to sanctioning. John Borja moved (Paul Roehr second) that the meet referee prior to sanction must review all prelim/finals and state championship meet information. The motion passed unanimously. This will be brought to the next House of Delegates meeting as a proposed rule change.

A fall swimposium will be discussed at the next House of Delegates meeting. If the swimposium were held, the committee would like to have national level official Paul Jones as the presenter for officials' recertification in conjunction with the swimposium.

Ben Radloff suggested that the committee video a variety of backstroke turns as tool for discussion of non-continuous vs. legal turns. Although the non-continuous backstroke turn is discussed in the USA Swimming "Officiating Swimming" video, there still is confusion about what really is a non-continuous turn.

Next Agenda: The following are suggested for the agenda of our next meeting:

- Follow-up on appointed officials for long course state meets
- Ben Radloff's written instructions for meet personnel
- Swimposium
- Budget

Next Meeting Date: May 20, 2008 (Tuesday), at 7:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16pm.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Linsley, May 19, 2008.