

Officials Committee Meeting Minutes: March 24, 2009 (Tuesday)
Wisconsin Swimming, Inc.
University of Wisconsin Center, Waukesha

Participants: George Geanon (chair), Patty Kramer, Judy Linsley, Cindy Maltry, Tim McAvoy, Michael Patton, Ben Radloff, Kimberly Thompson, Jackie Vargas, Susan Zblewski

George Geanon convened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Review of December 16, 2008 Minutes: The minutes were approved as read.

Document Review: The Next Steps, Recertification Procedure, and Official of the Year Award documents were reviewed by the committee. The Next Steps document is a guide for recently trained officials. A few improvement suggestions were made. Thank you to Patty Kramer for revising this document.

The recertification document describes the process for officials to renew their license. Officials must renew the USA/WI Swimming registration each year by January 1. Attendance at a recertification clinic or passing the online recertification test is required in even years. Starter/referees who take the online recertification test need only to pass the referee test as it includes starter questions.

The Official of the Year Award nomination form will be posted on the WI Swimming website. Nominations are to be sent to Ben Radloff.

April Swimposium: Patty Kramer reported that planning for the April 18th Swimposium is going well. The Swimposium is intended for adults who are involved in WI Swimming, including parents, volunteers, and coaches. The announcement and registration forms have been on the WI Swimming website since March 13. Club coaches and registrars have been invited by e-mail. The cost to attend is \$15 (\$10 if 4 or more from the same club on the same form) and includes lunch.

Jay Thomas, a FINA starter, referee, and open water referee, will be the featured speaker for officials. He will present two 2.5 hour sessions. The first session covers open water officiating. The second session will cover the Online Tracking System (OTS), the chief judge and starter positions.

Swimmers with at least one AAA time are invited to attend the WI Swimming Zone Camp at Waukesha South on April 18th. Lacey Nymeyer, and Olympic medalist, will be featured.

Officials Tracking System: George Geanon reported that he has received meet reports from all meets with one exception. George is learning a lot by entering data and will continue to do this for the year. Next year the data entry will be assumed by another committee member.

Officials Manual: Michael Patton has put the manual in PDF form with links to the USA Swimming website. Official trainees will be provided with a binder when they attend a clinic. Those trainees who prefer to access the binder online will have the option of returning their binder. Hopefully this will reduce costs. Currently all updates to the WI Swimming website go

through webmaster Dale Nickels. George Geanon will look into the possibility of gaining rights for an officials page webmaster to post changes to the officials section.

Spring Speedo Meet Update: Officiating at the Speedo Meet went very well. The national evaluator and meet referee were impressed with WI Swimming officials. There continues to be improvements needed, especially in the chief judge position. This was the last Speedo meet in WI for a while, so officials who want to be evaluated for advancement to the N2 or N3 level will need to travel. The only potential national evaluation meet coming up in Wisconsin is December's Nike meet.

State Meet Report: The 12-under state meet report was presented by Paul Roehr, meet referee. Overall it was a good meet. There was a concern about timers standing rather than sitting at the start of each heat. Seated timers allow a clear view of the swimmers on the blocks by the officials. Paul reported an excellent turnout by volunteer officials at the meet. Many officials were officiating at a state meet for the first time. Mentoring those officials helps to move them towards the national level of officiating. Paul noted that a concern was voiced by an official who felt that there were too many officials. Some officials took off from work in order to volunteer at the meet, and then did not have to do much officiating because of the large number of officials. The committee recognizes that having many officials provides the opportunity for breaks which helps officials to be more focused when on deck. The large number of officials also provides more opportunities for using national protocol.

The report for the 13-over state meet will be presented at our next meeting.

LSC Officials shirts: Clubs that host state meets typically provide shirts for officials who volunteer at a certain number of sessions. At the recent 13-over meet, shirts did not come in a wide enough variety of sizes. There were not enough small shirts or enough 2XL or 3XL shirts. George Geanon suggested that our committee take responsibility for ordering shirts.

Committee Members: John Borja has resigned from the officials committee due to his work schedule. The committee very much appreciated John's contributions to the committee, especially related to timing and scoring. Fortunately John will continue to use his skills as a Colorado operator for his club.

The committee discussed potential replacements and unanimously nominated Maurice Pheil from WAVE. The committee also voted to nominate George Geanon to continue as chair for the next two years. There likely will be additional turnover on the committee as a few longtime members are considering retirement.

Next Agenda:

- Proposed committee coordinator positions (division of committee responsibilities)

Next Meeting Date: May 19, 2009 (Tuesday), at 7:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Linsley, May 2, 2009.