

Officials Committee Meeting Minutes: August 25, 2009 (Tuesday)
Wisconsin Swimming, Inc.
University of Wisconsin Center, Waukesha

Participants: George Geanon (chair), Judy Linsley, Cindy Maltry, Tim McAvoy, Michael Patton, Maurice Pheil, Ben Radloff, Paul Roehr, Kimberly Thompson, Drew Walden

George Geanon convened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Review of May 19, 2009 Minutes: The minutes were approved as read.

Officials of the Year: George Geanon reported that the officials of the year awards were announced at the 13-over LC State Meet. Vicki and Dave Stone, TIDE, were selected as stroke and turn officials of the year. Patty Kramer was selected as starter/referee official of the year. The recipients received a plaque.

Swim Suit Legislation: FINA will no longer allow technical suits at the Olympics. USA Swimming will officially ban technical suits as of January 1, 2010. Times achieved by swimmers after October 1, 2009 while wearing a technical suit will no longer be accepted for junior and senior national meets.

Official's Meet Report: The committee reviewed Paul Roehr's revised official's meet report. George reported that he did a trial run of the new official's meet report for the 12-under LC state meet and found it easy to use and compatible with USA Swimming's online meet entry. Head Chief Judge will be added as an officiating position in the drop down list. The revised meet report can be opened in Microsoft Office as well as in Open Office. Macro warning messages vary depending on the user's anti-virus software. Many thanks go to Paul for his outstanding effort to develop the spreadsheet format. The committee would like to implement the meet report this fall. Paul will make some final revisions and send it to committee members via e-mail for review.

Fall Clinics: Officials will not need to recertify during fall, 2009 as it is an odd-numbered year in the 2-year recertification cycle. Social meetings will be scheduled in the Madison, Milwaukee, and Oshkosh areas so that officials can meet to discuss rule changes and meet situations. Tim McAvoy will make a 1-page registration document that will include some survey questions to identify officials who are interested in serving on the officials committee or who are interested in an appointed official position at a state championship meet. Potential dates will be discussed at our next officials committee meeting.

State Meet Reports:

- Silver Meet – Tim McAvoy reported that participation was up at the very successful Silver Meet. Over 200 state cuts were achieved and there were over 130 time trials.
- 12-Under Meet – George Geanon reported that this was an issue-free meet with the exception of discussion about the upcoming time-line problems with the 1500 freestyle at the following week's 13-over meet. George also reported that there was an altercation in the stands between some parents. This began as an argument over seating that escalated. Both sets of parents were ejected, but the police were not called. However, due to

potential safety issues, it would have been prudent to call the police to prevent any further escalation of the argument.

- **13-Over Meet** – Judy Linsley presented the lengthy meet report. Prior to the meet it was determined that the time-line on Sunday for the 1500 freestyle events would be too long for the time allowed between prelims and finals. Coaches at the 12-under meet decided to run the 1500s two swimmers per lane during the afternoon, but one swimmer per lane during finals. At the coaches meeting, this was changed so that all swimmers in the 1500 freestyle would swim two per lane. The 1500s went very well using this format. However, one swimmer who thought she was swimming in the afternoon session did not receive notification that she had been moved to the evening session. A protest was filed.

Another issue occurred when swimmers missed positive check-in events due to confusion over which heat was swimming. As in past state meets, the top 8 or 16 checked-in swimmers were scheduled to swim in finals, so the preliminary sessions began with heat 2 or 3. Heats also alternated girls and boys, causing further confusion. After 5 swimmers missed their event in the first few heats, a coach filed a protest. The meet committee met and denied the protest, thereby upholding the penalty as stated in the meet information. A second meet committee convened later in the meet to again try to overturn a penalty for a missed positive check-in event, this time due to a relay team that missed their heat because of an error on the relay card that was printed by meet management. Again, the meet committee upheld the penalty.

Annual USA Swimming Registration: This year officials will receive renewal information via e-mail, and then send their renewal forms directly to Carol Graham. After processing, Carol will send Judy Linsley the forms so that the officials lists on the WI Swimming website can be updated in a more timely fashion.

Observed Swims: George presented a document on observed swims to the committee for review. Discussion was tabled until our next meeting.

Backstroke Protocol: George presented a document that discusses how to officiate the finish of the backstroke. This document was developed to clarify the “submerged at the finish” language of the rule book. The document was reviewed by Bruce Stratton, USA Swimming officials chair. The document will be posted on the WI Swimming website.

NCAA Officiating: The NCAA is in need of swimming officials and invites certified USA Swimming officials to consider applying. A letter describing the process will be sent via e-mail to WI Swimming officials.

Selection of New Committee Members: Three members have resigned from the officials committee. Susan Zblewski, long-time member and former chair, has resigned. Steve Brandl and Jackie Vargas also resigned. The committee appreciated the contributions of these members. To fill the openings, the committee nominated Rick Potter (DFAC), Cindy Raatz (SSTY), and Patrick Weisling (SHOR). George will contact these officials to invite them to join the committee.

Next Agenda:

- Website access for officials updates
- Observed meets
- Fall Clinics
- Convention update
- Use of Declared False Start
- Potential remote access to committee meetings via technology

Next Meeting Date: September 21, 2009 (**Monday**), at 7:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Linsley, September 14, 2009.