

Officials Committee Report 03 October 2005

Officials Committee Structure – The committee composition has undergone and continues to go through some change. The current structure:

- Chair: Kevin Hogan
- Southeast District Co-Chairs: Cathy Rudolph & to be named
- Central District Co-Chairs: Pat Donohue & George Smith
- North District Co-Chairs: Skip Gaskill & to be named
- Southwest District Co-Chairs: Greg Ryder & David Strider
- Swimposium: Tom Elliott
- Officials Roster: Francis Badavi
- USMS Liaison: Charlie Cockrell, Jr.
- At-Large: Mary Turner

Officials Swimposium - The Swimposium was organized by Mary Scott Garrett and was held September 24, 2005. Jeanine Dennis and Charly Mallory served as the national facilitators. Mary Scott, David Strider, George Homewood and Lee Gibbs served as local facilitators. Approximately forty individuals attended the clinic. PowerPoint presentations from the Swimposium are posted on the website.

Referees Clinic – A refresher clinic was held September 25, 2005 and was attended by 33 Referees and 8 additional individuals. Presenters included Kevin Hogan, Michael Downs, George Homewood, Lee Gibbs, and Charlie Cockrell, Jr.

Backstroke and Breaststroke Rules Changes – Effective September 21, 2005 the USA-S rules for backstroke and breaststroke were changed to reflect the recent FINA changes. The implementing letter from Bruce Stratton (Chair, USA-S Rules & Regulations Committee).along with the rules changes and official interpretations have been distributed to the Referees, Club Officials Chairs, and coaches. Some questions have arisen about the new rules and these were forwarded to Bruce Stratton for additional interpretation. These changes are also being distributed as above.

Officials Clinics – Clinics for new officials have been scheduled in each district and are being given on an ongoing basis.

Officials Committee Meeting – The committee met October 2, 2005.and covered the following items:

Training and Certification Requirements – The “Minimum Standards for the Certification and Recertification of Officials” was reviewed and some changes made. Highlights of the changes:

- Completely revised the S&T training card to explicitly define the necessary knowledge and skills that must be attained to become certified
- Incorporated the training restrictions that were listed in the “Championship Meet Staffing” recommended practice
- Revised the number of sessions that can be trained at a meet and applied this to all positions

- Changed the S&T requirements from 6 training walks plus 2 certification walks to 5 training walks plus 3 certification walks
- Removed the requirement for Referee recommendation to train for Starter
- Timing Judge certification is no longer a prerequisite to Referee training, it may now be obtained concurrently with Referee certification
- Although a change was not made, discussions were begun on requiring a minimum number of sessions at S&T and Starter before progressing to Starter and Referee

Referee Trainees –

- Current: Mary Kay Huss (SQST) and Phil Webber (PSDN) are finishing Timing Judge training; Avis Aheron (CCA) has finished Timing Judge training; Steve Swanson (QDD) was approved at end of long course has not begun training
- Southeast recommendations: Rex Lacy (ODAC), Tommy Lovell (SEVA), and Doug Lockwood (WAC) were approved
- Central recommendations: Paula Neelley (PSDN) and Tom Radunzel (SQST) were approved
- Northern recommendations: Stephanie Suhling (RAYS), Gary Calloway (RAYS), Jim Frye (RAYS), Mike Friedel (RAYS), Arturo Weldon (PWSC), and Dave Hansen (QDD) were approved with the caveat that Kevin and Skip need to discuss a staggered training schedule as we can't train seven Referees in one region at the same time
- Southwest recommendations: Bob Dray (LY) and Gordon Hair (GATR) were approved

Jurisdictions – Cathy handed out copies of the jurisdictions used at the recent Zones meets. These looked to be particularly applicable in light of the new butterfly kick rule in breaststroke. We'll look at adopting these or a modification for future use in VSI. Also, we discussed the fact that these and the currently used jurisdictions are recommendations and that the Referee is the final authority on how jurisdictions will be established.