

VSI Officials Committee Report 27 April 2008

Present: Avis Aheron, Cathy Rudolph, David Strider, George Smith, Jim Frye, Jim Knicely, and Kevin Hogan, Mary Turner, Michael Downs, Pat Donohue, Stephanie Suhling, Tom Colasurdo, Tom Elliott

Absent: Mike Willard, Wally Hunt

- Communications - Discussion via e-mail was talked about. In many cases there is a need for a group discussion and having everyone participate is useful. In other cases a more limited number of individuals need be involved and the discussion should be restricted to those individuals. Negative evaluations in particular should be restricted to those with a need to know.
- Avis Aheron, Jim Knicely, and Kevin Hogan, Mary Turner, Michael Downs, Pat Donohue, Tom Colasurdo, and Tom Elliott met on 19 April 2008 to discuss and develop recommend changes to the VSI Officials Handbook. Specific changes to the certification requirements were developed for Administrative Referee and Chief Judge. These recommendations were circulated to the committee for review prior to the committee meeting. We also discussed changes to the reimbursement policy governing travel to out of LSC Officials Qualifying Meets. It was decided that the requirement for notifying the Officials Chair of intent to travel should be eliminated and that the reimbursements should not all wait until the end of the fiscal year.

The following summarizes the changes approved:

- Chief Judge training/recertification requirements: To be certified as a separate position beyond S&T training. Complete 4 sessions of training. Referees may take a clinic. The desire is to educate individuals so that they know the position expectations when they work as a CJ at a championship level meet.
- Administrative Referee training/recertification requirements: Must be certified as a Referee and will train at prelims/finals meets below the level of Senior Champs. Training will involve 3 days at a single meet or 2 days at each of 2 meets. We want to educate ARs who are capable and comfortable running the administrative side of championship level meets. Certified ARs should also have a sufficient background knowledge that they can work in position at Senior Champs.
- Referee training requirement: Now requires previous certification at CJ. Emphasized that concurrent Timing Judge training can only occur with permission of the Officials Chair.
- Reimbursement policy for attending out of LSC OQM: Eliminate early notification requirement. Remove provision that reimbursements would be made at the end of the fiscal year. This will allow the Treasurer to reimburse in a more timely fashion. Clarified that the two meet limit per fiscal year is inclusive of both OQMs and Disability Meets. [Approved by electronic vote following meeting.]
- Reimbursement policy for attending Disability Championship Meets: Changes made to mirror those made to the Reimbursement Policy for Attending out of LSC OQM. [Approved by Lee Gibbs following meeting.]
- Training guidelines:
 - Add CJ section for District/Regional Champs section
 - Add section indicating that S&T training is allowed at the prelims sessions, but not the finals sessions of non-championship prelims/finals meets (such as Christmas championship meets)
 - Clarified acceptable officials attire [Approved by electronic vote following meeting.]

- Swimposium
 - Jim Knicely is coordinating the officials' component. Kevin Maloy (Club Development Coordinator) is coordinating all of the components for the weekend.
 - To be held 4 October 2008 at the Koger Center in Richmond. PVS and Maryland have been invited to participate with us.
 - USA-S will pay for 3-4 facilitators/athletes to come to the Swimposium (this includes those attending for other components).
 - Discussed potential facilitators for officials' component.
 - Any suggestions for topics should be sent to Jim Knicely. We need to chose topics that aren't VSI-centric since we will have participation from outside of VSI.
- Referee candidates
 - Alan Criss (GATR), Jessica Simons (UNAT), and Rick Lisbon (QDD) were approved.
- Safeguarding children at meets/dealing with odd behavior
 - We must always be watchful. If your gut tells you something is wrong it is best to involve the authorities earlier rather than later.
 - Child predators need not act in an "odd" fashion, and likewise those acting odd need not be child predators. In the end we have to watch everyone without creating an environment that has everyone on edge.
- Sexual harassment, or any other form of harassment, is not to be tolerated on deck
- Meet Referees for LSC Championship Meets
 - Reviewed those who have served as the Meet Referee at Regional Champs, AGC, and Senior Champs over the past 4-5 years. There is a need to get an influx of individuals into this position at Regional Champs to create a pool of experienced officials who can run AGC and Senior Champs.
- LSC Championship Meets report
 - Short Course Senior Champs – Went well with only a few hiccups. Rayleen and Peter Soderstrom (Southeastern Swimming) were the outside national evaluators. They were highly complementary of the officiating at the meet.
 - Long Course Age Group Champs – Went well from the perspective of coaches and parents. On the officiating side it was a challenge at times. If we continue to run the same format attention needs to be given as to when (or if) check-ins for the relays occur. We also need to a greater presence of officials at some positions during the meet.
 - Both meets were run with the CTS6 timing system and computers using the Vista operating system and no problems were experienced with this setup. The scoreboard lock-ups at the Freedom Center were a facility issue related to their computer which drives the scoreboard
 - Meet Referees for the long course championship meets will be named shortly.
- The new name badges for officials have been distributed