

2009 LSC OFFICIALS CHAIRS MEETING

Minneapolis, MN

May 15-17, 2009

Attended by Kevin Hogan

Friday

Open Forum

- Two-swim suit issue. Much discussion took place but the bottom line is that the guidance that we've issued is appropriate. Bruce Stratton emphasized the need for using common sense in dealing with this issue.
- Recruitment. Many LSCs have problems recruiting a sufficient number of officials to work their meets. A number of these LSCs have instituted penalties in a effort to promote recruitment. Clubs might be required to have a one official per some number of swimmers, or they are required to provide one official per some number of swimmers entered in a session at a meet. These mandates are then enforced with financial penalties. Some discussion also took place about whether policies of this type encourage individuals to be on deck when they'd rather not be there.

Saturday

Rules and Interpretations (Bruce Stratton)

- Reviewed procedures for changing the rules and regulations
- Reviewed the breaststroke, swimsuit exceptions, use of one swim suit, and emergency legislation regarding the teaching of racing starts
- Current issues
 - Backstroke turn. Use of the term "non-continuous turning action." Doesn't view this as a national issue. The important thing is to describe any violation in terms of the rules. If that is done, there's nothing wrong with checking non-continuous turning action on the DQ slip.
 - Meaning of "submerged at the finish." Touch=finish; finish=touch.
 - Swimmers can't "swim up" in age groups. As an example, a 14 year old can swim in 13-14 competition, but not 15 and over competition. The 14 year old could, however, swim in Senior competition as Senior is open to all individuals who qualify.
 - National Championship scratch rules. If an LSC chooses to use the National Championship scratch rules then the LSC also needs to use National Championship deck protocols. National Championship deck procedure requires that any alternate scratching into finals (A, B, or C) must be notified that they have moved up. If they are not notified, they are not penalized if they are then a no show or otherwise do not want to swim. It was emphasized that announcing the updated list after the scratch period had closed does not constitute notification.
- FINA
 - One suit only means one suit only for FINA
 - List of approved suits is coming

- Breaststroke – Expecting a change in wording of the rule, but no material change
- Disabilities
 - The Disability Committee has posted a large amount of new information on the USA-S website. Everyone should review.

Web Testing Update (Boots Hall)

- The tests are being updated for the 2009 rulebook. The site was to be back on-line by May 15 but the target date is now delayed (hopefully by no more than a week or so)
- The Stroke & Turn test has now been revised so that it will also include the Timing test component. Thus, S&T trainees will only need to take a single test. The individual Timing test will remain for Timers and Timing Judges.
- Subgroup wanted to know about the need for a Chief Judge test. The consensus was that this should be added to the site.

Open Water Officiating (John Kinney)

- Open water swimming is becoming more mainstream and there is an increasing need for officials
- Working on developing an officials training manual; mini-clinics are a possibility if there's enough interest
- Reviewed the needed officials (Part 7 in the rule book)

YMCA/USA-S Joint Initiative (Hank Mittelstaedt)

- Promoting bringing each other's officials into respective groups as a means of increasing the number of experienced officials
- Looking to make this easier rather than harder

National Evaluators Program (Dan McAllen)

- Those being evaluated at a meet now have the ability to evaluate their evaluator. This is a link to the survey off of the Certification page on the Officials section of the USA-S website
- New N3 evaluators can be added to the list. Need to have worked in position at a National Championship meet

National Certification and On-line Tracking System (OTS) (Bob Griffiths)

- National certifications are going to a 3 year certification and re-certification period. Those with certs/recerts on June 30, 2008 will get an extra year
- Reinstatement period will be added. Less than 3 years will be listed as expired. Can reinstate by completing the recertification requirements.
- Will also go to staggered certification periods rather than a single date for all as is now done (and which confuses nearly everyone)
- Demonstrated new OTS LSC module by starting off in the "pretend" development site (known as the sandbox in other software). Walked through many of the new features. Can now track LSC level certifications. Highlights include:

- Can define levels (We won't be able to continue using N1 as levels beginning with "N" are reserved. I recommend that we shift to V1 since its what we're doing for dry deck certs.)
- Can track history – original certification dates can be entered
- Can print both national and LSC certification cards (configurable to allow the individual official to do it or can restricted so that we print the cards and send them out
- Can't yet track things like name tags and shirts but this seemed to be high on everyone's list
- There's a lot here that we'll need to play with to get a firm handle on
- The LSC module was updated to "live" at the conclusion of our introduction (I'm now working with Tom on getting things going)

Sunday

Open Forum

- Broke into Zone groups. Discussed senior/junior officials and moving people along, difficulty in getting national evaluators, women in officiating.