

Officials Committee January 28, 2015

In Attendance: Nancy Wargo, Ed Becker, Dennis Rodney, Barbar Weiderecht, Dave Pite, Margy Sargent, Suzannah Rogers

On conference call: Mike Smalec, Jim Robison

December Minutes: Margy Sargent

- Approved, with no changes or additions.

Retention: Michael Smalec

- Nancy and Mike have discussed having a yearly event for officials....
 - o awards, dinner, speaker or entertainment
 - o A celebration for our officials
 - o Mike to work with Nan to determine best time of year for banquet
 - o Mike to reach out to top 16 committee about giving officials recognitions (may not be the right venue?)
- Nancy is trying to get shirts from Speedo for officials
 - o will reach out to Rick Lewis about Speedo offer
 - o for those who work Seniors or shirts for the top "performers"....# of sessions.
- Give new referees a whistle. Referees who have been refs for 10 years, maybe gold plated
- Yearly Registration:
 - o Is it possible to do a multi-year? Nancy has asked national – they will discuss
 - o Some LSC's give out lifetime memberships to long serving officials/LSC volunteers.
- Mike feels that being able to retain experienced officials when their children stop swimming. The question is how to make that appealing to people?
 - o Mike has tried to talk to people who have stayed/not stayed to find out their reasons.
 - o Incentives to stay/not stay involved:
 - Many wanted to stay involved, but they just don't have the time/life issues precluded it.
 - It has become more complicated to remain certified, but these things are important and officials didn't think it should change – they ultimately supported it.
 - Could we waive CT fees for those experienced officials?
 - Nancy will ask Nan/Rick and report
 - Mike has a memo that lists requirements to receive that waiver.
 - Mike to forward to committee for review
 - After 10 years of service, could we exempt people from the S&T session requirement?
 - Note: Mike Huffman had recently expressed how fantastic it was to do the one session – how important

- Recognition for newer officials is very important, too and needs attention.
 - The official event/party with novice award, etc could show appreciation
 - Award honor submitted by teams for their people (new, growing, anchor)

Chair report: Nancy Wargo

National LSC Meeting:

- May in Minneapolis.
- Nancy will be going
- If anyone has any questions about how other LSC's are doing something, submit to Nancy.

BOR:

- general discussion

Sectionals:

- Nancy is meet ref.
- Nancy will be sending out a note regarding the application to officiate.
- It is an OQM.

AO vs. AR

- This conversation is taking place on the national level.
- Here, we only have AO status.
- AO's cannot be evaluated for national certification.
- Refs can be upgraded to AR so they could be evaluated.
- Vote taken – all agreed
- Barbara will update all refs to AR.

Deck Ref vs. Meet Ref:

- Everyone start thinking about how you feel about two separate certifications.
- Some LSC's have separate requirements.
- We might get more people stepping up to ref if we could then change the training.
- Concept suggested was:
 - 1 year as deck ref (keep clinic as is but change shadow requirement
 - Automatic retest and meet ref clinic and full sessions (2) shadow requirement
 - Auto to keep officials from stalling as deck refs

Disability vs. Injury:

- Disability
 - permanent disability – life changing
 - Per USA rules and website articles sent by Griffiths... decided by the meet ref.
 - coach should contact meet director and ref ahead of time, if possible.
- Injury

- an injury that prevents proper use of a limb, not a disability.
- best bet is to not swim the event affected.
- Question – Nancy to reach out to rules chair Jay Thomas - CAN they not use the affected limb (so NO kicking, or pulling with only ONE arm....) they can be judged on just what they can do??
- Asthma is not a disability
- Processing Issue - can have an assistant on deck.
- 4 Levels to Consider
 - is it fair to other swimmers?
 - is it fair to the disabled swimmer?
 - can it be accommodated?
 - Will it affect the running/timing of the meet?
- Nancy to contact disability chair – we want to send tips email with their input

YMCA Times vs. USA Times:

- Will send tip – based on email from ops

Certifications: Barbara Wiederecht

Re-Certification:

- We have about 275 officials certified right now.
- There are a few who are in between because they don't want to do background checks early.
 - Ref numbers are stagnant, but not down.
 - Only 31 AO's in the state....down from 50. Only 7 are training.
 - 16 clubs out of 66 have AO's (confirm)

Championship Meets – Suzannah Rogers

Regionals

- Suzannah will be contacting meet refs for regional meets as we get closer for full volunteer team (min 2 weeks in advance)
- Suzannah and Jim will try to get a good distribution of officials at each location.

Seniors

- Suzannah will be co-ordinating whatever Paul needs for evaluation work.
 - Hotels (OQM & Meet Ref) & meals
 - Transportation if needed
- Reminders to sign up will go out
 - a month in advance
 - then again 2 weeks
 - 1 week out.

Communications: - Philip James

- working on site to make it easier to see what you have and what you need.

- Hoping to make it easily accessible for all.
- Investigating auto-check for re-certification needs by official log-in
- It would help if we could contact officials by team without having to cut and paste each email individual
- Philip to contact Nan with new ideas above

Training: Dennis Rodney

- S&T Clinic coming up...was postponed due to the snow but redone within a week
- AO - a couple of teams have requested AO clinics. – to be done asap in Feb based on Jim's schedule

Referee outreach: Dave Pite

- None scheduled
- Dave to write offer notice to be emailed to all teams (send to Nancy for publishing)