



Connecticut Swim Officials Committee – Orange, CT, October 29, 2013

Attendees: Nancy Wargo, Suzannah Rodgers, Dennis Rodney, Dave Pite, Mike Smalec.

Chairperson Wargo called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM at Gabrielle's Restaurant, 535 Boston Post Road, Orange.

Action Items:

- Officials Training Co-Coordinators would modify clinic slides to reflect the new rules and new LSC policies and new session-work requirements that have been established.
- Officials Training Co-Coordinators would develop recommendations for new and existing Meet Referees for presentation and discussion at the next Official's Committee meeting.
- M. Smalec to modify the existing Administrative Officials clinic slides to have the Connecticut Swimming logo and incorporate pictures into the slides for use in the planned AO clinics that are planned for January/February 2014.
- *AO question raised to committee for thoughts – please send your feedback to her – apparently USA Swimming has changed their minimum for AO shadowing to just 2 sessions – do we follow their lead or stay to 4 sessions/one must be a trials/finals meet.*

The meeting began with an informal impromptu discussion of a recent downstate location Meet that operated less than ideal. The Committee discussed several problematic items and the best approach to provide long term solutions in the State.

1. What additional training can be done to assist new Meet Referees?
2. Should the State adopt a certification process for Meet Referees?

After discussion and brainstorming there was consensus that based on the still evolving issues associated with the new Administrative Official position and new certification requirements that were just introduced at the annual official's meeting it would be best to minimize additional changes for the current season. The Committee will continue to develop ideas on the idea for the future.

Nancy passed out meeting agendas and identified a number of pressing issues that she wished to focus on.

Committee questions to discuss:

Administrative Officials –

Question: What to do if two sessions are run at the same time - if we are running a meet that has two pools that both run through the same table, do we only need one AO even though there are two

"sessions" going on at the same time?

The Committee members present were uniformly in agreement that a single AO can be responsible for two pools and no further restrictions or requirements should be made. There was also consensus opinion that while there should be at least one AO per session there was not a problem with two or more AO's working a single session and getting work credit in OTS.

Re-Certifications for dual positions (dry & wet sides) –

Questions: Is it necessary to retest for both if they have S&T and AO, Starter & AO, Ref & AO?

- For testing, it was decided that the AO test would be kept separate and it was necessary for every position other than Referee. So for example Starters or Stroke & Turn individuals who wanted dual AO certification would have to take re-certification tests separately to maintain certification.
- Annual work session requirements: After discussion of many possible options the concept of a simple annual requirement would provide optimum clarity and minimize confusion with respect for dual position re-certifications. Since the minimum requirement identified was 4 sessions through the year the thought was to stick with this number. Similarly, since eight sessions was the newly identified annual requirement then this also would be applied for dual positions. So a S&T and AO dual certification would have to do eight sessions minimum with at least four of the session as AO. The other requirements about one **championship and one S&T session** would still apply.

Referee certifications now with AO role...

Question: Is it still necessary for a Referee-trainee who used to have to do a session as Administrative Referee and that pretty much could only happen at a championship meet to still perform this?

The feeling was that now since we have AO's at all meets it may be more appropriate to **also** allow Referee-trainees to perform their required AR session at a regular trials/finals meet, **too**. The Committee felt that the Chair should have executive decision making oversight on this matter to make the most appropriate decision based on the specifics involved. **The same question was applied to AO shadowing – that they should shadow at least one trials/finals meet championship or other, too. NOTE: USA Swimming just changed their minimum training requirement for AO to 2 sessions – should we now follow suit? We have required 4 sessions. Please contact officials chair with thoughts.**

DQ management:

Questions related to advice on 10&U / 8&U meets / dual pools - how to handle it – can there be exhibition heats offered?

Strong opinion of the committee was that no meets should have heats or events where disqualifications would not be called. This would set-up a bad precedent that should be avoided. **The committee reached out to Ops (Robison) who also agreed USA Swimming does not do exhibition heats.**

Catch the Wave:

An overview of what would take place at the end of the year associated with the "Catch the Wave" tasks:

Background check at the end of December will occur to verify that the **every two-year** annual requirements were met.

Also there is a plan in place for envelope stuffing with several team members providing help (Nancy, Ed, Suzannah, Barbara). This team would split the officials by alphabet each taking a subgroup of officials to split the workload.

Nancy provided the Committee with a brief overview of the following items:

- Bag Tags - distribution and labeling ideas – The new red tags were shown along with the plan to use stickers for annual certification updating.
- Clinics - schedule and instructors, attendance – The impressive numbers of new individuals attending the many officials' clinics were reviewed and discussed. This is a very positive thing.
- Instruction/PPT for clinics - updates needed – The slides need to be reviewed and revised for the new protocols, new rules and new policies that have been instituted. **PPT for Starter and Ref training needs to be developed so we have consistent messaging for all new instructors. Nancy will build starter based on info from Mike Huffman, USA Swimming and Dennis Rodney.**
- Meet issues - water temps, process, 8&U (below)
- Status of Catch the Wave - Committee members is encouraged to be sure to re-certify as necessary prior to the end of December.
- Automated re-cert warning system - (Allen Parry investigating) – Discussion of the best approach to not rely on officials self-policing themselves with regard to re-certification.
- Clarifying certification process/ recertification process
- Championship meets – status – Nancy provided an update on the Seniors Officials deck team that was evolving. It was envisioned that Age Group Championship would also follow in this direction **with Jeff Scobee. OQM evaluators to be booked for SRs.**

Athlete Representatives to the Official's Committee: Katie Wargo, Lindsay Smalec have stepped forward –others?

Reports from each member on developments and status of their functional responsibilities:

Statistics/Renewals Coordinator- Mike Smalec **(to be done next meeting)**

Operations & Championship Meet Coordinator- Barbara Wiederecht **(information presented by Nancy)**

Recruitment & Retention Coordinator- Dennis Rodney **(to be done next meeting)**

Communications Coordinator- Matt Marion **(to be done next meeting)**

Advancement & Certification Coordinator- Suzzanah Rogers **(to be done next meeting)**

Secretary & Officials Budget Coordinator- Kevin Chavez **(to be done next meeting)**

Officials Training Coordinator- Dennis Rodney & Dave Pite – **presented at today's meeting details above**

LSC Liaison/Policy Coordinator-Marie-Pierre Graff **(to be done next meeting)**

Instructors- Mike Huffman, Bill Repass, Denise Rodney, Ed Becker, Nancy Wargo - **presented at today's meeting details above**

The meeting concluded at 9:00 PM.