

OFFICIALS COMMITTEE MEETING

August 24, 2014

The Florida Swimming Officials Committee met on Saturday, October 4, 2014 at the Rosen Center Hotel & Conference Center located at 9840 International Drive, Orlando Florida. The following individuals attended the meeting:

Stephen Plapp, Chair
Mark Davis, Vice Chair
Roger Deary, Area 1 Representative
Jeff Breault, Area 1 Assistant Representative
Katherine Caldwell, Area 3 Representative
Deborah Landis, Area 5 Representative
Judi Wojcik, Area 6 Representative
Helen Kelly
Chris Wojcik
Kevin Doel
Thomas Tiedt
Dave Nesper
John Russo
Jill Rochelle
Joshua Longfield
Rocco Aceto
Gary Goodner

The minutes were prepared by Jeff Breault.

The meeting was called to order at 10:19 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Mark Davis moved that the minutes of all previous meetings be approved. The motion was seconded and passed without objection.

NEW BUSINESS

Reports By Area Representatives

Area 1

Roger Deary reported:

- A re-certification clinic will be held at Bolles High School on October 18th. It is currently scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. but that might change depending upon the timeline for the meet being held that weekend.

- A total of 16 new officials joined Area 1 during 2014.
- Jeff Breault will become the new area representative as of January 1, 2015.

Area 2

Dave Nesper reported on behalf of Bart Smith:

- Several new officials have joined. The area still needs additional administrative officials.

Area 3

Kay Caldwell reported:

- Area 3 now has approximately 100 officials and is striving to advance officials.
- She expressed a desire to coordinate with FHSAA to find a better way to cover the multitude of District and Regional Meets and volunteered to serve as liaison between the Officials Committee and FHSAA.
- The committee discussed ways to alleviate the pressure on officials during the state series and one suggestion was that school athletic directors become more involved in the scheduling process. Rocco Aceto suggested that AD's attend the meeting early in the season where bids are submitted to host the District and Regional meets.

Area 4

Tom McCaleb was not present.

Area 5

Deborah Landis reported:

- The area continues with the recertification process with the next clinic scheduled to be held during the November meet in Sarasota.

Area 6

Judi Wojcik reported that her area continues to grow in terms of athletes and teams.

Recruitment of New Officials

The committee discussed ways to recruit and retain officials. Among those were:

- Limiting the number of sessions worked during any given meet. Many parents, especially those with swimmers find it difficult to work the entire meet. Taking some of the pressure off of them to work the entire meet might encourage them to sign up and remain.

- Getting the head coach involved. Parents may be more willing to sign up to officiate if called upon to do so by the head coach.
- Explaining the timing process to timers. If they understand the process and the importance of their role they will be more committed and perhaps willing to move up to officiating.

Re-certification

Mark Davis reported that currently 164 of the 359 officials registered with Florida Swimming have attended re-certification clinics. Additional clinics are in the offing, including:

- TCSC will host a clinic during its meet on 10/12/2014.
- Bolles will host a clinic on 10/18/2014 after the first session of his meet (approximately 10 a.m.).
- WFLA will host a clinic during its meet on 10/17/2014-10/18/2014.
- SYS will host a clinic during its meet on 11/27/2014.
- A clinic will be conducted during the Gator Swim Meet on the first weekend in December.

The exact dates, location, and times of the clinics will be posted on the Florida Swimming website. If an official fails to recertify during this year there will be opportunities to do so next year.

Administrative Officials will be recertified next year.

Returning Officials

There is no need for returning officials (those whose certification has expired) to go through the full apprentice process. Instead they should take the test matching their highest previous certification and apprentice at enough sessions to reacquaint themselves with the position. Once done, the area representative may make a recommendation that they be re-certified.

USA Aquatics Conference

- All materials from the conference will be published on the USA Swimming website.
- Clark Hammond is the new Southern Zone Director-Non Coach.
- Jim Sheehan is the new USA Swimming Chair.

2015 Meet Assignments

The chairman recommended that meet managers and coaches contact prospective assigned officials (meet referees, starters, administrative officials) prior to submitting meet letters to Florida Swimming for sanctioning. This might help alleviate the problem of officials being named in meet letters without their prior consent or knowledge.

The committee nominated the following officials for assignment to championship meets in 2015:

➤ Short Course Senior Championship (February 2015)

Meet Referee: Bart Smith
Chief Judge: Roger Deary
Deborah Landis: Administrative Official

➤ Short Course FLAGS (March 2015)

Meet Referee: Deborah Landis

➤ Area 3-5 Championship

Meet Referee: Tim Jacobson

➤ All Star Meet

Meet Referee: Judi Wojcik

Officials Qualifying Meets

Nine OQM's were conducted within the LSC during 2014. The committee recommended that the following meets be designated as OQM during 2015:

➤ Senior Championships (both)

➤ Orlando Grand Prix

➤ Summer Zone Sectionals

➤ FLAGS (both)

The committee recommended looking into the creation of a line item in the budget to cover the travel expenses of visiting National Evaluators. Helen Kelly suggested \$5,000.00

Certified Clinic Instructors

The list of CCI's needs to be updated. Current Policy & Procedures requires that CCI's be certified as meet referees for at least 6 months. Roger Deary believes the BOD can be amended the P & P to allow Area Representatives to recommend CCI's.

Sub-committees

The committee created the following sub-committees:

Apprenticeship Documentation

This sub-committee will work on revising the forms and procedures used during apprenticeship. The committee will consist of: Roger Deary, Jeff Breault, Kay Caldwell, Judi Wojcik. The goal is to have new forms ready by January.

The new apprentice application must be submitted to Steve Plapp, Mark Davis, and Helen Kelly. The prospect may begin their apprenticeship right after they complete the clinic. They do not have to wear the official uniform when they apprentice on deck.

Recruitment/Retention

This committee will focus on the issue of recruitment and retention of new officials. Judi Wojcik will head up the committee.

Training/Mentoring

This committee will focus on training and re-certification issues. Mark Davis will head up the committee.

LSC Certification Levels

Roger Deary and Steve Plapp will work on a pilot program to create a ranking system for officials within the LSC. This will help identify experience officials who may not have sought out national certification but who have demonstrated the skills needed to run meets, etc. Many other LSC's now employ such a classification.

Awards

Melissa Hellervik-Bing and Robert Griffiths were awarded lifetime memberships by Florida Swimming.

Melissa also received the Fred Cruciger award.

Pam Breault received the Al Soltis award.

Future Meetings

Plapp will schedule conference calls for December/February/July. The next face to face meeting may be at the Grand Prix or short course FLAGS.

The meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.