

Officials Committee Meeting

October 1, 2011

Attending: Melissa Hellervik-Bing (presiding chair), Jackie Kenny (athlete rep), Stephan Plapp (A1), Judi Wojcik (A6), Mark McCaw (A5), Matt Wilson, Don George, Thomas Tiedt, Bob Griffiths , Debbie Landis, Pamela Wilson, Stuart Michelson, Jim Kelly, Helen Kelly, Erik Bing

Meeting called to order at 1:10 pm.

Approval of minutes delayed until later.

About 75 officials left officiating this past year. Mostly due to not wanting to re-do certification and/or because their children left swimming. The cost of the background may have played a factor.

LSC Championship meets. Most officials come from Bolles. GSC provides a lot of officials, too. Please encourage officials to work at the Area meets. The briefings at the meets will benefit our officials.

Melissa asked for suggested additions/changes/revisions to the policies and procedures. None suggested.

USA Swimming:

New rule to protect athletes against bullying (includes parents, athletes, coaches).

Protection against false allegations of sexual misconduct against coaches.

Athlete protection officer for each LSC voted down at National Convention due to workload and confidentiality.

USA Swimming has adopted a statement that says that use of audio/video devices are allowed only in certain areas. FL Swimming's statement is stronger, so we will retain our policy.

Discussion of temperature on deck, rule was defeated because of high temperatures in FL, Arizona, and Texas.

Passed a maximum water temperature for open water swimming (about 84 degrees).

Board of review: found an official biased. Went to National Board of Review after his membership was removed. National found that hear-say evidence is admissible, but falsifying information is not acceptable. National said they can't determine which evidence is false. National reinstated him but said that he could not serve as Chief Judge.

Melissa announced that she purchased 18 radios and will be purchasing 20 bells, along with a case to ship them to meets. This was approved at the last board meeting.

Cruciger Award – Steve Plapp

Soltis Award - Diana Wolbright

3 teams in Area 2 that don't have enough officials to host meets. Area 5 has one team short. This info will be posted during the HOD meeting. It was suggested that YCF, Patriots, and Seminoles won't be able to host meets until they have the minimum number of officials. There were several suggestions for incentives for officials to work meets. Host clinics at every meet, post dates of clinics on website, provide food or financial incentives to officiate, coaches must be encouraging parents to become officials and for the officials to work meets (both home and away). Number of officials is about 280 right now.

Discussed the problems with sexual molestation and the need for background checks. Explaining this to officials will help stress the importance of mandatory background checks.

College swimming is now allowing kinesio tape. This is not legal under USA Swimming. If a meet is an observed meet, the info must go into to USA Swimming so that a swimmer is DQ'd for the USA Swimming observation.

Melissa's term is complete, she has been term limited at four years of service. Nominations for new chair and vice-chair of the officials committee:

Matt Wilson – chair

Bob Griffiths – vice-chair

Unanimous vote of approval!

Ding A Ling Award for being championship meet referees – Matt Wilson (Spring SR Champs), Tom Nelson (All Stars), Kay Caldwell (Spring FLAGS), Bob Griffiths (Summer FLAGS), Bart Smith (Summer SR Champs)

Steve Plapp asked is we could centralize the database for officials so there is just one consolidated database. It was suggested that either Helen maintain it or put it on the web through an interface such as GoogleDocs.

Motion to adjourn at 2:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Stuart Michelson