

Report of Administrative Vice-Chair
USA Swimming Convention
September 14 to 17, 2011-09-28

Submitted by Frank Swigon

September 14, 2011:

Rules and Regulations Committee Meeting:

- Discussion of allowable water temperature standards and if the standards should apply to outdoor as well as indoor venues. Also, should the standard be mandatory. The issue will be referred to other committees for study.
- Discussion of need for Athlete Protection Officer on LSC Board of Directors.
- Pool measurement standards and processes discussed. Question the requirement that measurement be made by certified professional as long as USAS standards and processes are followed.
- Long discussion on proposed legislation with regard to Bullying. The sense of USAS is that the organization needs to be proactive on the topic.

Attended USAS Insurance Welcome Reception.

September 15, 2011:

Officials Committee Meeting/Workshop:

- YMCA technical rules are now virtually identical to those of USAS and the online testing group is working with their counterparts in the YMCA.
- The Officials Tracking System on line is now being used by 49 of the 59 LSCs.
- USAS has 12,075 currently registered officials. The national certified officials are as follows:
 - 1,525 N2 or N3
 - 799 N3
 - 196 N3 Chief Judges
 - 193 N3 Starters
 - 184 N3 Referees

- Women in Officiating Report:
 - A survey was taken and the results are as follows:
 - It is important that the organization have excellent officials.
 - An inclusive environment is important.
 - People want useful feedback from mentors.
 - The cost to officiate at championship meets needs to be reduced.
 - People would like personal encouragement and thanks.
 - The National Certification Program is not well understood.
 - We all need to find our own replacements.
 - Most LSC's do not have a formal recruitment and retention of officials.
 - Officials need to be prepared for the next level.
 - Need to change the culture.
- Communications Report:
 - Need candidates for the Maxwell Award.
 - Swim World will publish articles from officials. The maximum is 300 words.
 - Committee will set up an officials blog.
- Education:
 - The education portion of the USAS website for officials is being updated, including the situations and resolutions.
 - The committee is soliciting suggestions on training and education.
- Open Water:
 - Safety is the major issue.
 - Joel Black from North Carolina is the liaison with the YMCA.
- FINA Update:
 - No significant rule changes for the forthcoming year.
 - Two people from USAS have been selected as officials for the 2012 Olympics.
- Rules and Regulations:
 - The rule requiring the initiation of the pullout in breaststroke prior to the butterfly kick is still in place and the call should be made when appropriate. The initiation of the pullout requires a purposeful motion.

- When e-mailing the chair of the Rules and Regulations Committee, please identify the LSC and copy the LSC Officials Chair.
- Athlete Representatives:
 - If a heat is to be delayed due to a swim-off, the participants in the affected heat or heats need to be notified in a timely manner.
- Athlete Protection:
 - The new training module will soon be available and will need to be taken every 24 months.
 - A level 2 background check is initially required and a level 1 check for follow ups.
 - The athlete protection provisions apply to anyone in a position of authority over an athlete.
 - Meet Referees should know the environment.

Governance Committee (member):

- The committee voted to rescind proposed legislation with regard to the size of the Olympic International Operations Committee.
- A compromise was reached with regard to the composition of the steering committee.
- The committee prioritized issues for the forthcoming year.

Attended Southern Zone Meeting.

September 16, 2011:

Burning Issues for Officials:

- Ideas with regard to recruitment and retention of officials:
 - Pay for USAS and other registrations.
 - Have parents shadow officials.
 - Allow officiating to satisfy the volunteer requirements of clubs.
 - Make personal contact when recruiting people.
 - Recruit Summer League Officials.
 - Have introductory clinics during age group competitions for parents.
- Discussion of how to deal with emotional issues on deck.
- Re-submerging-it is not permissible to re-submerge once the surface of the water has been broken.

- Breaststroke: The hands must move prior to the initiation of the butterfly kick. It must be a purposeful act of the hands, not just the fingers.
- The proper sequence of observation is:
 - Observe the body at start and at turns.
 - Observe the kick.
 - Look at the hands and determine if the stroke has been initiated.
- Use text messages to notify coaches of the inclusion of alternates.
- Athlete protection discussion. Call the USAS Athlete Officer if questions.
- Referees should review the safety checklist prior to meets.
- The assignment mechanism for national level meets was discussed.
- Photographers on deck:
 - A “photo zone” can be established for approved photographers. It is confined to the side and turn end of the pool, never the start end.
- The issue of referees making a disqualification call during an event was discussed. The concept of a “venue call” was reviewed; that is, an infraction that is obvious to anyone in the venue, but not seen by the official is appropriate to be made by the referee. Any other call might be deemed as over officiating.
- Administrative official training is available on line, but it is basic and most of the extensive training is obtained on site.
- Some LSC’s have separate certifications for deck referees and meet referees.

Attended Southern Zones meeting.

Attended USA Swimming House of Delegates Meeting.

September 17, 2011:

Attended USA Swimming House of Delegates Meeting.

Attended Aquatics Awards Banquet.