

2012 USA Swimming Officials Training Workshop

Savannah, GA

October 26-28, 2012

On Friday October 26th 2012 Mike Romanowski and I drove to Savannah, GA for the USA Swimming Officials Training Workshop as super storm Sandy was gaining strength along the Atlantic Coast. Amazingly we did not have any weather concerns over the weekend. That evening there was a welcome dinner and icebreaker. There were drawing for door prizes from the Olympic Trials during the dinner, neither Mike nor I won a prize.

Carol Zaleski from FINA/USA spoke on Friday evening, specifically about Olympic moments and the technical committee updates. One of the main discussions mentioned the controversy regarding Missy Franklin cooling down in the diving pool between closely swum races. The FINA updates included the consideration of new starting platforms from Omega for backstroke which will hopefully be trialed in Barcelona in 2013. Aaron Piersol is instrumental in the development of the new platform. Another update considered the use of underwater lap counters from Omega/Seiko at future world meets, finally the Technical Committee looking at allowing **one downward** butterfly kick at any time prior to the widest point of the second arm pull at the start and on the turn. Time was allowed for questions and answers from Carol.

Dan McAllen from USA-S Rules spoke on recent interpretations.

- Implementation of a new rule (timeline, deadlines, voting, etc) prior to using the rule at a meet.
- Deck changing is not allowed and this needs to be stated in the meet invitation.
- Administrative Official is a new position and must be certified. Each LSC will develop its own policy.

Amy Hoopenrath discussed Chief Judge Responsibilities at local meets.

- Breakout sessions in groups of 12-15 to discuss the CJ role at LSCs across the country.
- Suggestion that CJs be used at all meets.
- Suggestion that radios be used at all meets.

Bob Griffiths discussed Deck Referee responsibilities at local and national meets.

Joel Black and Dan McAllen discussed Meet Referee. The 6 P's

1. Philosophy—Leadership
2. Priorities--Athletes
3. Preparation—Meet Director
4. Practical—Common Sense
5. Proactive—think ahead about potential problems
6. Pliant—Flexibility

Melissa Hellervik-Bing discussed Starter updates.

- Always test the equipment
- Relax and consider Body Language
- Hold the microphone cord
- Speak calmly
- Demonstration of use of the Omega Starter Mic and Starter

The meeting concluded with another breakout session during which many topics were discussed: the number of officials required for a local meet, whether or not to have a percentage of officials assigned from the home team before a meet is sanctioned, the use of DQ slips compared to writing infractions on the heat sheet as is done in some LSCs outside of Virginia, use of cameras at national meets to confirm an infraction or disqualification, and the use of such as education for reference, and the suggestion to limit open discussions at stroke briefings.

The workshop was well attended. Almost all LSCs were represented. The speakers were well prepared, the discussions were engaging, and the overall experience was very positive. I was pleased to represent Virginia Swimming at the workshop. Thank you for the opportunity.

Respectfully Submitted,

Will Murphy