

VSI Officials Chair Report
2015 LSC Officials Chairs Meeting
Minneapolis, MN
May 29-31 2015

Rules and Interpretations-Dan McAllen

There have been no major changes since December. There are some changes being proposed regarding deck changing as a whole or in part (drag suits, etc.). A proposal will be presented to completely remove timing adjustment since we are the only nation that uses them. Other countries infer that USA-S just makes up times and the back-ups are just as accurate. Some other things mentioned were there was going to be doping legislation brought, and not allowing people on USA-S ban list on the deck in any volunteer capacity.

Future Meets and N3 Evaluations- Jim Holcomb

Starting next season in Minneapolis, the Arena Pro Series can be used as the National Championship requirement for completing your N3 certification. Once the Futures meets are done, the Officials Committee will discuss how the meets were run and determine if they should be considered also.

Mixed Relay times will begin to be tracked in the national times database. Must have 2 boys and 2 girls.

The new stroke and turn video was distributed and will be shared on the USA-S website in the near future. There was some discussion regarding a new starter video and the consensus was it wasn't need.

FINA- Carol Zaleski

The entire FINA structure was discussed, subcommittees and Carol described the differences between the structure of FINA and FIFA. The backstroke wedges were also talked about and the athlete feedback on them has been positive. Now multiple companies are getting involved in producing.

YMCA-Joel Black

The Y programs had been getting away from a competition philosophy and was gearing their programs to a more everyone swims/everyone wins mantra. The Y was reaping the benefits of teaching swimming but then losing their athletes to USA-S clubs when they were wanting to race. The YMCA is coming back toward competition based teams.

The agreement of reciprocity between the USA and YMCA Officials Committees. Most of it gears itself toward allowing officials that are wanting dual certification to have the proper background checks (USA-S) and clinics(Y's core values).

If you have any questions regarding any local YMCA officials contact your regional representative or if you don't know who that is, contact Joel and he will get you a list of reps.

Ultimately there is a goal to have USA, YMCA and NCAA tracked in OTS but like many things with OTS, time is money when it comes to programming.

Open Water-Sandy Drake

Showed the outline for the National Certification for OW.

- Safety Plan
- Venue- water/wildlife(Hawaii can't have meets 9-10 following full moon because of jelly fish)
- Medical Personal- Onsite and Offsite
- Technical Information- course map and feeding stations
- Technical Meetings require athletes as well as coaches.
- Officials Meetings go over boat protocols and communication
- Pre-Race Check In- Physicals, Chip installation and numbering
- Pre-Race Final Briefing- Changes from Technical meeting

Many races are not sanctioned and you better have private insurance to cover it. If the event does not have an insurance coverage with your name on it, don't associate yourself with the event. Most Zones sanction OW meets.

Administrative Officials-Lucy Duncan

The main difference between an AO and an AR is that the AO has just dry-side training and is not in a position to step in if the MR goes off deck. The Administrative Referee is meant to have both dry and wet deck experience. That being said there is nothing from preventing a Meet Referee from appointing another experienced official, other than the AR, to step in for the Meet Referee if needed.

At this time, there are no plans to have the AO national certification for N2 or N3.

The AO process seems to be working as intended in that the times coming to the Times Coordinator are more accurate.

OQM-Melissa Hellervik-Bing

Went over the process for submitting meets. Make sure the meet is already set up in OTS when the OQM request is submitted, along with intended evaluators. Most of the tools for evaluating are listed in the Education and Training section under Resources and Webinar. The main purpose behind the program is to educate and promote not to discourage officials, especially at the N2 level.

Communication- Jamie Cahn

The role of the LSC officials chair is to be: listener, teacher, student, communicator as well as an ambassador. While doing this they must also be

responsible for; recruitment, retention, evaluations, and arbitration as well as an advocacy.

Recognition for your current officials can pay off in many ways. Creates harmony within the current troops and then helps with recruitment.

- Other topics discussed were
 - Getting Jamie information regarding
 - Training
 - Reimbursement Policies for national meets
 - How Meet Referees are appointed for Champ meets
 - How LSC's appoint/elect their Officials Chair
 - New Officials Workshop
 - Dallas- October 23-24
 - Standards for disability athletes at LSC Champ meets
 - Most use the Can-Am qualifying times

Respectfully submitted
Bryan C. Wallin
VA LSC Officials Chair