

Ozark Officials Committee Meeting

April 30, 2025

Committee members in attendance: Derek Brown, Jeff Heveroh, Mark Imig, Tom Lombardo, Jeff McCoskey, Stephanie Petersen, Susan Samet, Brett Shank

The meeting was called to order by Jeff McCoskey at approximately 6:25 PM.

A new Situation and Resolution document for referees and starters was released earlier this month; Jeff M. handed out copies to each official. He recommended presenting one situation for discussion at the officials meeting before each meet session.

There was a long discussion concerning stipends of \$100 per session for meet referees at Ozark championship meets versus compensation for expenses. The Ozark reimbursement form currently used for officials who work sectional and national meets will be revised to include meet referees at Ozark championship meets. This reimbursement takes the place of the \$100 per session stipend for meet referees. If stipends are chosen the meet referee would need to submit a 1099 tax form any amount over \$600, whereas reimbursements are not taxable. Reimbursements for expenses are limited to 2 meets per year.

The new online certification courses for starter and deck referee are now available on the USA Swimming website. These courses are more interactive than previous training materials.

The Officials Committee started providing Ozark official shirts to all new Ozark officials in September 2024. The committee decided to also provide shirts to established officials who transfer into Ozark LSC. We will continue to give whistles with lanyards to all new referees. We plan to give clipboards to all officials who advance to CJ, starter and referee. We also discussed awarding gifts for achieving specific milestones in years of service, including backpacks for 5 years, pullover shirts or jackets for 10 years, and gift cards for 15 years (\$100) and 20 years (\$200). We also decided to provide new nametags with the current Ozark logo to all current Ozark officials.

Jeff M. asked each team representative about the number of officials on each team, including the number of new officials. Officials coordinators may hold clinics using the USA Swimming online courses to help answer questions during the course material. Currently Ozark has 157 officials, including AOs.

Jeff M. would like Ozark officials to work on using proper protocol when calling false starts. The deck referees and starters should remember that the call must be initiated by the starter, and

nothing should be discussed until dual confirmation of the false start has occurred. There are multiple scenarios explaining correct use of false start protocol in the new Situation and Resolution document. Jeff M. recommended that deck referees talk to the starters about proper protocol before the start of the meet.

Long Course Champs, which will be held July 24-27, will have a new format that includes 50s of each stroke for the 13&Over swimmers, 200s of each stroke and 400 IM for the 11-12 swimmers and 400 Free for the 10&Under swimmers. The meet will now require 4 full days to accommodate these additions. There is concern that it may be difficult to field enough officials for this meet, especially if chase starts are used, since Futures Championships are being held July 23-26. The meet referee plans to send out an officials meet invitation in mid June. The Officials Committee proposed awarding gift cards to officials who volunteer at the meet to help to boost the number of officials. The committee thought gift cards of \$50 for 6 sessions and \$100 for 10 sessions would be appropriate. Jeff M. will discuss this with the Ozark LSC Board.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:40 PM.

Submitted by Stephanie Petersen