

Ozark Officials Committee Meeting

August 19, 2024

Committee members in attendance: Jeff Heveroh, Tom Lombardo, Jeff McCoskey, Cabot Murawski, Stephanie Petersen, Bill Rener, Brett Shank, Susan Samet

The meeting was called to order by Jeff McCoskey at approximately 5:55 PM.

The committee unanimously approved the following officials for advancement:

Referee: Andy Honold – his referee clinic will be held on a one-on-one basis

Starter: Tom Brounck, Elizabeth Granier, Molly Jones and Charnsin Tulyasathien; Kirstin Muran and Luke Muran were previously approved but have not attended a starter clinic yet. The starter clinics will be held in person since there is not an online course yet.

The following officials have requested to advance to Chief Judge: Stephanie Warder, Kyle Orso and Emily Rhodus; no clinic is required.

The following officials would like to attend an AO clinic: Tracey Pawlowski, Riannon Mendoza, Jin Lee, and Emily Rhodus; AO clinics will be set up this fall.

All officials' certifications will now be good for 3 years. Online recertification tests have been updated so only one or two tests are required for each position. Advancement to referee now requires AO certification. Each team has until 8/25/24 to notify the Ozark registrar (Trish) of their intent to renew their current officials' registrations for swim year 2025. All new officials will need to request a link to submit their USA Swimming membership through their team's registrar on or after 9/1/2024 to ensure their USA Swimming membership is valid until 12/31/2025.

USA Swimming has added a new position: Stroke and Turn Junior Official. Swimmers age 16-17 may become certified for up to 2 years starting 9/1/24. Junior officials are not allowed to officiate any session in which they are scheduled to compete.

All new stroke and turn officials can either take an online clinic on the USA Swimming website or attend a clinic in person. A certification sheet from the online or in person clinic and online test results must be emailed to Bill Rener before apprentice sessions start. All requests for apprentice sessions must be approved by Bill and the meet referee, at which time Bill will send an official evaluation sheet for each session. The evaluation sheets are also available online. Each new official must attend 4 apprentice sessions before they can become certified. A formal

evaluation after the apprentice sessions is no longer required. An additional apprentice session may be requested by the apprentice or the mentor officials before certification.

Minimum standards for becoming an open water judge have been updated by USA Swimming. These need to be met before working at a national level open water meet.

Meet referees were assigned for the Ozark championship meets this season. Jeff McCoskey will be the meet referee at A Champs 11/22-11/24/24 at Carbondale, with Brett Shank as backup referee. Steve Grimm will be the meet referee at Division I Champs 2/28-3/2/25 at the Rec Plex, with Tom Lombardo as backup referee. Stephanie Petersen and Susan Samet will be meet referees at Long Course Champs 7/24-7/27/25 at Edwardsville. Jeff McCoskey will check with the technical committee to see if they consider Senior Champs 3/7-3/9/25 at Pattonville HS to be an Ozark championship meet; if it is then Jeff Heveroh and Bill Rener will be the referees.

Stephanie and Jeff M. were not paid for serving as meet referee at Long Course Champs in July. The committee will request payment of \$100 per session for meet referees at all Ozark championship meets.

The committee voted to increase reimbursement to officials who work at national meets. The committee will pay \$500 for a National Championship, Junior National Championship and Open Water National Championship, not to exceed 3 officials a year; \$400 for any Arena Pro Series and Future Championship, not to exceed 3 officials a year; and \$300 for any Sectional and Zone Championship, not to exceed 10 officials a year. Reimbursements to the officials who have worked at national meets this past year were approved.

The committee will start awarding Ozark officials shirts to all new officials, whistles to all new referees, and clipboards to all new CJs, starters and referees. Special nametags will be given to officials after a certain length of service. We also discussed resuming the annual officials' social event and holding a social event for the officials who work at each championship meet at a cost of up to \$500 per event.

Our athlete member suggested that the meet directors consider dropping entry limits for 200 meter long course events since there are so few opportunities to qualify for Sectionals and other national meets during the long course season.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:40 PM.

Submitted by Stephanie Petersen