

Ozark Officials Committee Meeting

March 26, 2024

Committee members in attendance: Derek Brown, Bruce Dreyer, Steve Grimm, Jeff Heveroh, Mark Imig, Tom Lombardo, Jeff McCoskey, Cabot Murawski, Stephanie Petersen, Bill Renner, Brett Shank

The meeting was called to order by Jeff McCoskey at approximately 5:30 PM.

The committee unanimously approved the following officials for advancement to starter:

Al Bardsley, David Green, Nickie Kolovos, Kirstin Muran, Luke Muran, Anna Oldenborg, Kyle Orso, Maya Patterson, Shauna Poggio, Julie Stein

Jeff McCoskey proposed assigning meet referees for the 3 Ozark championship meets: Division 1 Champs, Long Course Champs and A Champs. After discussion we decided to delay making assignments until exact dates for each meet are decided. Senior Champs is not designated by Ozark as a championship meet. The pros and cons of 2 meet referees for a championship meet were discussed.

We discussed the approval process for former officials who have taken time off and want to resume officiating for USA Swimming. We decided that each official will be recommended for return to a specific official position on a case-by-case basis. We voted to approve Patty Graves as a referee after she passes her online referee test and updates her APT, concussion training and background check, since she has been an active referee within the YMCA swimming program. We would like to observe her at a meet before recommending her as a meet referee.

We will continue to make Division 1 Champs an OQM, probably only at the stroke and turn level.

Jeff McCoskey discussed the recent rule changes for backstroke, breaststroke and starters. We also discussed protocol for relay takeoff officials to make a call for an illegal relay start.

We briefly discussed the officials committee budget since it has been underutilized. New officials received meet shirts, and some money was used to reimburse officials who volunteered at championship meets out of town. Suggestions for use of the money included providing whistles to referees and compensating meet referees at Ozark meets.

We discussed the request by area high school coaches to send invitations to USA Swimming officials for observation of high school conference meets.

We discussed the proposed changes for USA Swimming officials training and certification. Jeff McCoskey has a meeting with USA Swimming LSC Officials Chairs later this week, and we will delay making changes to our current LSC official certification process until after this meeting.

The date and location of the next officials committee meeting will be determined by Jeff McCoskey at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:45 PM.

Submitted by Stephanie Petersen