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OFFICIALS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Conference Call April 7, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by Coleman. He read the USA Swimming Mission, Officials Committee Mission, and Conflict of Interest statements. Gwenn took the roll call.

PRESENT COMMITTEE: Coleman Bye, Gwenn Lochstet, Mary Poletto, Rick Carson, Tiffany Epoca, Mike Wigginton, Kylie McMurray

PRESENT STAFF: Mike Seip, Jamie Platt

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Nick Furia

GUESTS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The March 2025 minutes were amended and approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Staff Liaison – Mike Seip

- He reports that there are 196 Sanctioned meets, 41 Approved meets, and 36 Observed meets. Sanction meets are still growing.
- There are bids for 181 meets from 37 clubs for the 2025-26 season so far. There will be a bid host meeting on April 24.
- There are no bids for LC champs yet. The bidding closes on April 15.
- ORDs will need to take the marshal test since they oversee the marshals. There will be a town hall for ORDs at HOD.
- SC Championship wrap up meetings for Seniors, Juniors, and Silvers are ongoing. The Meet Directors and Meet Referees are meeting with Mike to talk about things that went well and what can be improved.

OC Chair – Coleman

- The RR&A working Group will meet this Wednesday. They are putting together best practices and plans to work with all teams to build a process of tracking officials. MA has attracted the attention of the NOC with our large number of officials. Coleman has been asked to co-write an article about it for the NOC newsletter.
- We need to come up with an agenda for the Officials portion of the HOD Meeting on April 26, 2025. Discussion of that will be in New Business below.

Training

- Tiffany reported that the USAS Referee Certification Course went live on April 2nd. MA will only be offering CJ clinics now.
- Recertification of referees will also be on the USAS Referee Certification Course.

OTS

- Mary reported that it had been another quiet month. The recent release had nothing new for officials.
- She hopes that meets in OTS are all caught up now.

Advancement

- Mike W. reported that a few CJ's and ST's advanced following the OTS meet at Seniors. He expects that it will be slow until May.

Secretary

- Gwenn reported that the first issue of the MA Officials Newsletter will come out in May. She and Mary were too busy with championships meets to produce it in March.
- The inaugural issue will be an introduction with general articles that are not too complicated. The newsletter will come out bimonthly on the odd months, in contrast to the NOC newsletter which comes out on the even months.
- Coleman would like to draw up a list of topics and initially to attract articles from officials outside of the OC. But articles from all officials are welcome.

Certification

- Rick revisited the issue of training vs. apprenticeship of new officials under the new NOC Officials Certification Standards.
- After a robust discussion, we determined some action items: we should train the mentors, identifying designated certifiers for the final evaluation; the evaluation form should also be modified to better document the progress of apprentices; we should explore the procedures of other LSCs, especially PVS, to get ideas of best practices.
- Coleman cautioned that it would take time to think through the process of training the mentors and to implement it.
- It was determined that this issue of mentor training should be discussed at the HOD meeting.

Athlete Representative

- Kylie reported that she wasn't at Seniors, but she received positive feedback about it from her friends.
- She will also talk to some younger kids and coaches too to get their feedback on the other SC championships meets.

Coach Representative

- Coleman is working on identifying a new coach representative, who would then need to be voted in.

Old BUSINESS

Updates on Championship Meets

- Coleman has adjusted the SOPs and Leadership Selection process. He will send an email to the selection group to review these changes.
- There was discussion on how to balance the need for fair selections with the potential of personality conflicts. It may come down again to mentoring officials to work well with others under the SOP guidelines.
- We will look at how other LSCs select their leadership teams and seek to glean good practices.

NEW BUSINESS

Officials at HOD Meeting

- Coleman has sent an email to all new officials who are certified under the NOC Officials Certification Standards, inviting them to attend the HOD meeting. None has RSVP'ed so far.
- The plan is to build an agenda for these new officials, filling in any gaps in their training. We should also talk about general things concerning USAS, the MA LSC, and the value of receiving mentoring from experienced officials.

- Selected experienced officials should also be invited to help present to the new officials and also to begin the conversation on training the mentors who will be the final evaluation certifiers.
- The OC will meet again on Monday, April 14, at 7:30pm to flesh out the agenda.
- Coleman requested that committee members send him names of experienced officials that we believe should be invited by noon the next day. He will then send out invitations to them.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is on Monday, May 5, 2025.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

Minutes Submitted by Secretary, Gwenn Lochstet