

OFFICIALS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Conference Call June 3, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm by Coleman. He read the Mission and Conflict of Interest statements.

PRESENT: Coleman Bye, Mary Poleto, Gwenn Lochstet, Rick Carson, Mike Wigginton, Tiffany Epoca, Kylie McMurray, Tom Estep, Mike Seip, Carlos Inacio

ABSENT: Jack Behm, Allie DeFrehn, John Nelson, Larry Schwarz, Rob Jorgensen, Jamie Platt, Mike Petrakis

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The May 2024 minutes were corrected for a misspelling and approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Staff Liaison – Mike Seip

- The LC championships are all set. Meet announcements are posted and there is a link to signup from them. He will talk with Jamie about getting the signup onto the MA website.
- Currently, there are 46 approved meets, 32 observed meets, and 210 sanctioned meets.
- The Eastern Zone Open Water Championships are set for July 22-23.
- They are currently updating the Meet Director Handbook and will work on the ORD handbook soon.
- Changes are coming to the USA Swimming website that will restrict public access to certain resources.

OC Chair - Coleman

- The NOC meeting is on July 3. They are considering recording the meeting in advance to leave more time for discussion and questions at the end. Submit any questions you want discussed to Coleman in advance and he will forward them to the committee.
- The Recruit, Retain and Advance (RR&A) Workgroup is ready to implement their recommendations. They are working on interviewing officials and posting video clips of these interviews on the MA website and Instagram to generate more interest. Jamie will run these videos by legal first to make sure they have the proper permissions to show images.

R9 – Mary and Rick

- Nothing new about R9.

Training – Rick and Tiffany

- Mary has an AO clinic this coming Thursday. There are 4 people currently signed up for it.
- There is no current demand for starters and referee clinics.

OTS – Mary

- Nothing new.

Advancement – Tiffany and Mike Wigginton

- Things are going along nicely but are slowing down for the summer.
- Mike sent a link to the PVS AO evaluation to Mary, Gwenn, and Tom. They all like it and recommend that we adopt it for MA.

Secretary - Gwenn

- Nothing new.

Meet Management - Tom

- Tom is keeping track of all the Meet Referees and Admin Referees for all the LC Championships in a spreadsheet.

Certification - Rick

- Rick continues to have the issue of not getting certain information on the apprentices (address, phone number, club affiliation) when they are taking a test. He will need to work with Jamie to find a better way to get this information.
- Rick got access back to OTS after it disappeared.

Athlete Representatives - Kylie

- Nothing new to report. Kylie is going straight to LC season right now.

Coach Representative - John

- Not present

Web Advisor - Carlos

- Nothing new.

OLD BUSINESS

Migrating from the MA Officials Site to the MA Site

- We must continue to figure out what is needed on the new website.
- We still need to determine the proper levels of Team Unify access to move things over. Coleman will follow up on that and work with Rick and Carlos on that to have something for the July meeting.
- Mike S. indicated that this could be a good project for the tech-savvy summer that is coming.

AO Curriculum

- Mary will connect back to the AO group from the Officials Workshop about working on the AO guide and setting up roundtable meetings.

Preparation for Long Course Championships

- MR's and AR's have been assigned.
- An email was sent out to potential CJ's asking them to work at LC championships. No one has responded. Rick will send another email out.

NEW BUSINESS

Tech Meetings at LC Championships

- Rick wanted to know who oversees Tech meetings at LC championships.
- Mike S. sets up the Zoom link, and the Meet Directors distribute the links to coaches and others in their communications.
- Coleman will reach out to make sure that is done for all three LC championships.

LAC Holiday Cup

- Tiffany informed the committee that Sam Kieffer has asked that the LAC Holiday Cup meet taking place on December 12-15, 2024 be made an OQM meet. To do so, we would have to open it to all officials from other LSC.
- There was discussion about how to prepare Sam to be the Meet Referee at that meet.
- There was also discussion about supporting the meet by providing an AR and CJ's. Mary volunteered to be the AR.
- Tiffany will talk with Sam to make sure that he knows all the rules of being the MR.
- Tiffany asked for recommendations for the evaluator. They may ask Tim Husson again if it is not too soon for him to certify officials again after doing it at SC Seniors. Also, PVS has their NCAP Invite at the same time, and he might be officiating there.

Communication of R9 to the General Membership

- Rick believes we should communicate the initial R9 information and continuing updates to the general membership.
- Coleman will work with him to determine the best way to do that.
- The slides from the referee and AO breakout meetings at the Official Workshop also need to be distributed.

Officials Town Hall

- We will have a Zoom Town Hall for all officials on Monday, June 24, at 7:00-8:00pm.
- Rick will work on the agenda, but it should not be longer than 30 minutes. Items should include R9 and certifications, and the Wallet app.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, July 1, 2024

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Minutes Submitted by Gwenn Lochstet