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OFFICIALS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Conference Call June 2, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm 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, Kylie McMurray, Nick Furia

PRESENT STAFF: Mike Seip

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Mike Wigginton

GUESTS: None

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Staff Liaison – Mike Seip

- He reports that there are 203 Sanctioned meets, 45 Approved meets, and 36 Observed meets so far.
- The meet announcements for Junior and Senior Champs have been posted. The ones for Silver Champs are almost ready for posting.
- The Silver champs at Penn State has been changed to July 23-26, from Wednesday to Saturday, due to a scheduling conflict.
- The Mercersburg pool does not have starting blocks at the far end. Therefore, the 200 relays will not be contested at Senior Champs. Instead, there will be an 800 Free relay. It will be swum in between two sets of heats for the mile. The 50's will start on the block end.

OC Chair – Coleman

- The LC Champs leadership teams have been selected.
 - Senior Champs: Rob Jorgensen (MR), Mary Poletto (AR)
 - Junior Champs: Mike Malmstrom (MR), Mary Poletto (AR)
 - Silver Champs @ PSU: Tom Hoffman (MR), Lisa Serafin (Lead Admin)
 - Silver Champs @ GCIT: Larry Schwarz (MR), MaryPoletto (AR)
- Mary informed us that a few AO's who are working up to DR certification will be working with her during these meets. Hopefully, they will be in the AR pool for SC Champs next season.
- The Officials Sign Up email for LC Champs went out today.
- The RR&A working group will meet on June 11, 2025. They will move forward with plans to support clubs in the Fall, helping them to attract new officials. The group will also work on developing criteria for the "final evaluators" in the certification process. In conjunction with establishing these criteria, they will work on an action plan for the whole process, including how

to give feedback, mentor trainees, and sign off on final evaluations. They hope to include input from the group working on updating the evaluation forms.

Training

- Tiffany stated that there is still only one person interested in CJ training. She is waiting for more before setting up a clinic.

OTS

- Mary reported that it had been quiet since the last new release on April 29th.

Advancement

- Nothing to report in Mike Wigginton's absence.

Secretary

- The initial edition of the newsletter has been sent to Jamie to approve. Once we send out that first issue, we will ask for contributors to write articles on topics that have been identified. We hope that OC and non-OC member will participate.
- The newsletter will go out quarterly. We will monitor to see if interest and need warrant a change in frequency.

Certification

- Rick reported that there was nothing of note.

Athlete Representative

- Both Kylie and Nick are looking forward to the LC season, and they like it better.
- There has not been a call for the Athletes Committee to meet since the December 2024 meeting.

Coach Representative

- Coleman is working on identifying a new coach representative, who can be appointed by the General Chair.

Old BUSINESS

Updating the Evaluation Forms

- The group is working initially to update the forms for S&T and AO.
- Mary showed us a working copy of each form. Some of the features are:
 - All sessions are on one form
 - Added specific evaluation items for the position
 - Added a question about whether the trainee is ready for certification after a particular session
 - A stipulation that the evaluator for session 3 should detail an action plan of improvement for a trainee that is not recommended after that session
 - A QR code that leads to a survey to evaluate the process and/or the evaluator
- Only Coleman will receive the answers to the survey evaluating the process/evaluator, to keep it confidential.
- These forms are up for electronic discussion right now. The group hopes to get them ready for the LC Champs in July.
- They agree that they need to identify a pool of final evaluators to evaluate the final session of a trainee. Perhaps they will allow officials to apply to be these evaluators.

NEW BUSINESS

New Feature on MASI Website

- The website now has a chatbot, which will search for answers to questions.
- In exploring it, Mary discovered gaps in the Officials section. She has gone through each page, cleaning it up.

Increasing Participation in Champs Leadership

- Rick suggested that we send a survey to officials asking why they are not applying for leadership positions at Champs. Coleman offered to talk to Larry Schwarz about crafting the wording for the survey.
- There was discussion on possible reasons for non-participation, including not wanting to commit to the length of the meet or not knowing what the positions entail.
- Mary suggested conducting an information session via Zoom before applications open for the next SC Champs. We can use it to encourage participation and receive feedback from officials.
- Other suggestions for mitigating the problem included extending personal invitations and providing better incentives to the leaders.

Open Water Eastern Zone Champs

- Mike reported that there are over 520 entries for the Eastern Zone Open Water Championships, hosted by the EHT Seahawks at Beesleys Point, NJ, on June 14, 2025.
- Open water officials tend not to be listed with the other officials. Coleman will ask about that.
- Kylie said that she was not swimming at this meet, but she attended the Open Water Nationals at Sarasota. For Nationals as well as the Eastern Zone Champs, no open water officiating experience is necessary, as they offer on-site training.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is on Monday, July 7, 2025.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 7:57pm.

Minutes Submitted by Secretary, Gwenn Lochstet