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OFFICIALS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Conference Call May 5, 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, Nick Furia

PRESENT STAFF: Mike Seip

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Kylie McMurray

GUESTS: None

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Staff Liaison – Mike Seip

- He reported that there are 197 Sanctioned meets, 45 Approved meets, and 37 Observed meets.
- All the bids for 2025-26 season were approved. Sanctioning process begins on June 15.
- LC championships have been awarded.
 - Senior Championships July 10-13, 2025: Hosted by the Chambersburg Chargers at Mercersburg Academy
 - Junior Championships July 17-20, 2025: Hosted by the Jersey Wahoos at GCIT
 - Silver Championships July 24-27, 2025, at 2 Sites: Hosted by Blue Wave Aquatics and Delaware Swim Team at GCIT and Hosted by Nittany Lion Aquatic Club at PSU (outdoor)

OC Chair – Coleman

- Around 20 officials came to the Officials Workshop on April 26, 2025. There were only 3 new officials, but they had a robust conversation about the new Certification Standardization Policy. Important points from the workshop that will be discussed in New Business below. Next year, he plans to invite all the officials.
- He sent an email calling for applications to the MR and AR positions at LC Champs. The Selection Team has been notified, and they plan to meet on May 19 to go over applications. Upon reviewing the selection process, he determined that the selection team did not need to revise the process. They simply need to adhere to it more strictly. Particularly, he wants to contact Meet Directors and Meet host to receive their input concerning candidates. He also hopes they will encourage their officials to apply.

Training

- Tiffany said the LSC is only responsible for CJ training now, and only one person signed up for it. She is waiting until more people are interested before holding a clinic.

OTS

- Mary reported that it had been another quiet month. The only change of note in the recent release is that those recertifying for N3 will now retain their N2 record.

Advancement

- Mike Wigginton reported that there is only one candidate, which he would like Rick to look at also before approving the advancement.

Secretary

- Gwenn and Mary will meet this Wednesday to discuss the first issue of the Officials Newsletter. They hope to send it out later this month.

Certification

- Rick also reported that it has been quiet.
- He is having some issues with the MA database, but most things are good
- He modified the apprentice document, adding and emphasizing that a minimum of 4 sessions are required. He also included a sentence stating that apprentices can apply for certification when they feel able to work on deck on their own. Finally, he included the Professional Official documents for apprentices to view.

Athlete Representative

- Nick was happy with how his SC season ended and looks forward to the LC season.

Coach Representative

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

NEW BUSINESS

Points from the Officials Workshop at the HOD Meeting

- A group of 4-5 people will be formed to revise the evaluation forms. We hope to bring in non-OC members to get their input. Some names were proposed, including one of the new officials who attended the Officials workshop that has significant evaluation experience. They will be contacted. Hopefully, the group can meet and look at adjusted evaluation forms from other LSCs and our former evaluation forms to come up with a viable proposal by the next OC meeting on June 2. The form needs to be operational by the next SC season in September.
- Before the new form is rolled out in the new SC season, it would be good to have a referee meeting to train them in the use of the new forms and how to connect apprentices with mentors. It would also be good to have meetings to train different groups of officials on how to be mentors.
- There was a discussion on final evaluators. It was determined that we should come up with criteria for these officials who will be the one to “pass” and apprentice’s final evaluation. Coleman will come up with criteria and send them to OC members. We will then suggest names of officials to serve in this capacity. This will also need to be in place before the new SC season starts in September.

Junior Officials

- The badges for Junior Officials will say, “Junior Official.”
- Junior Officials can show any picture ID, including their school ID, to work meets.

OQM at LC Champs

- It was determined that we will not offer an OQM meet during the LC championships.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is on Monday, June 2, 2025.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Minutes Submitted by Secretary, Gwenn Lochstet