



ISI Officials Newsletter – October 2018

Welcome to Short Course Season!

From Curtis Witt

I would like to start off by saying thank you for your support through the Officials Chair nomination and voting process. I am very happy to be taking over as the Officials Chair and am ready to serve my fellow officials. I would also like to congratulate Mike Repko and Art Dinkin on their nominations to the Officials Committee as well. We had a great turnout for the vote and many quality candidates. This shows how strong our LSC is at this time with quality officials.

We have had some exciting events over the past couple weeks and have more coming up along with the start of the short course season. Two weeks ago, the USA Swimming Convention was in Jacksonville FL and this past weekend was the Iowa Swimming Symposium. We

had a large number of attendees for the Swimposium and the following day the officials were well represented at the House of Delegates meeting at Des Moines Roosevelt.

This coming weekend we start with the official short course kickoff with our first invitationals. Many of these meets are looking for officials. And we will also have Girls High School Regionals and State. Please check your certifications and complete anything that is coming up for expiration. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to email me at curtis.witt@iaswim.org. I look forward to serving all of you as officials for the next 2 years.

Iowa Swimming “Swimposium”

The Iowa Swimming “Swimposium” was held at the Wellmark YMCA in Des Moines on Saturday, October 6. The majority of the officials’ sessions were covered by David Coddington, a national and international official from Pacific Northwest Swimming with over two decades of experience. The day also included a Safe Sport session presented by Maggie Vail, who has served USA Swimming as the Safe Sport Education Manager since 2014. The sessions were attended by 29 ISI officials, almost all of whom stayed with the officials track the entire day.

Through the course of the day, David covered many aspects of officiating, both wet and dry sides, with information ranging from a basic overview of officiating aimed at newer officials, all the way up to some of the subtle differences practiced by different countries around the world (the USA is the only country to use a raised arm to signal an infraction, and the only country with its own rule book – everyone else uses FINA). With a consistent focus on best practices, he went through the different positions, covering the important role of Chief Judges at a meet, best admin practices, how a good Starter aims for swimmer focused, consistent starts (on a side note, he suggests to try smiling each time before saying “Take Your Mark”!), and he finished the day with a topic new to most of us, Open Water officiating. With his background working at meets all over the globe, David was not short of interesting anecdotes that served to keep the audience attentive and the sessions moving right along.



Maggie brilliantly overcame technical issues to deliver a “PowerPoint free” session on Safe Sport that was eminently positive, thought provoking, and of course, highly topical. The point to be emphasized about Safe Sport is how it has evolved to become far more than merely catching the bad guys, important though that is. The larger focus now is about building and maintaining the kind of safe swimming culture for our kids where the bad guys simply cannot get a foothold.

All in all, the Swimposium exceeded expectations, and was well worth the time spent, even if those chairs weren’t so comfortable by the end of the day! A big THANK YOU goes to all of the organizing committee for putting together such a well run event.

USA Swimming “We ARRE Mentors” Workshop

By Kerry Barnes

On June 22nd through June 24th I attended the “We ARRE Mentors” workshop in Minneapolis. On Friday night there was an introductory session and a dinner to meet and greet everyone. The workshop continued on Saturday with a small assigned group dinner with homework. It concluded on Sunday morning. The focus of the workshop was to be able to evaluate officials in a competent manner and in a constructive and non-threatening way. Seminars were presented by Dan McCallum, Jim Holcomb and Melissa B-H. There were different sceneries discussed with what to do and what not to do. We did some role playing with issues that had

arisen during actual evaluations and how these could’ve been done better. We were given tips on how to evaluate every level of officiating, a session on officiating myths, designing a mentoring program for your LSC and how to be an effective listener and observer. I met officials from all over the country and we brainstormed on many issues. I would recommend that officials that have the appropriate qualifications attend this workshop in the future as it is very informative on many levels. If the Officials Committee is interested in implementing a LSC mentoring program I would be willing to assist.

Breaking News!

USA Swimming just announced the schedule for the 2019 TYR Pro Swim Series. It is exciting to hear that a meet is coming to the Wellmark YMCA in Des Moines on March 6-9, 2019! An officials signup is already available on the USA Swimming website.

Rule Updates

A couple of USA Swimming rule changes were passed at the 2018 US Aquatic Sports Convention recently held in Florida:

- National tech suit ban for 12&U swimmers (except at National level meets), effective **September 1, 2020**. In the meantime, USA Swimming will develop guidelines for compliance.
- 15m mark must be marked on the wall or pool deck, and lane line buoys must be aligned to it prior to the start of the meet, effective **May 1, 2019**.

Reminders!

It’s time to start thinking about renewals and recertifications:

- For everyone – renewal of USA Swimming non-athlete membership
- For about half of us – renewal of LSC certification
- As needed – renewal of APT and background check

Attendance at all Officials sessions of the 2018 Swimposium can be used in lieu of the online test for 2018 recertification.

Iowa Swimming HoD Meeting

The Officials Committee has developed an update to Section G (Officials) of ISI Policies and Procedures. The

updated document adds language regarding the mission, authority and duties of the committee and its members, while at the same time devolving some policies to the control of the Officials Committee. This was proposed for adoption at the Fall House of Delegates meeting held on October 7th, but unfortunately did not pass this time around. It is hoped to bring it back to HoD at the Spring meeting, after identifying and resolving issues that must have caused some delegates to have reservations. However, Section G(a), regarding certification of Summer officials, was approved for deletion at HoD. All ISI officials are already being certified to year-round standards.

Meet Signup and New Officials Clinics

Meet Referees, don’t forget to provide Curtis Witt with a signup link for your meet to be posted to the website! Signup links to officiate meets and for new officials’ clinics are being regularly added to the ISI Officials website:

https://www.teamunify.com/Home.jsp?_tabid=0&team=iaso.

Check links to Meet Sign-Ups and Events/Clinics, respectively, both on the home page.

To start the season, Phil Barnes will be holding an online **Admin Officials clinic on October 30th**, starting at 6:55pm. Please contact Phil at gjpbarnes@gmail.com for details and login information.

A stroke and turn clinic is also planned for October 20th in Decorah. Contact Robert Fry at robertfry@cfu.net for details.



Splash Multisport offers polos, rain jackets and more for officials, embroidered with the new ISI logo: <http://www.splashmulti.com>