



Meeting started 20:00

Roll Call

Committee: Travis Albang, Julie Slater, Jason Horras, Anya Koenigsfeld, Mari Hammel, Robert Fry

Others: Jen Rumping, Doug Renze, Janna Carter, Andrea Kelley, Kirsten Oppel, Phil Barnes, Art Dinkin, Jen Matthews, Jason Wenger, Marie Koenigsfeld, Cam Naylor, Sarah Shepherd, Keith Langner

Adoption of minutes

Minutes from the committee meeting held November 8, 2017 were approved.

Unfinished (Old) Business:

Update to Section G of ISI Code Book for change to AO certification requirements

- Robert and Travis will handle the update to the language, which must be approved by the BoD
- Effective date for the change in requirements will be start of LC season
- *UPDATE – It was noted following the meeting that other certification requirements in the ISI Code Book are also out of date. A more extensive process of revision and review may be needed.*

New Business:

Review of upcoming ISI Championships Meets

- All officials signups now on ISI officials website. This includes both Silvers meets.
- Wellmark YMCA in DSM is on schedule, and is expected to be ready for Age Group Champs

ISI Assuming Hosting of Championship Meets

- This item was tabled by BoD at their recent meeting, so it was not discussed.

New ISI Officials name tags

- These are available now. Andrea confirmed she had been able to purchase one.

Officials Training Clinics

- Eliot working on another webinar for AR/AO
 - Plan to record the next one and post to the officials web site
- Plan to set up E and W side clinics for start of LC season
 - Travis will set up by broadcast email to all trainers
- Need more trainers
 - Can current trainers recommend people?
 - Shadowing - 2 classes minimum requirement to become trainer

Possible Evaluators for LC Champs

- Joanie Beisel DR N3f
- Jamie Cahn DR CJ N3f
- Linda Eaton CJ N3f, AR N3i
- Travis is working to confirm one of the above individuals.
- Nothing firm is agreed yet

- Important to resolve this early as there is more demand for evaluators in the summer.

Budget

- \$4,200 for year
- Travis would like the committee to consider reimbursement for traveling to high level meets?
 - What is the lowest level of meet that should be considered?
 - Olympic Trials
 - Senior Nationals?
 - Junior Nationals?
 - Julie proposed to table discussion of travel reimbursement until awards (below) could be considered
 - It was noted that travel expenses, etc. ,are already tax deductible
 - Committee agreed to table

Expedited AR Process for DR/AO

- This item was re-ordered in the agenda, and discussed before Recognition of Officials.
- Robert would like the committee to consider a formal process
- Don't want to expedite for someone who may not have recent AO experience
- Questions over situation where official has N2 AO national certification:
 - It is normal ISI procedure to remove AO certification when adding AR
 - Does N2 AO immediately become N2 AR or just LSC AR on becoming AR?
 - This will have to be answered by national officials committee
 - Need clear understanding of how N2 AO and N2 AR requirements differ.
 - Phil Barnes will be discussing this question with USA Swimming.
- Further discussion of topic was tabled until we have a response on N2 AO question.

Recognition of Officials

- Service Awards
 - Discussion of the original proposal for service awards was scrapped in favor of more general discussion of recognition
- Celebrations by Officials
 - Travis started by noting that his recent directive concerned only the recent celebrations by officials taking place during meets. There is no problem for officials to celebrate personal achievements or milestones away from the meet venue.
 - Committee members including our athlete members, and others present, each gave their own perspective. Comments were universally in favor of the position taken in Travis' directive. Individual comments included:
 - Do not want to take any action at a meet that could be perceived as inappropriate by others.
 - Need to keep the meet about the athlete
 - Need to be unnoticed on deck.
 - No officials' names should be announced over the PA system
 - Should not care how many sessions have been worked
 - Athletes are at meets to swim. Don't want distraction from officials
 - New officials are often nervous, and may feel intimidated by celebrations.
 - Don't want to devalue other volunteer positions. Other volunteers put in lots of hours, too.
 - Nearly everything we do is based on a culture of restraint, and using discretion.
 - Not everyone wants to work a national deck. The best official on deck is not necessarily the one who works the most.
 - Just volunteer for the benefit of the swimmers. No need to "keep count".
 - Need professionalism on deck. The sport isn't about us.
- Recognition for officials and volunteers
 - Phil Barnes commented that USA Swimming does have a push for volunteer recognition. This includes all volunteers, not just officials.

- Some recognition of officials does take place at national meets within confines of officials briefing room, i.e. with **only officials present**.
- It was proposed to send out a survey to all ISI officials to find out the general sentiment regarding recognition.
- Skepticism was expressed over providing recognition to every official every year (per the original service awards proposal).
- It was noted that awards for outstanding service already exist, e.g. the USA Swimming Maxwell Excellence Award, and the ISI Phillip's Petroleum Service Award.
- Could volunteers be recognized at the annual ISI banquet?
- Aversion was expressed to the idea of an "official of the year" award or similar, as well as to the idea of distributing physical awards.

Any Other Business

Conduct of Officials on Deck

- A situation was brought to the committee's attention, where an official at a recent meet was alleged to have behaved inappropriately on deck by briefly assuming the role of parent, and holding up the meet.
 - Noted that officials **MUST** remain neutral on deck.
 - It was suggested that the incident could be considered a mentoring moment for MR and others.
 - Committee agreed that an email should be sent from the Officials Committee to the individual involved.
 - Robert proposed to add a brief paragraph on official neutrality to the next newsletter.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned about 21:15