

Utah Swimming Officials Committee Meeting

Tuesday December 5th, 2023, at 7:30pm

IN ATTENDANCE: Julie Floyd (incoming chair), Nancy Barton, Connie Christensen, Adelaide G., Erik Harris, Barry Hayden, Lori Onsaе, Carri Oviatt, Tiffanie P., Theresa Werner

EXCUSED: Izabel G.

November 2023 minutes approved and meeting called to order by the committee chair.

Utah Swimming Officials Committee Membership (12 members)

Chair: Julie Floyd	Communication: Theresa Werner
Vice Chair: Carri Oviatt	Mentoring and Retention: Barry Hayden
Advancement: Erik Harris	Open Water: Julie Floyd
Athlete Rep: Adelaide G	Safety: Nancy Barton
Athlete Rep: Izabel G.	Team Liaison: Lori Onsaе
Athlete Rep: Tiffanie P.	Training: Connie Christensen

Officials Certifications and Advancements

- The following advancements and certifications were discussed tonight:
 - One potential advancement was discussed.
- We discussed these at the last meeting (in November):
 - Four advancements were discussed.
- Officials list posted on Utah Swimming will be updated later this week after the new certifications and advancements are added (last updated online 11/10/2023).
- *OTS has new categories: certified, experienced, and mentor (no longer can put in your own as R1, R2, R3). We will need await full updates before changing our officials lists and policies with the new categories.*

New Committee Business

- Julie Floyd is now the new Chair of this committee as of 12/01/2023. Big thank you again to Alicia Simon for her years of service.
- Mike Wynn has rotated off the committee.

Championship Meets

- Short Course Senior State took place November 30 to December 2, 2023, in St. George.
 - Feedback from Meet Ref and Admin Ref: great officiating wet side and dry side overall, meet ran smoothly, there were some issues with there being multiple distance events on day 3 (200 back, 200 breast, 200 fly, and 1650 free), and coaches wanting to turn in relay cards early and not to the designated person at finals prior to each heat.
 - There will be discussion whether to keep this meet in late November versus moving it back to February.
- Short Course Age Group State Feb 29, March 1-2, 2024 (not sanctioned yet).
 - Proposed new three-day event (eliminating the Wed PM distance session this year). We had some feedback regarding the proposed event line up.
 - Theresa Werner is the AR, Mo Schiffman is the MR.
 - UTAGS Meet Committee will be meeting in December 2023 (Theresa and Mo are on this committee).

- We would like to make this meet an OQM for N2 certification for LSC certified officials and utilize Utah mentors.
- Long Course Senior State July 17-20, 2024 (not sanctioned yet).
 - Would like this to be an OQM with focus on N3 certifications. Julie is looking for out of state evaluators.
- Long Course Age Group State July 25-27, 2024 (not sanctioned yet).
 - This is the first time this meet will be happening after Pioneer Day holiday.

National Certifications and Opportunities

- Barry and Theresa will be working at US Para Nationals in Orlando, FL, in December 2023.
- Julie will be working at US Olympic Trials in Indianapolis, IN, in June 2024.

Officials Training and Clinics

- Next zoom trainings will be in January 2024, dates TBD. Carri, Connie, and Theresa will set up dates. Planning on S&T, starter, AO, and possibly new referee clinic.
 - Also encouraged to train other senior officials to teach the course as back up members.
- We will plan to update information on website about the clinics and who should sign up to attend them [ongoing action item].
- Discussed updating final sign off for AO certification should be with senior AO, someone in the mentor category.
- Theresa is working on an advanced AO training class for veteran AOs to attend [ongoing action item].
- Julie is on the national task force to standardize officials training on a national level and will keep us updated.
- *Continue to have set months for officials' trainings, and plan to do them at least quarterly; will continue to do them virtually to allow those from across the state to attend.*
 - *Planned months of offering training clinics: August/September, October/November, January, and April/May.*

Mentoring

- Goals: to get more of our senior officials trained as mentors and utilize our mentors and officials to help recruit more officials for Utah Swimming and more Utah officials working national meet decks to gain experience [ongoing action item, Barry will now be helping with this].
- Julie would like to develop a formal mentoring program for Utah Officials. Carri will send her information from a prior national mentor course. Julie is also a national evaluator.

High School Swimming

- HS Observations now only need backstroke to be observed (IM, Medley Relay, 100 Back). But we have discussed this year to continue to observe all events except for freestyle.
- Connie will work on updating the database instructions with new things noted this year. For example, we need to get each USA Swimmers full ID# entered [ongoing action item].

Upcoming and/or ongoing agenda items

- Policy 4.2 on officials' reimbursements for high level meets previously reviewed. Will plan to add some criteria for who should be considered for funding (those seeking national certification, those working the full meet, those attending met for the first time)
- Nancy will make first attempt at an Officials Newsletter, starting in 2024; Lori would be happy to help with editing.
- Need to place instructions online so that referees know the steps for training (number of hours) and that the officials chair needs to be notified of planned final observations.
- Also Carri has updated our training logs, need to review and get these posted.

Theresa has set up upcoming meetings as a recurring Zoom meeting (closed meeting on the 1st Tuesday of the month).

Next meeting Thursday January 4th, 2024, at 7:30pm via zoom. (moved to Thursday given many out of town for New Year's)