

Utah Swimming Officials Committee Meeting

Thursday January 4th, 2024, at 7:30pm

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

EXCUSED: Adelaide G.

December 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:
 - Three were discussed.
- We discussed these at the last meeting (in December):
 - One was discussed.
- Julie will check with USA Swimming about granting OTS access to Erik for advancements. All advancements will continue to be discussed at committee meeting.
- Erik will start monitoring OTS for officials that will be close to advancement, and they can be invited to attend a training clinic (i.e. after 12 sessions as S&T an official could be invited to attend starter clinic and start training for starter).
- Officials list posted on Utah Swimming will be updated later this week after the new certifications and advancements are added (last updated online 12/12/2023).
- *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 plans to reach out to each committee member for feedback on their role and what works well and ways to improve our committee.
- Julie will address the board next week about forming a steering committee to get Open Water swimming started in Utah.
 - Our committee athletes will survey athletes to see what the interest is from our Utah swimmers for Open Water. Julie will work on a google doc survey to send out to athletes.
 - May be more feasible in Southern Utah as the altitude in Salt Lake City may be getting too high for open water swimming.
 - 9-10 1000m, 11-12 2000m, 13-14 3000m, open for 5000m for possible events.
 - Would try to combine with other LSCs to cost share an event.
- Chair was notified from an official about an interaction with a coach and we discussed professional conduct on deck and ways to remind officials and coaches about this.

- We had discussed a monthly or quarterly officials update email to send out, and Nancy and Lori will continue to work on the first draft (which can include letter from the chair, new advancements and certifications, rules update, etc.).

Championship Meets

- Short Course Age Group State Feb 29, March 1-2, 2024 (sanction out for review).
 - Proposed new three-day event (eliminating the Wed PM distance session this year).
 - Heather Hale is MD, Theresa Werner is AR, Mo Schiffman is MR, Erik Harris is meet starter.
 - We would like to make this meet an OQM for N2 certification for LSC certified officials and utilize Utah mentors. Julie will work with Barry and then officially apply to make this an OQM.
- Long Course Senior State July 17-20, 2024 (not sanctioned yet).
 - Would like this to be an OQM with focus on N3 certifications. Julie has secured our out of state evaluators for this meet.
- Long Course Age Group State July 25-27, 2024 (not sanctioned yet).
 - This is the first time this meet will be happening after the Pioneer
 - Day holiday.
- *Short Course Senior State took place November 30 to December 2, 2023, in St. George.*
 - *There will be discussion whether to keep this meet in late November versus moving it back to February.*

National Certifications and Opportunities

- Barry and Theresa worked 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 finalize dates this week. Planning on S&T, AO, and new referee clinic.
 - We will plan to update information on website about the clinics and who should sign up to attend them [ongoing action item].
 - Will require final sign off for AO certification with senior AO, someone in the mentor category. We will update the training log to reflect this.
 - 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.

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 is now 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.

Other 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 meet for the first time). Will need to develop a plan for set reimbursements for officials, which is also dependent upon our budget.
- 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.
- Julie will work with Carri on officials website update.

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

Next meeting Tuesday February 6th, 2024, at 7:30pm via zoom.

