

Officials Report

Maine Swimming HOD Meeting

May 2022

- 2021-2022 continued to present challenges for the officiating crews due to COVID-19 and lack of USA-S meet opportunities. Statewide, registered and active officials saw a significant uptick from the previous year, but still down ~20% from historical highs (which isn't too surprising given lower swimmer numbers overall).
- Winter Champs 2022 was a great success – not only in being able to run a larger physical meet, but also in officials' participation, learning opportunities, and motivation for the 2022-2023 season.
- The Official's Committee is already planning for the 2022-2023 meet season, including hosting Summer Champs at Colby, the likely return of the Bowdoin Open, and the Winter Champs.
- Priorities moving forward are:
 - o Continue remote clinic training indefinitely. This has proven to be a convenient and very effective learning method for new and renewing officials.
 - o Better define and create more opportunities for on-deck training (e.g. shadows) at all levels. This will likely include the introduction of a simple skills checklist and/or assessment with the aim of creating consistency across clubs / pools.
 - o New LSC "Associate Meet Referee" role will be introduced in the Fall 2022. This will allow for more local meets to be hosted without having the need for a fully certified LSC Meet Referee on hand. This new position is based on club feedback and is a practical need given Maine's wide geography.
 - o Working with clubs and coaches to increase interest in parents becoming officials. We are seeing significantly lower parent engagement numbers in the 12 and under age groups; this group will be the focus for new officials recruiting. Ideally, each club should have at least the minimum number of officials.
 - o Continue advancement of existing officials to create meet role redundancy and personal growth/interest.
- Financially, the 2021-2022 Officials budget came in under budget with ~50% remaining. For the 2022-2023 season, the same budget is being requested that will primarily cover, but not limited to: a) continued outfitting of officials with new MESI shirts (we did ~1/2 in 2022), b) replacing some aging or new equipment to meet USA-S expectations, c) officials promotion materials to recruit new interested parents, and d) items to support Champs meets.

Thank you!

Henry Clauson

Maine Swimming Officials Chair