

These minutes will be officially approved by the Metropolitan Swimming Officials' Committee during the August 7, 2024, meeting.

Metropolitan Swimming Officials' Committee Minutes
May 8, 2024 / Virtual

CALL TO ORDER

Ken Graham, Co-Chair, called the May 8, 2024, Officials' Committee Meeting to order at 7:06 PM with the following members in attendance:

PRESENT

Jennifer Bancroft, Julie Chen, Wilhelmina Dwyer (joined 8pm), Tyler Gallub, Ken Graham, Andy Kass, Phil Paspalas, Ron Sommer, Darryl Strabuk, Allen Wone

ABSENT

Elaine Ang, Ann Fosteris, Kate Hallex, Ryan Wagner

Co-Chair Ken Graham called the meeting to order. No agenda was provided for the meeting.

MOTION: *To approve the March 12, 2024, Official's Committee meeting minutes. Seconded. APPROVED.*

Mr. Sommer pointed out a minor typographical error, minutes were corrected and redistributed.

Officials' Travel Assistance

Mr. Paspalas discussed that the proposals submitted to the Board of Directors to increase the Officials' Travel Assistance budget has been sent back to the Committee to be re-worked with the Finance Committee Vice Chair.

MOTION: *To create a subcommittee, chaired by Allen Wone, to update the Officials' Travel Assistance budget. Seconded. APPROVED.*

Discussion ensued. Mr. Paspalas commented that the subcommittee will need to look at the meets qualifying for reimbursement, the number of meets and maximum amount a single official can be reimbursed in a given year. He also proposed an increase to the budget every 4 years for Olympic trials. Multiple committee members stated that reimbursement amounts have not increased, while the cost for travel to elite meets has increased. Comments were also made that officials who are exposed to high level meets bring back their knowledge to the LSC as well as something that could be used as a recruiting tool to bring more officials into the LSC.

Ms. Bancroft noted that with the lack of agenda, there were tabled agenda items from the March 12, 2024 Officials' Committee meeting that needed to be addressed.



These minutes will be officially approved by the Metropolitan Swimming Officials' Committee during the August 7, 2024, meeting.

3/12/24 Agenda Item 5. USA Swimming R9, Section d. OTS tracking and remediation

Discussion ensued on the topic of OTS restrictions and the new features that exist in OTS allowing meet referees to run reports for their assigned meets and add an additional official, who can update meet information. Mr. Sommer raised the issue that as area chair, he is still unable to do necessary maintenance in OTS regarding officials, giving the example that he is unable to change members to apprentice officials or to certified officials.

MOTION: *Upon completing the required apprentice sessions, and receiving the required number of evaluations certifying satisfactory performance for the position, the Advancement Coordinator will advance the candidate from apprentice to certified official, based on the satisfactory rating of the certifier. Seconded. APPROVED*

Discussion ensued regarding OTS and the promotion of apprentice officials. Several examples, both hypothetical and real, were presented regarding apprentices evaluations. The question should an apprentice should be promoted, if one evaluation stated that the apprentice did not observe a certain situation during that evaluation period, but was marked satisfactory by the certifier and meet referee. A question was posed about not certifying apprentices stroke and turn officials unless all 4 evaluations showed satisfactory results for all check boxes, including observing relay take-offs. A lengthy discussion was held regarding the direction R9 has provided to get new officials on to the deck in order to increase the ranks, continuing the education of newer officials once they are on certified on deck, the possibility that apprentices could not be advanced for months because of the lack of relays in the post-Covid swim meet. A separate question was raised as to what the definition of "satisfactory" was, and how does the Advancement Coordinator advance an apprentice without having consistency and confidence in what certifiers consider satisfactory. A point was brought forward that all the certifiers in the LSC are at least N2 if not N3 in most of the positions they are certifying, and that the National Certifications of the LSC certifiers should give the Advancement Coordinator the confidence to promote apprentices. A point was brought forth that the evaluation template clearly defines the requirements for positions, and it is the opinion of the certifier that the apprentice understands and executes the duties of the position on deck. The question was called and the motion passed.

Ms. Bancroft noted that it was 8:52pm, and the minor athletes attending the Committee meeting needed to be excused under Safe Sport rules



These minutes will be officially approved by the Metropolitan Swimming Officials' Committee during the August 7, 2024, meeting.

MOTION: *To excuse the minor athlete members in compliance with Safe Sport. Seconded.*

APPROVED.

Mr. Gallub and Ms. Dwyer were excused from the meeting at 8:55pm, with the thanks of the committee.

3/12/24 Agenda Item 9, New Business, a. Application Process for Senior Mets Lead Assigned Team

Discussion ensued on what the process was for determining the Meet Referee and Administrative Referee for Senior Mets, which needs to be decided relatively quickly as the meet is being held on July 11. Mr. Sommer suggested creating a few starter/referee teams of officials not requesting national evaluations, in order to give newer officials the chance to experience a championship meet. Mr. Wone and Mr. Graham commented that national evaluations required a certain number of sessions and deck rotations, which make having multiple starter/ref teams harder. Mr. Strabuk questioned if Senior Mets would be an Official Qualifying Meet. Mr. Graham answered that they are working on securing a National Evaluator. Discussion continued on what time of OQM the LSC could hold. Ms. Bancroft commented that it was May 8, with Sr. Mets being held in two months, the committee needed to decide if they were going to vote and appoint a meet referee, or open the position to an application process. Mr. Graham suggested a discussion of candidates amongst the committee. Mr. Strabuk asked what process was in place to put forward candidates. Ms. Bancroft noted that the conversation was going to be discussing names of individuals with in the LSC, which needed to be done in closed session.

MOTION: *To enter a closed session, for discussion regarding individual LSC members. Seconded.*

APPROVED

The committee entered a closed session at 9:00pm and returned at 9:20pm

MOTION: *Officials' Committee members will email the Co-Chairs names of nominees for the Sr. Mets Meet Referee no later than May 12, to be curated by the Co-Chairs, and presented to the committee for voting. Seconded. APPROVED*

The question was called and voted on with no objections, the motion was approved.



DRAFTDRAFT DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT

These minutes will be officially approved by the Metropolitan Swimming Officials' Committee during the August 7, 2024, meeting.

MOTION: *To hold a special meeting of the Officials' Committee on May 15, 2024 at 7pm for the purpose of voting on the meet referee for the July Sr. Mets meet. Seconded. **APPROVED***

The question was called and voted on with no objections, the motion was approved. Ms. Bancroft will notify the Metro Secretaries to enter the Special Meeting on the calendar in compliance of the 5-day meeting notice.

ADJOURN

Ms. Bancroft made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded. **APPROVED**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21pm.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Jennifer Bancroft
Communication Coordinator

