

Officials Committee Meeting
Florida Swimming Annual Meetings
Howey-in-the-Hills, FL
October 6, 2012

Present: Matt Wilson (chair), Bob Griffiths (vice chair), Stephen Plapp (Area 1), Judi Wojcik (Area 6), Ellen Johnson, Melissa Hellervik-Bing, Corey Stein (athlete), Caleb Hudak (athlete)

Meeting called to order at 9:20am

Matt summarized and reported on the workshops that took place at the National Convention. Described the use of the Professional position documents as the model for training and that the mentoring/evaluating at OQMs are meant to be educational. Discussed the Open Water Development committee meetings and the safety issues surrounding such events.

Matt discussed the changes to the rules, as passed by USAS HOD. It was the opinion of the Officials Committee that deck changing be discouraged rather than prohibited. It was decided to wait on the definition of Administrative Official by the National Committee before any suggestions would be developed by the LSC. Matt outlined adoption of Athlete Protection Policies that include mandatory requirements for clubs to establish anti-bullying and social media policies.

Recertification update: About 40-45% of the LSCs officials have completed the requirements for LSC recertification. Matt asked for Area Reps to send him a list of dates for the clinics. They will then be posted on the Officials page of the Florida Swimming website.

Current official count is 313, which is 8% fewer than the previous year. Major reasons for quitting officiating included the cost of registering and background check, as well as the additional steps needed to be an official, including APT testing and background checks.

Background Check portal is now open. Officials are encouraged to double-check they're selecting "renewal" vs. new background check when re-upping on their background checks.

Award Winners:

Al Soltis: Amy Moring, JCLA

Fred Cruciger: Judi Wojcik, TCSC

Maxwell Winners:

Melissa Hellervik-Bing

Bob Griffiths

Grady Steele

Deck mentors are encouraged to make sure Stroke & Turn apprentices are being taught how to do relay take-off judging, writing DQ slips, notifying swimmers of infractions, the role and responsibility of chief judges and radio protocol. It was decided S&T apprentices should not be required to attend meets away from their home pool, although it's strongly encouraged.

Area Reps need to identify key team official leaders to help communicate with apprentices the process for getting them information on how to volunteer at meets and who the point of contact will be.

Should a certification level of Deck Referee/Non-Starter be offered as suggested by the national committee? It was firmly believed that certification and assignment as a starter needed to continue before becoming a deck referee, as the skills learned were too crucial to the success of the future deck referee.

Stephen Plapp motioned that certification numbers be eliminated. Judi Wojcik seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

It was motioned by Judi Wojcik that the Florida Swimming Certification Card would reflect who the Certified Clinic Instructors for each of the four certified positions (Stroke & Turn, Starter, Deck Referee, Meet Referee). Bob Griffiths seconded the motion. Passed unanimously. CCIs would then be able to “sign-off” on any apprentice for the position which the CCI is certified to instruct. Suggestion on identifying deck mentors was also discussed. CCIs would then be responsible for notifying the host Area Rep of all attendees to the clinic, and the Area Rep would then be required to send the information to Bob Griffiths. Matt will create a process description for the FL Officials Committee Policies & Procedures that describes the CCI role and the requirements for providing position clinics.

New Business: Recruitment suggestions included Area Reps contacting teams/coaches for opportunity to address parent meetings to explain the process of becoming an official. An Area 1 team has now required all families to volunteer at the team’s meets or face stringent fines. Officials are sometimes exempt from the volunteer requirements. That team policy has strongly increased the number of officials on its team.

Matt accepted a motion to adjourn from Stephen Plapp. Motion seconded by Judi Wojcik. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Hellervik-Bing