

SES Officials' Committee Meeting Notes – 23 Feb 2013

Attendees: Walter Smalley – Officials' Chair, Members - Larry Alexander, Donna Williamson, Area Representatives – Stephanie Nadeau, Ronette Jones, & Dave Smith, and SES Senior Vice Chair Coach Greg Davis. Missing were member – John Molchan, Area Reps – John Fellows and Chris Martin and Athlete Representative – Kelly Berger of CTA.

Items Discussed: New Requirement for Administrative Official at swim meets, the SES Meet Referee selection process, Official clinics at SES Championship meets and SES Officials' minimum standards.

1. Administrative Official (AO) – During the 2012 USAS Sports Convention, the Rules & Regs Committee laid on a new requirement for swim meets – an additional position of Administrative Official. This position will be required at all swim meets starting September of 2013. It cannot be accomplished by the Meet Referee or an active Deck Referee, although if a referee was not currently engaged on deck, they could fill the AO position. It will be a certified position, so the member will have to be certified under USAS, have passed a level II background check and completed the Athlete Protection Training (APT). Any meet using an Administrative Referee will not be required to also fill the AO position. The USAS National Officials' Committee produced a description of this position in January 2013 and its associated requirements and produced a guidelines for an AO clinic which will be required.

The SES Officials' Committee added this position to our Minimum Standards list and had it added to our SES web site in January. We have also created a PowerPoint presentation for a required clinic. Any individual filling this position will have to meet the following requirements:

- Be a registered member of USA Swimming
- Pass the USAS Administrative, Timer, Timing System and Clerk of Course on-line tests
- Apprentice a minimum of four sessions at an USAS sanctioned meet under an Experienced Referee (more than one years' experience as a Referee) emphasizing the use of the timing system used, the meet management software used on the meet computer (currently Hy-Teks' Meet Manager 3.0/4.0) the role of the clerk of course and how to recognize timing system errors and the best method of correcting them.
- Attend an Administrative Official clinic
- Our discussion covered our concerns on the impact on individual clubs, especially smaller clubs on filling this position and having enough certified officials to be legal to run swim meets. Those clubs with multiple Referees can use one of them to fill this position as long as they are not also filling the role of Meet Referee or Deck Referee for that session. We feel that the most logical person to become the AO is the club's current Meet Director. They are already registered with USAS, have completed the APT and will need to upgrade their background check from level I to level II. Anyone can fill this position without also being a stroke & turn official, but it is a certified position, certified by our Officials' Committee and tracked within the USAS OTS (Officials Tracking System). We will consider waiving the required apprentice sessions for those individuals that have been performing this function at their club's swim meets. This also includes coaches that would like to become the AO for

their clubs; however, any coach desiring to fill this position must also be registered as an official so their activity can be tracked within the OTS. Our Registration Chair, Tom Healey, can simply add a check mark under 'Official' to a coaches current non-athlete registration.

- Once certified, the AO will be certified for three years, then will have to retake the four tests and attend another clinic.
2. The Southeastern Bylaws, Article 601.2, states "The objectives and primary purpose of SE shall be the education, instruction and training of individuals to develop and improve their capabilities in the sport of swimming". Additionally, Article 607.2 2.B states "The Officials Chair shall chair the Officials Committee which is responsible for recruiting, training, certifying, and supervising officials for SE. The Officials Chair shall be a referee certified by SE and each member of the Officials Committee shall be a certified official of SE."
- Considering the above charge by our Southeastern Bylaws, we have decided to continue our long term practice of offering referee, starter and stroke & turn clinics at our championship meets, beginning with our 2013 long course championship. We feel that we can reach a large number of officials that are required to attend clinics during these meets. We understand and share the concern of a few coaches that an official might hear something in a clinic, then go on deck with that in mind; however, since stroke briefings are a part of each session, the likelihood of someone making a call based upon what they heard Saturday morning (the stroke & turn clinic day) is slim to nil.
 - We have tried for many years to work with our coaches and address their concerns and will continue to do so in the future. We have adjusted our Officials' Committee to fully comply with the Southeastern Bylaws. We will continue actively pursuing our goal of instructing, training, certifying and supervising officials for SE.
3. We also discussed the criteria and selection of the Meet Referee and Administrative Referee for our Southeastern Championship meets. Since we are certified under the USA Swimming's National Officials' Committee, we believe that the task of certifying officials for different positions and roles within Southeastern LSC is ours alone, and as such, we will continue to nominate an official as the Meet Referee and one as the Administrative Referee for Southeastern Championship meets. We will discuss our selection with the Chair of Technical Planning and with the host club Meet Director. But ultimately, the choice of Meet Referee and Admin Referee will be ours. Below is the selection criteria that we used for selecting the two individuals for our Short Course meet in February 2013 and which will be used in the future.
- Meet Referee certified for prelims/finals meets (indicated by a certification level MR-EX)
 - Ability to work all sessions of the meet
 - Previous experience as an Administrative Referee/Assistant Administrative Referee at a SES Championship meet
 - Previous experience as a Team Lead Chief Judge/Chief Judge at a SES Championship meet
 - Regular participation as an official in Southeastern meets during the previous year

4. The bottom line behind this determination is our desire to provide the quality of officials in the top leadership positions that will have the greatest chance of leading to a successful championship meet. We feel that we are singularly able to utilize the OTS which tracks the meets/sessions worked and the actual positions worked for all USAS sanctioned meets, and this combined with our personal observations of all our officials will result in the best persons selected.

Walter Smalley

SES Officials' Chair