

SOUTHEASTERN SWIMMING FALL MEETING 2007 OFFICIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

**There was an Officials Chair Meeting in San Antonio in June, 2207
Report Officials Chair Meeting:**

- 1. Introduction to the new members of the National Officials Committee.**
- 2. Discussion on recruitment and retention. Presented the results of studies that questioned why officials have left officiating. These reasons included “no swimmers left“, rude peer officials”, “it was no longer fun” etc.**
- 3. Presented the new proposed video on Starting and asked for feedback both positive and negative. The video is now available through USA Swimming for purchase.**
- 4. Introduced the new procedure that evaluators at certified N2 and N3 meets will use starting at the end of the summer. Basically the evaluator will be given an access code to the USA swimming data base and will fill out evaluations on line. This will eliminate sending the paper reports to Member Services who then input the evaluations into the data base. This will also allow any official (who has submitted a request to be observed) to view their evaluations if they have not had the time for a face to face meeting with the assigned evaluator during the meet.**
- 5. During lunch on Saturday, the Southern Region Chairs met with Clark Hammond, Southern Zone Chair, to talk about our individual LSC needs and prospective meets within our zone.**

There is an official’s workshop scheduled for October 12-14, 2007 at the Hilton St. Louis Downtown Hotel. Each LSC may send a maximum of two persons who have never attended a workshop and have been a referee for no more than two years. After applying for and receiving the funding through the General Chair the officials committee members were asked for suitable candidates from their geographical areas. We are pleased to be sending Chris Brown from Memphis and Tara Davis from Brentwood to the clinic. I will submit a report at the Spring Meeting on their experience.

At the Long Course Championship in July, the Officials Committee decided that assigned positions would be filled by promising younger officials to give them more experience in a championship setting. Our more senior officials were assigned to stroke and turn or mentoring positions for Starters and Referees. This was a very successful experience for these future leaders and we hope to continue this program. Officials who would like to have assigned positions at the Spring Short Course Championships need to sign up for at least 6 out of 7 sessions to be considered.

Trish Mitchell has retired from the Officials Committee but will continue in her Top Sixteen position on the Board. We thank Trish for all of her work on behalf of the East Tennessee officials. No replacement has been considered yet by the officials committee. We also welcome Clark Hammond back to the Officials Committee. He will work with the Middle Alabama area officials.

I would also like to thank the other members of my committee for all the work and teaching they do on behalf of Southeastern Swimming. These include;

- 1. Larry Alexander – East Tennessee**
- 2. Walter Smalley – West Tennessee**
- 3. Ronette Jones – Middle Tennessee**
- 4. Clark Hammond - Northern Alabama**
- 5. Dennis Thorp – Middle Alabama**
- 6. John Molchan – Southern Alabama & Northern Florida**
- 7. Dave Smith – Northern Florida –**

Dave Smith and Walter Smalley became certified as N3 Referees (National Championship Referees) this Spring. Congratulations!

Report submitted September 23, 2007

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