

## **Officials Committee Report**

February 9, 2026

- The Officials Committee met in early January, highlights of that meeting are
  - Dayna Gripp will be working with Tracy Haling to update the Officials Manual which includes best practices for each officiating position.
  - The OC made the choice to go with a less expensive shirt this year in exchange for other participatory items for the officials.
  - Funds generated through the King Ropes hats will be used to fund 2 \$500 awards for senior athletes to be awarded at the HOD meeting. The OC hopes to continue these fundraising efforts to recognize and support Wyoming Swim athletes. Dayna Gripp will be creating a sub-committee to design the selection process for the athletes to be recognized.
  - Typically the OC meets once per quarter for 1 hour. It has been found that the 1 hour time limit only allows for sub-committee reports and barely enough time for new business. This schedule will change over the next few months to allow for new business to be discussed.
- Typically in the past observation of High School Conference Meets was left up to the host high school. Unfortunately as turnover has occurred in coaches and athletic directors very few high schools request this. Over the past girls and boys HS seasons the OC has taken more of an active role in this process by first defining a set of best practices for all observing officials to follow and also recruiting local officials to cover the conference meets. All four boys conference meets were observed this past weekend.
- The OC Committee has hosted or is going to host various trainings at the end of January and beginning of February.
  - “I’m new and I’m lost-occurred on 2/5 with 25 people attending. This focused on giving those new Stroke and Turn judges the information that is outside the rules like where to find information, how the flow of a DQ works around a championship meet, how governance side of officials in Wyoming and USA-S is structured, future paths of officiating and what to expect.
  - Chief Judge at an age group meet vs Championship Meet. This will be held Wednesday 2/11. This will focus on what is expected of a chief judge at the typical weekend meet vs the expectation and duties at a championship meet. This was identified as a need by Luke Havens as many of the new ST officials begin to transition into the CJ role.
  - Referee Roundtable will be held Thursday 2/12. General discussion amongst the referees. Specific points to be discussed will be certifications, back stroke ledge best practices and continual mentoring.
- There is an increasingly high number of uncertified coaches and others that are appearing on exception reports prior to meets. Everyone has ample time, opportunity and notification to complete these requirements. Best practices for handling those who are not certified, or do not show as certified (with the gold

check mark) in SWIMS will be discussed at our referee roundtable. I have conferred with USA-S and have been advised that referees should not allow anyone on deck without having SWIMS show them as approved. If you are not approved and feel you should be, please contact Mary Ellen immediately. There will also be discussion forthcoming with the SafeSport Committee and the Governance Committee if formal P&P are required regarding this issue. Until then, please make sure you have the gold check mark in SWIMS prior to stepping on deck.

- Congratulations to Luke Havens who was selected to be part of the Chief Judge Team at Boise Sectionals in March.