

USMS Officials Committee
Conference Call Meeting Minutes - Amended
April 10, 2011

The Officials Committee meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM EDT by Chair Charlie Cockrell.

Members present: Pat Baker, Kathy Casey, Dave Diehl, Sandy Drake, Marilyn Fink, Judy Gillies, Steve Goldman, Clark Hammond, Leon Kief, Caroline Lambert, Fred Pigott, Mary Pohlmann, Sandi Rousseau, and Ed Saltzman.

Unable to attend: Lee Carlson, Charlie Kohnken, and Eric Nordlund

1. 2011 Nationals Preparation

Mesa (SC)

Preparations are going well with 1800+ entries and 2 pools. The longest day is slated for Saturday at 11 hrs. Those who entered a sixth event will be permitted to swim it. A few additional S & T Judges are being signed up to add to the ~ 38 officials who have already committed; this will provide additional relief capabilities.

Officials will meet each morning to review rules and discuss differences between USMS and USA-S rules.

The meet has been designated as an Official Qualifying Meet for USA-S officials.

Auburn (LC)

Applications to officiate have gone out. Clark Hammond will serve as Meet Referee, and hopes to draw in officials from Georgia as well as Alabama to work the meet.

Automatic splits will be submitted for official time consideration.

For future national meets, tThe meet host, meet and administrative referees, Championship Committee, and Officials Committee need to be involved in discussions to determine whether or not automatic splits will be submitted for official time consideration. (It was subsequently decided that automatic splits will become a condition of future meet contracts.)

The meet will be designated an OQM for USA-S officials.

Mesa & Auburn

\$1800 has been budgeted by the Officials Committee for each National Championship Mmeet Director to discretionarily use to provide for travel expenses of officials from outside the meet area, ~~and whose expenses are not funded by the meet host.~~ The Meet Referee will forward a list of the officials receiving stipends to the Officials Chair, who will approve the reimbursements upon receipt of the appropriate paperwork from the officials and then forward

such approvals to the National Office for payment. Meet hosts should submit request(s) for reimbursement to Charlie C.

2. 2012 Nationals Officials for Omaha (LC)

The plan is to make the meet referee, administrative referee, and core management team assignments in a week or so. There may or may not be difficulties recruiting officials, since it isn't known whether local USA-S officials will be used for Olympic Trials (rendering them unavailable for the USMS meet), or if most OT officials will come from out of the area (making local USA-S officials available to work the USMS meet).

Officials Committee may need to increase the budget amount for LC Nationals since it is conceivable that there may be fewer local officials available, resulting in increased expense to fund more from out-of-town.

3. Pacific Certification Process

The proposed Certification of Officials process proposed by Pacific Masters LMSC was presented. The main point of discussion revolved around the number of sessions needing to be worked.

MSA to approve the Pacific Masters process for Certification of Officials as written, with the apprenticeship requirement being clarified as to 3 criteria: #1 – 2 meet sessions are the minimum, #2 – meet sessions are comprehensive in covering all 4 strokes, relay takeoffs, and the majority of situations in Rule Book Articles 102 & 103, and #3 – positive recommendations are received from the 2 different meet referees/mentors/trainers. If positive recommendations are not received, the LMSC Officials Chair will determine what additional training is required.

4. General Certification of Officials Discussion

An action item to discuss further at convention is the adoption by USMS of a backend tracking process of certified officials.

Officials certification guidelines and tests are nearly complete and will be posted on the USMS website under Guide to Operations-Officials when ready.

In some areas, finding officials for meets is becoming more difficult because they don't want to have to deal with complaints about such things as music playing during the meet.

Major components of the officials' certification process should include the USMS guidelines, clinic(s), test(s), and apprenticeship(s). LMSCs have flexibility in how these areas are addressed.

5. Convention Officials Workshop

Charlie C. may be unable to attend the 2011 convention, so would like a volunteer to present an LMSC Officials Chair Workshop similar to the one from last year. Judy volunteered, but would like an additional committee member to work with her.

6. Actions to Update LMSC Operations Manual

The workshop briefing and pre-meet briefing notes have been updated. Please contact Charlie C. if you have any feedback. Both will be posted on the USMS website in the near future.

Charlie has not received any feedback (+/-) on the updated qualifications for officials.

7. Roundtable

The Rules Committee is presently dealing with one confidential issue.

Someone is needed to spearhead LMSC officials chairs conferences and serve as liaison to LMSC officials chairs (like was done a few years ago). If interested, please let Charlie C. know via e-mail.

Should a token of some sort be offered to new LMSC officials chairs who attend convention? Likewise, should something be offered to those who are unable to attend convention?

For the 2012 Nationals in Omaha, \$7500 for travel for officials has been placed in the Championship Committee budget, so the Officials Committee doesn't need to include this request in its own budget.

For future nationals meet referees, it might be good to make arrangements for them to visit the site (if they are not local officials) to evaluate the layout of the facility (have Officials Committee/Championship Committee/meet host fund their attendance at a meet at the venue prior to nationals). With Auburn and Greensboro there should be no problem with the meet referees' familiarity with the sites. Omaha will be problematic since the pool will be a temporary facility. When hosts for the 2013 nationals are selected at the 2011 USMS convention, the Officials Committee/Championship Committee/meet host may need to coordinate visits for out-of-town meet referees and fund such visits through their budget(s).

Next Meeting

The next conference call meeting is tentatively scheduled for early/mid July for a progress report on the Auburn nationals, Pacific Masters Officials Certification program update, and the LMSC Officials Chair Workshop at convention. Tentative date is July 10 (alternate July 17) at 8:00 PM EST.

This meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM EDT.

Marilyn Fink
Acting Secretary