

Committee Name: Officials Committee	Session #: 2	Report #: 1
Committee Chair: Edward Saltzman	Vice Chair: Pat Baker	
Minutes recorded by: Marilyn Fink	Date/time of meeting: June 10, 2012 8:00PM EDT	

Motions Passed:

1. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes (02/19/12)
 2. Greensboro Officials Committee Liaison Report Accepted
 3. Committee agreed to modify the existing stipend policy to cover part time officials.
- None: quorum not met

Number of committee members present: 4 **Absent: 11** **Number of other delegates present: 1**

Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair):

Members present: Marilyn Fink, Fred Pigott, and Steve White.

Members absent: Pat Baker, Charlie Cockrell, Nan Destafney, Judy Gillies, Steve Goldman, Leon Kief, John King, Caroline Lambert, Mary Pohlmann, Sandi Rousseau, and Erin Shields.

Ex-Officio members (absent): Kathy Casey, David Diehl, and Clark Hammond.

Summer Nationals Meet Director (present): Tom Boak

Minutes

The Officials Committee meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM EDT by Chair **Ed Saltzman**.

I. Greensboro Liaison Report Review

Ed stepped in as liaison for Charlie. The meet was successful and ran well. There was a good turnout of officials, from NC, OH, TN, TX, MN, GA, IL, FL, and WV. Several officials swam and officiated. For the most part, officials worked 40 minutes on/20 minutes off. Initially, the host forgot to secure radios and bells for distance events, but was able to procure them for subsequent days. Officials were well taken care of – complimentary hotel rooms were provided, travel expenses were covered beyond what USMS funded, NC officials living outside of Greensboro received \$50 transportation stipends, and a social/cocktail hour was hosted. The meet was a positive, enjoyable experience for the officials.

A copy of the Championship Committee liaison's report for Greensboro was not received by the Officials Committee chair. **Requested and received post meeting.**

Greensboro Liaison Report Accepted.

2. Omaha Status

Tom provided updates on the Omaha meet. Things are well in hand, and Meet Referee Jacki Allender is doing a fabulous job. As USMS underestimated the impact that USA Swimming Olympic Trials would have on the pool of officials and other volunteers for the meet, there has been some difficulty filling officials' slots. There are currently 13-15 non swimming officials per day, plus 4-5 swimming officials. Ten 2-way radios have been procured for the administrative personnel, and 16 headsets used during the Trials will be available for use by deck officials. Bells and lap counters will also be available from the Trials. Three to four more hotel rooms still need to be reserved for officials. Backup watches and timers won't be necessary since a video backup timing system will be used. The video timing system records 100 frames/second, and will be reviewed by the administrative referee as needed to determine official times. It is uncertain how late touches will be flagged and times adjusted, or how intermediate splits for official times will be determined if a touchpad fails. The starting blocks that will be in place don't have an intermediate step, so deck marshals (1 for every 2 lanes) will need to be aware of the difficulty this may pose for some swimmers.

There are approximately 1260 meet entries, a significant response. The 6th event will not be dropped, and the timeline puts the meet ending each day before 6:00 PM.

The meet host is funding airfare and lodging expenses for 2 officials, and the Officials Committee's budgeted stipend will be used to cover as many of the remaining officials' expenses as possible. Officials working Omaha will be bringing receipts to the meet so the paperwork can be started and reimbursement expedited. Travel expenses not covered by the meet host or USMS stipend may be submitted to Tom or Jackie for consideration of reimbursement.

As meet hosts have started becoming more desperate for officials and have started using more swimmers who also officiate, two issues have arisen. The first is the difficulty in trying to schedule officials around the events they are swimming. The second is the expectation that full reimbursement for travel will be received. Ed suggested the committee consider a policy for partial reimbursement, perhaps based on a percentage of hours worked per day or during the meet. Or, the commitment to at least one full day's work as an official. Some LMSCs fund/partially fund swimmers who also officiate. Perhaps they have guidelines for determining amount of reimbursement. Ed will pursue discussion on this with the committee via the forum.

3. 2013 Liaison Assignments

Consideration of Officials Committee liaisons for the 2013 National Championship meets is beginning. If interested in serving as the liaison for the Spring Nationals in Indianapolis or the Summer Nationals in Mission Viejo, please let Ed know.

4. Rule Change Year – Discuss rule changes

Ed will filter out the rule change proposals that impact the Officials Committee, and disseminate to the committee for discussion.

5. 2013 Budget

Ed is preparing the Officials Committee budget for 2013, to include the National Championship meet stipend, administrative supplies, and the rollout of training. It was suggested that the meet stipend be increased. See discussion of meet stipend under item 2 above (regarding officials who also swim). Ed will follow up with the committee.

6. Web Site – Documentation

Ed (with his wife's assistance ☺) has begun to set up a website for the Officials Committee and its functions. It is designed to be a repository for officials information, committee operating documents, forms, rules differences, rules changes, officials training materials and tracking of training, photos, projects, and calendars.

7. Forum - open to LMSC Officials Chairs

Ed emailed the LMSC Officials Chairs to offer up access to the Officials Committee Discussion Forum in order to obtain information, post questions, etc. A handful of LMSCs responded and requested access.

8. Training Program – USMS Officials

A. How to Launch / Roll out?

B. Administration – how to support and track?

C. How to identify USMS Officials – card, pin, badge?

D. Quick Cross Over Requirements

Ed would like to see the training program rolled out prior to convention. Nan Destafney from SE has volunteered to lead the effort. Ed suggested a subcommittee be formed, and indicated that the webpage may be a good launching point for this project. Some areas to consider are how to track officials training, qualifications, and meets worked; how to acknowledge who certified officials are – via pin, shirts, patches, badges, etc.; and how to modify training for officials currently certified by another certifying body but who would like to become USMS certified.

Steve White has offered to be part of subcommittee. Other interested individuals should contact Ed.

9. Training - USMS O/W Officials

Training for Open Water officials has also been requested. It may not need to be a separate training/certification program, but a modified one that includes Open Water issues.

10. Roundtable

Ed will be communicating with Officials Committee members to start getting traction on the issues that need to be addressed.

Next Meeting: Ed will notify the committee of the next conference call meeting date and time.

This meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM EDT.

Marilyn Fink

Acting Secretary
