

Trip Report
USA Swimming LSC Officials Chairs Meeting
17-19 June 2011 Kansas City, MO

1. I attended the USA Swimming LSC Officials Chairs Meeting in Kansas City, MO, 17-19 June. Thank-you to the BoD for the opportunity.
2. I arrived Friday afternoon, checked in, registered, and attended the Dinner and Open Forum. Mostly, we just got acquainted with those we didn't know, ate, and participated in the raffle (didn't win anything).
3. On Saturday we conducted the formal program.
4. Dan McAllen and Carol Zaleski spoke about Rules and Interpretations. Dan talked about questions he's received since taking over as the Rules Chair:
 - a. Arm/leg bands are illegal. These are usually elastic or rubber that compress the limb, not jewelry.
 - b. 2 caps are legal, always have been.
 - c. Tape is only allowed for valid medical reason. Kinesio tape is never legal.
 - d. Head first touch in Butterfly is illegal.
 - e. Dan discussed false starts – nothing new.
 - f. Resubmerging in all 3 strokes with 15m rule is illegal; once the head breaks the surface, swimmer must stay on the surface. This interpretation now brings us full circle back to the way we were calling it in the mid-late 90's before we were told we were wrong. Carol said it's always been this way. The Situations/Resolutions say otherwise and will (hopefully) be corrected.
5. Carol Zaleski and Joel Black spoke about FINA and YMCA. No rules changes are expected in this cycle. Joel will become the new YMCA Officials Chair upon Ed Miller's retirement. We need to work with the Y to develop reciprocity procedures and dual clinics/training/certification. I will set up a task force to recommend a course of action.
6. John Kinney spoke about Open Water Officiating. He discussed the report on Fran Crippen's death and the resulting legislative changes. Obviously, much more emphasis is being mandated on safety.
7. Amy Hoppenrath presented the results of the Women in Officiating Survey. The task force learned that there really wasn't a significant problem regarding women in officiating, but that most issues/concerns were about officials in general. The task force will now focus on Excellence in Officiating. What the task force concluded from the survey results:
 - a. Everyone wants excellence in officiating. They are looking for quality officials, regardless of gender.
 - b. Everyone wants to feel included – a part of the group.
 - c. It's about mentoring, not evaluating.
 - d. Everyone wants to find a way to reduce the personal costs of working Championship level meets.

- e. Everyone wants to be personally thanked for their effort.
 - f. Most officials don't understand the National Certification Program.
 - g. All of us need to find our replacements (recruiting).
 - h. Most LSCs don't have a formal program for recruiting, retaining, and promoting officials.
 - i. We need to prepare our officials for the next level.
 - j. We need to look at what we're doing to change the culture.
8. Melissa Helervick-Bing spoke about mentoring, training, and advancing officials. The National Certification Program needs to be more about mentoring and training officials. She has developed a webinar to use to help develop mentoring abilities in our Evaluators. The list of N3 Evaluators is being pared down. More officials need to take advantage of the program.
 9. Bob Griffiths spoke about the Officials Tracking System (OTS). He said most LSCs were using the system. The enhancement list is long and they will be working on them in priority as staff time and budget allows. Bob demonstrated some of the LSC features and showed how to use the reports generator.
 10. We had a breakout session during which we discussed LSC Officials Committees organizations / selection, Chair term limits, championship meet staffing, recruiting/retention, reciprocity, mentoring, OW meets, and OTS use in our various LSCs.
 11. We had dinner on our own.
 12. On Sunday morning, we had another breakout session during which we discussed certification / recertification requirements, travel expenses policies, and mentoring activities in our various LSCs.
 13. Finally, we reconvened to report on our discussions.
 14. It was good to get to see those chairs I already new and have worked with before and to meet the new ones. We had a good exchange of information and ideas. Virginia Swimming is in good shape when compared with the other LSCs. We all are struggling to recruit / retain officials, staff our meets, and achieve consistency in our officiating.