

Committee Name:	USMS Officials Committee	Session #:	1	Report #:	1
Committee Chair:	Edward Saltzman	Vice Chair:	Pat Baker		
Minutes recorded by:	Marilyn Fink	Date/time of meeting:	June 14, 2015 via Conference Call		

Motions Passed:

- MSP, based on returns from the recent officials recruiting survey, that the Officials Committee begin work on a certification program to be used to train officials (unanimous vote).**

Number of committee members present:	11	Absent:	8	Number of other delegates present:	0
Committee members present:					
Edward Saltzman, Chair					
Patricia Baker, Vice Chair					
Brian Albright					
Marilyn Fink					
Michael Moore					
Alina Perez de Armas					
Teri White					
David Diehl					
Kathrine Casey, Ex Officio – Rules					
Sandi Rousseau, Ex Officio – Championship					
Chris McGiffin, Ex Officio – Executive Committee					
Members/others absent:					
Tom Cox					
John King					
Al Ness					
Mary Pohlmann					
Jeff Sargent					
Herb Schwab					
Laura Hamel, Ex Officio – Editor					
Jim Holcomb, Ex Officio – USA Swimming Officials Chair					

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

1. Review of 2015 USMS Spring Nationals – San Antonio

The liaison report was posted on the Discussion Forum for the committee's review. The meet ran well, the officials did a great job, and only 1 complaint was received about too much noise at the start of the relays.

2. Planning status for the 2015 USMS Summer Nationals – Spire

Pat reported that 15 officials have committed so far to work the meet; 7 are local officials. Fifteen rooms have been designated for officials (funded by the meet host), with 5 more rooms available for other meet personnel. If funds are available, some air fare may be covered.

3. Brief discussion about changes to Officials Committee Stipend Fund

The Officials Committee currently budgets \$2000 towards expenses for officials and \$500 towards expenses of the meet liaison at each of the National Championships. The \$4000 in funds that was budgeted to send a US official to the 2015 FINA World Masters Championships (no US official was requested/selected) has been split to provide additional funds for officials at each of the 2015 USMS National Championships; \$1000 was applied to the Spring Nationals and \$3000 will be applied to the Summer Nationals.

Data will be collected for officials staffing and stipends from the last 5 years of National Championships in order to come up with approximate figures for covering transportation and lodging for officials. There was general agreement that the OC budget might need to be increased significantly to recruit officials for these meets.

4. Report from OC Recruiting Task Force/Brief review of OC LMSC Officials Chair survey

The Task Force sent out a survey to LMSC Officials Chairs to gain input on the status of availability of officials in the different LMSCs. Forty replies were received; 11-15 said their LMSCs are experiencing pain in trying to recruit officials. The need is still present for the Officials Committee to assist the LMSCs. (Survey results are posted on the USMS Officials Committee Forum)

The Task Force will now focus its short term goals on helping LMSCs attract officials (e.g. compiling and disseminating approaches that work for LMSCs successful in recruiting officials). In the longer term, the Task Force will look towards assisting in the development of a USMS official's certification program.

5. Report from OC Certification Task Force

Preliminary documents for training/certifying officials have been developed, reviewed, and posted on the Discussion Forum. Additional tasks include developing the content of the training program, developing a mechanism for tracking officials who are/become certified, and deciding whether or not USMS membership will be required for USMS-certified officials. Options for reducing a membership fee, having no fee but a "registration" process, having LMSCs fund USMS membership, and charging a fee for the certification training and making the first year a complimentary membership to encourage officials to join the following year were also discussed, without a consensus being reached. It was also suggested that officials certified through USMS be provided a copy of the rulebook, that there be a way to ensure communication with certified officials for the exchange of general information as well as for updates on rule changes, and that the USMS National Office administer the ongoing maintenance of the program once it is in place.

6. Next Steps

LMSCs having issues with recruiting officials will be contacted to see what the OC can do to assist (e.g. list of suggestions, list of available officials, etc). The results of the survey will be pulled together and sent to the EC.

A lively discussion ensued as to whether or not the development of a certification process was worth the time/effort if only a quarter to a third of the LMSCs are likely to use it. **MSP, based on returns from the recent officials recruiting survey, that the Officials Committee begin work on a certification program to be used to train officials (unanimous vote).**

Ed will begin discussion on the Forum to develop a blueprint for the certification training plan, including PowerPoint training, test development, and drafting of other documents. Discussion will continue there.

The Recruiting and Certification Task Forces will continue to work in their respective areas. The Certification Task Force will meet on 6/18/15.

7. OC member participation in upcoming events

A few committee members indicated they will be attending the Summer Nationals. Most committee members indicated they will be attending convention.

8. Next Meeting

The next conference call is tentatively scheduled for the first two weeks in July.

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 PM EST.