

Minutes of the USMS Officials Committee
September 12, 1996, Orlando, Florida

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM by Chairman, Hugh Moore, with introductions of those present. The attendance sheet is attached.

Hugh reviewed committee activities of the past year including: attending the USS Officials Seminar in Colorado Springs in October, 1995, completion and distribution of the Officials Certification Manual, distribution of 1500 "business cards" with pertinent information for officials, distribution of quarterly newsletters to all LMSCs, and proposing rule changes.

The committee discussed use of meet reports. Some LMSCs are using the meet report that was distributed last year. Hugh will update the report to include information on DQs and distribute the sample report again with the next quarterly newsletter. The "business card" will be updated to include any changes made at this convention and a revision date. Each LMSC will receive a combination of laminated and non-laminated cards.

The Officials Certification Manual will be a continuous project requiring annual updates of the manual. Hugh expressed interest in involving San Diego-Imperial in the update process since they have been certifying their own officials for a number of years. Bobbi Turcotte from San Diego-Imperial volunteered to work with Hugh on developing a common manual. A sub-committee comprised of Meg Smath, Bobbi Turcotte, Jan Kavadas, and Hugh Moore will work on updating the manual.

The following goals were established: in two years submit a rule change requiring that all officials at national championships be certified; in four years submit a rule change to require that all officials at all meets either be certified or in training; continue to improve communications with all LMSCs and with USS at the national level; within four years Officials chairman established in all LMSCs; and within two years all LMSCs establish liaison with their USS counterpart.

The FINA Masters Officials list and the selection of officials at Sheffield were discussed. It was agreed that the committee will be more pro-active in encouraging and selecting nominees in the future. A minimum requirement of being a certified Referee will be required for nominees.

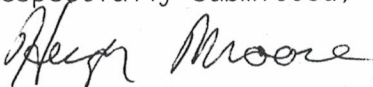
A panel consisting of Mike Moore, Judy Gillies, and Bill Koerber will write articles for SWIM magazine with an emphasis on educating swimmers regarding rules. Hugh asked everyone to forward articles on officiating to him so that he can distribute them to all LMSCs.

The committee discussed the problem with Referees at different meets interpreting the rules differently. The concept of an "interpretation board" was presented. Officials would forward questions on rule interpreting to the board. The board would issue a decision on questions referred to them that would be distributed to all LMSCs. Hugh will talk with Tom Boak, USMS Rules Chairman, regarding establishing an "Interpretation Board".

The committee discussed proposed rule changes and agreed to minor wording changes to R20, which was originally submitted by the committee. The committee opposes R5, which would phase out allowance of breaststroke kick since the rule would require that Stroke and Turn Judges check ages of all butterfly swimmers.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Hugh Moore, Chairman