

Report to the Board November 9, 2009

Attached us an excel spreadsheet showing Officials clinics given this fall. A total of 15 clinics have been held so far. The numbers are impressive with 268 attendees (200 initial certifications for the various positions and 68 recertifications). Particularly striking are the 22 attendees at new referee clinics which should help take the strain off the unattached officials.

In addition to the fall clinics, a total of 176 officials indicated that they would sign up for PVS at the various summer league clinics (129 of these are initial stroke and turn candidates). If all these potential officials actually start working meets, we should see fewer meets that are short of officials.

November Open

I worked the Saturday morning session of the November Open as Deck Ref and have some comments.

- a. Timeline: A 15 second interval between heats is insane for younger swimmers at the beginning of the season.
- b. I think it necessary for coaches when training swimmers to dive off the blocks, to also teach them the meaning of the three (3) chirps and the one (1) long whistle. Approximately 20 percent of the 9-10 swimmers did not ascend the blocks with the long whistle. This not only delayed the starts but caused confusion.
- c. Senior coaches should impress on their junior coaches that they have the responsibility to see that their swimmers know what heat and lane they're in and not send them behind the blocks two events early. I had several swimmers come up to me and try to find out which heat and lane they were in. One was named Michael Kim; unfortunately there were two Michael Kim's in the meet (one CUBU and one MAKO).
- d. This meet should not accept deck entries. Combined with the short timeline, this led to much confusion behind the blocks.

Now for the positive

We had a swimmer with an obvious disability. The coach did it right. She came to me and informed me of the accommodations that were requested, she gave me the events, heat, and lane. She went with the swimmer to the blocks. The swimmer left her wheel chair, got on the blocks and started with everyone else. Lacking legs, she swam 50s in the 100-yard events and 100's in the 200-yard events. Since she couldn't push off with legs in changing from back to breast, she swiveled and pushed off with her hands; then went into a legal arm motion. The other swimmers seemed to take it in stride and there were no problems once I realized I had to tell the colorado operator (new) to finish arm her lane after her last turn. I think it was an excellent learning situation for coaches, swimmers and officials. I think it was fortunate that I had worked several disability championships and knew more what to expect than some of our other referees. This will be discussed at our Officials Committee meeting tomorrow night.

Submitted by Boots Hall