

**REPORT – 2010 Officials Training**

**Workshop – Minneapolis, MN**

**May 14-16, 2010**

Virginia Swimming Attendees:

Jeff Sheffer

Michael Sizemore

### **Day 1 (May 14)**

- I. Registration, Reception, Dinner
- II. Burning Issues Discussion

### **Day 2 (May 15)**

- III. Swim Officiating – Coach and Athlete Perspective
- IV. FINA – How it Works, Rules Updates
- V. USA-S Rules: Recent Interpretations, FAQs
- VI. Chief Judge at Local Meets
- VII. Deck Referee
- VIII. Meet Referee
- IX. Starter
- X. Breakout Session Discussions

### **Day 3 (May 16)**

- XI. Butterfly Stroke Rule Interpretation
- XII. National Certification & Working National Meets
- XIII. Questions & Answers
- XIV. Wrap-up

## **Day I**

### **I. Registration, Reception, Dinner**

Jim Sheehan opened the event by welcoming all the representatives from the LSCs in attendance. He also introduced the USA-S team that would be facilitating the workshop. USA-S presenters included: Joel Black, Jeannine Dennis, Lucy Duncan, Bob Griffiths, Dan McAllen, and Carol Zaleski.

### **II. Burning Issues Discussion**

Jim Sheehan picked several of the situations and questions that were presubmitted for the workshop to discuss during the session after dinner.

> Background Checks for Officials – This topic stimulated a lot of discussions from the various LSCs represented. There appeared to be a strong consensus to have background checks on officials. Several LSCs including California and Arizona had implemented background checks for swimming officials. Some LSCs were opposed to the background checks (mainly due to cost) and other LSCs were undecided. USA-S does not have any plans to implement mandatory background checks for swim officials. USA-S is expecting the LSCs to make a decision on whether this is warranted or not.

> Are DQ slips a requirement for LSC meets? This topic stimulated considerable discussion as well. Most LSCs indicated that a DQ slip is a requirement. A couple of LSCs have run lower level meets without DQ slips. In order to do this, they utilize the DQ log extensively and require the meet referee to sign off on the disqualification. Swimmers are notified of the disqualification and coaches get copies of the log. USA-S panel thought this practice was acceptable and may be warranted if officials are in short supply. The “key” is to have a mechanism in place to account for the DQs and make sure coaches and swimmers are appropriately notified.

> Should new officials be involved in Championship meets? This was another “mixed” discussion. It is important that new officials are trained and mentored and so this appears to be a logical progression. The thought was that “new” officials should be under a mentor during the Championship meet so that they learn the difference in protocol at this level of meet.

## **Day II**

### **III. Swim Officiating – Coach and Athlete Perspectives**

Paul Lundsford – Head Coach and Laura Drake – Swimmer from one of the local Minneapolis area swim team participated in this discussion.

The perspective of the coach is one of control or “dictatorship”. The coach is in control the majority of the time telling swimmers what they need to do. Officials

need to be aware of the “coach” mentality when they engage a coach. Coaches are not used to listening to someone else tell them that something has not been done correctly. Good coaches are passionate about their kids. Paul suggested the following tips for dealing with an upset coach:

- 1) You can't have a constructive conversation if both of you are yelling at each other. It may require stepping away for a few minutes for things to settle down. It is important to get back together and discuss rationally.
- 2) Attacking tends to entrench and it's better to use honey than vinegar.
- 3) It is okay to check back and strike up a conversation with a coach once things have settled down. Coaches do not want hard feelings on deck.

Coaches and officials are both working for the same cause. Each is trying in their own way to help the swimmers. Paul expressed his deepest appreciation for all officials and the time that they devote to the sport. He recognizes their contributions and efforts.

Laura also wanted to express her appreciation for officials. Her experience with swimming has been a very positive one and it is a sport that she loves. Her request of officials is that they make every effort to let the swimmer know that they have been disqualified as early as possible. Laura noted that this may not be appropriate for younger swimmers and the coach is probably the person that should break that news to the swimmer. She thought older swimmers should get this information first hand from the official. NOTE: Many LSCs in attendance have the official deliver the DQ information to the swimmer.

#### **IV. FINA – How it Works, Rules Update – Carol Zaleski**

Carol Zaleski is the Chair of the Technical Swimming Committee for FINA, Olympic swim official, and the first female Olympic deck referee. Carol blended her presentation with a mix of information and Olympic officiating experience.

According to Carol, “The Olympics are just another swim meet. They swim a lot faster, but it's just another swim meet. What they really need are some age group mothers to go show them how to run a swim meet.” Carol went on to talk about FINA which is not only responsible for international swimming but all other international water sports (synchronized swimming, polo, etc.). FINA is made up of member countries that have one vote on any rule or protocol changes. Carol discussed how USA-S nominates officials for the Olympics and the selection process involved.

As far as rules go in competitive swimming, the dolphin kick in the breast stroke is still a burning rules issue. Carol would prefer to see the kick removed from the stroke. FINA is also still discussing how it might use underwater video during competition. Presently it is not used for any ruling, only as a mentoring/teaching tool.

Carol's final words were: "As a volunteer you should have fun. If you ever feel like its more work than fun you should find something else to do with your time."

## **V. USA-S Rules – Recent Interpretations, FAQs – Bruce Stratton**

Bruce Stratton is Chair for USA-S Rules and Regulations Committee. Bruce started his presentation by discussing USA-S rules changes. USA-S typically follows FINA with any rule changes/interpretations. The rules are stated in a manner to be clear in interpretation.

The current burning issue with respect to rules interpretations is due to the rule changes for swimsuits. The current FINA approved list is posted on the USA-S website.

- The three important requirements for a swimsuit are: coverage (male – navel to knee and female shoulder to knee); woven textile fabric (must be permeable to water and air); no zippers. Assume the suit conforms unless further visual inspection indicates otherwise.
- USA-S Open swimming swimsuit rules change June 1, 2010.

Bruce noted that the must do rules are embodied in the rulebook within the technical rules section (100 series rules). The other rules are administrative and should be adhered to as much as practical. These rules are more "guidance" and provide the referee with latitude to handle situations and run a meet. You need to use "common sense" with any interpretation. Also any specific rules defined in the meet invitation must be followed.

Bruce discussed the following common questions with rule interpretation:

- Backstroke finish – underwater submersion. Finishing underwater is not the concern. It is whether the swimmer was submerged during the swim prior to the finish. This is where the "technical" rules apply. If the S&T judge observes a swimmer submerged (prior to shifting their eyes to observe the touch), then it is a disqualification during the swim and not the finish.
- Breaststroke – insertion of the dolphin (butterfly) kick. A single dolphin kick may be inserted after initiation of the first arm pull. The arm pull is initiated by any outward/lateral or downward movement of the hands. The arm pull does not need to be continuous. A breaststroke kick must follow the dolphin kick.
- False Starts – this prompted several questions.
  - If a swimmer comes down to assume the start position and loses his balance and goes into the water ---- this is not a false start. The swimmer simply lost their balance.

- If a swimmer moves before the button is pressed and then comes back to a stationary position when the button is pressed ---- this is not a false start. The swimmer did not get a competitive advantage at the time of the start.
- Backward motion can be considered a false start depending on the circumstance. If a swimmer is still drawing back and has not set, then this is a starter's mistake (swimmer is not allowed to set). If all swimmers are stationary, and someone moves forward or backward as part of their starting motion prior or at the initiation of the start, then this is a false start.

NOTE – Bruce has posted FAQs on the USA-S website in an effort to further provide help and guidance to officials on scenarios and rules interpretations. The USA-S website will be updated ~ May 18. Please check it out.

Also, the deadline for submitting proposed rules changes is May 15<sup>th</sup>. Rule changes submitted by this date only require a majority vote to be passed by the House of Delegates. After that date, a proposed rule change will require 90% of the vote to pass.

## **VI. Chief Judge at Local Meets – Lucy Duncan and Bob Griffiths**

Bob Griffiths is on the USA-S Officials Committee and has primary responsibility for National Certification.

Lucy Duncan has a broad officiating background. She has officiated Olympic Trial meets, National meets, LSC meets, NCAA meets, and Masters Swim meets.

Lucy and Bob utilized a PowerPoint presentation during their Chief Judge talk. The Chief Judge is the “Right Arm” of the Deck Referee. The Chief Judge is the primary interface between the Stroke & Turn judges and the Deck Referee. Very experienced S&Ts typically serve as a Chief Judge. Chief Judges should “always” be used at meets when practical to do so. The Chief Judge can function and handle many different assignments. Typically the CJ handles the Officials Briefing and deck assignments. The CJ receives direction from the Deck and/or Meet Referee. CJ can also serve to enter official's information into the OTS.

Chief Judge should serve as a mentor to other S&T officials.

The National Deck utilizes 4 CJs during a meet with one at each corner of the pool.

Differences exist in LSCs on certification for the CJ. Some LSCs have a certification process and others do not.

Chief Judge radio protocol for a potential disqualification should be:

- “I recommend acceptance of the .....call.”
- “I have concerns with the .....call.”

Thank your officials at every opportunity.

Offer to help the Meet Referee with post-meet activities.

## **VII. Deck Referee – Jim Sheehan and Joel Black**

Jim Sheehan is currently the Chair of the USA-S Official Committee. Jim is also a FINA referee and recently worked the 2009 Championships in Rome.

Joel Black is a member of the USA-S Officials Committee and a past co-chair. He is also a member of the YMCA National Officials Committee and is serving his third year as a member of the YMCA Competitive Swimming and Diving Advisory Committee.

Jim and Joel also used a PowerPoint presentation for their Deck Referee discussion. They used the analogy of a business for running a swim meet. The “Team” consists of the Stroke & Turn judges and they are out there working on the line. The Chief Judge(s) is the “Manager” and they are the eyes and ears for the Deck Referee. The Starter is the “Subject Matter Expert” and is the second set of eyes for the Deck Referee. The Announcer at a meet is in charge of communications. The Meet Referee is the “CEO” and establishes the protocol. The Deck Referee is in charge of the pool and the procedures to run the swim meet in the water. As Deck Referee you need to work closely with the Starter and establish a relationship so you know what to expect from each other.

Things to consider in the discussion with the Starter are: 1) positions on the deck; 2) who approaches who with a potential false start; 3) timing for the short and long whistles; 4) taking order of finish; 5) checking next heat for open lanes; watch for issues/situations that might cause a problem.

As Deck Referee you need to review the meet invitation to determine what has been established for the meet and discuss with the Meet Referee: 1) scratch procedures for the meet; 2) the procedures for no-shows and declared false starts; 3) DQ procedures (who is writing the slip and delivering/informing the coach); 4) radio protocol for the meet.

At the start you allow the starter to pick his or her best spot and then position yourself appropriately. You need to position yourself so you can clearly see all lanes, you do not block the starter’s field of vision, and you are in a position where the starter can see you from their peripheral vision.

The whistles start with a series of 4 to 5 short whistles to advise the next heat that their heat is about ready to start. The swimmers should be ready to swim, wearing only their suit, cap and goggles. The long whistle signals the swimmers to step up on the block or step into the water for the backstroke. The second long whistle in backstroke signals the swimmers to take their position on the wall at the end of the pool.

The referee then extends the arm turning the heat over to the starter. You should be prompt turning the heat over to the starter. If for some reason you observe activity behind the blocks or see a swimmer trying to make their way to the block then you should delay extending the arm. You and the starter should be scanning the field for any issues. If you need to take back control of the heat, then lower your arm and also give the starter a verbal indication to hold up the start of the heat.

No shows for Prelims & Finals meets may not be handled the same as national championship scratch rules. Some LSCs have created their own scratch rules that are based on the national rules. Other LSCs run their meets the same way that a national deck meet is run. Need to determine this ahead of time with the Meet Referee if it is not spelled out in the meet invitation.

Need to determine how Alternates are going to be handled if in a Prelims & Finals meet. The coach and alternate should be prepared to swim in the case that there is a no show for finals. Referee should communicate this or the Administrative Referee should have this established in the ready room. You do not have to step the swimmers up on the block and extend your arm to declare a no show. **“Raising the arm does not close the heat.”** NOTE: This statement caused considerable discussion. Carol Zaleski noted “The hand out only turns the heat over to the starter. It can be brought back if needed. It was never intended to ‘close the heat’”.

When you as the deck Referee make the decision to call the “Alternate” you cannot go back if the original swimmer shows up. It’s up to the Deck Referee to determine when the heat is closed – again this does not mean when the hand is extended. Question – What closed the heat then? Answer – It’s when the referee determines the heat is closed. Also refer to 101.1.5.B.

The referee can use Delay of Meet to disqualify a swimmer that shows up late or in some other manner delays the meet by not appropriately responding to the commands.

During the race as the Deck Referee you should get out of the box – do not “hang out” with the starter. Your primary focus should be on the swimmers and the race. The Chief Judge should be watching the officials and making sure that they are in position. By observing the race you can also look for infractions along with the CJ. Keep the “table” (dry deck) informed of DQs, no shows, lane/heat changes, and any other concerns. **Remember it is your pool.** Avoid any



distractions if at all possible – when they happen keep them short or delay them until after the race if possible. You have a good team of judges on deck so let them do their job. Keep track of your time line, but do not be a “slave” to the time line. Avoid unnecessary delays if at all possible.

Once the race is started and you have observed the swimmers surface after the start and have determined that the start should not be recalled for any reason, then you need to record any lane that you observed as a false start. This must be dually confirmed with the starter, and you should establish who will approach who with the initial question about a potential false start.

In handling other DQs as a Deck Referee you need to ensure that the Three Questions are addressed: 1) What was the judge’s position and jurisdiction, what did the judge observe, 3) What rule was broken. The deck referee should be able to clearly visualize the infraction based on the description without having to observe it. If the description is not clear, ask the CJ or S&T to repeat the call. You do not want to lead them into the call. Avoid saying “Did you mean?” and instead say “Help me understand what the call was”.

For relays you need to establish who will judge the take-offs, how it will be observed (position recommended is with 2 judges at the center lanes each facing to one side of the pool and the other two 2 judges each on a side looking in to their partner judge at the center of the lanes. Make sure your judges know how to fill out the take-off slips and how to judge the take off (observe the departing swimmer’s feet leaving the block and then look for the incoming swimmer’s touch).

The Deck Referee making a call alone should be a rare occurrence. If the call was missed and was so egregious then it may be appropriate for the referee to make the call. The Deck Referee should be focused on maintaining balanced officiating. The Deck Referee making calls prohibits balanced officiating. However if the violation is observable from any spot on deck or in the stands and a S&T judge did not make the call, then the Deck Referee may make the call. You need to avoid situations where you are calling things that are in close proximity to you only. This leads to an unbalanced deck. The Deck Referee making a call should be an extremely rare occurrence and only if everyone in the venue could have seen it. Refer to rule 102.13.2.

The Deck Referee needs to work with coaches to determine the most agreeable time for a swim-off. This should be done before the swimmers leave the venue if at all possible. This will avoid any extraneous circumstance that could arise later in getting swimmers back to the venue to swim. A coin toss can be used to determine a swim-off if both swimmers and coaches agree. This may be the case when it is a long event 200 or greater and both swimmers do not want to swim it again before finals. You can use a coin toss or any other method to determine who swims as long as all agree to the method you choose.

As Deck Referee you need to know that Coaches are not the enemy. They are there for the swimmers and your job is to look out for the swimmers. Remember the swimmer always gets the benefit from any doubt. If a coach approaches you with an issue, then listen. Do not try to preempt them, but listen and make sure you understand the issue. You do not want to provide an answer prematurely until you have full understanding. Use your team to get answers. Check with your team of officials to determine if they observed a problem (i.e.: flash of light from stands). Be calm and do not become defensive. Defend your team when appropriate. Remember that you must live with any precedence that you set for the duration of the meet. Remember as a referee you are bound by the rules. Always remain calm and if any doubt at all, then the swimmer gets the benefit of the doubt.

Additional Resources: 1) "The Referee & the Rules" by Anneliese Eggert; 2) "The Coach & Officials" by Don Hart.

NOTE about rules by Joel Black: "The rulebook was given as a guide to go by – it can't cover every single situation we will face. We need to be able to take the rules and apply them to the situation and come up with a just, fair, equitable solution. We have to do 'due diligence' so we have enough information to make the decision."

SUGGESTION: Tell coaches at beginning of the meet what they can expect. For instance: "Today we have a lot of swimmers and will not be pulling kids off the block who are late for delay of meet DQs." For another meet this procedure might be inappropriate and different. Need to have consistency throughout the meet, and its best to set the expectations up front instead of dealing with the situation and establishing a precedence.

### **VIII. Meet Referee – Dan McAllen III**

Dan has served as a member of the USA-S Officials Committee for the past 11 years and is currently the chair of that committee. He is a member of the USA-S Rules and Regulations Committee. He is currently a FINA referee and has officiated Olympic trials as well as International Championships.

The Meet Referee is different from the Deck Referee. You must come to the meet with your best leadership skills intact. You need to have a well thought out game plan. Think about situations and possible contingencies. Gather a good leadership team and instruct them on the finite detail on "the game plan" to run the meet. Then get out of the way and let them run it. **DO NOT BE A DICTATOR, but instead BE A LEADER.**

Your challenge as a leader is first and foremost "Make sure everyone is having FUN" so they will come back! Your philosophy must be one of leadership. Establish your leadership priorities:

- 1) Athletes – Make athlete centered decisions – this is priority 1, 2, and 3
- 2) Coaches – Lead so they can give their attention to their athletes
- 3) Officials – They are trained to take care of themselves

Do not worry about Momma in the stands (or Dad too)

The critical success factors as a Meet Referee are:

- 1) PRIORITY – Priority 1, 2 and 3 should be the athletes. Following are the coaches since they are the support group for the athletes. Officials are next in line.
- 2) PREPARATION, PREPARATION, PREPARATION – This cannot be stressed enough! In real estate the key is location, location, location; and as a meet referee the key to officiating is preparation, preparation, preparation. Ideally you should be involved in reviewing and developing the meet invitation before it goes out! Before the meet review the meet invitation. Select your leadership team. Discuss ahead of time with Meet Director any concerns. Be involved early on in the preparation for the meet. Anticipate and plan for any situation. Have back-up plans in place should your primary plan fail for some reason. Arrive early at venue to make sure things are in place and scope out for any potential problems. Make sure you develop the plan and give it to your leadership team to execute. Then get out of their way.

The goal for the coaches meeting is to answer any questions that the coaches may have. Let them know about any unusual procedures that you may be using for the meet. Review session start times. Let them know who is on the “team” and who they should go to during the meet. Review any swim-off procedures, positive check-in procedures, eligibility for the meet, meet juries. End the meeting by telling them what the water temperature is. Hey it’s the little things – this demonstrates to them that you are on top of things and have taken everything into consideration.

- 3) PRACTICAL – Don’t try to be god. You are just the Meet Referee. Be open and honest with people. Seek out opinions from coaches and fellow officials for solutions to any and all problems. Do not be afraid to ask others!
- 4) PROACTIVE – Think about problems you could have but do not have yet. Plan and prepare for the problems. Do you have a meet jury in place? You should have one and contacted people to serve if needed.
- 5) PLIANT – Be flexible. If you make a mistake by all means admit it and fix it! Do not let your ego get in your way. Again remember this is all about

the athletes! You need to be making athlete centered decisions, and this includes the entire field.

- 6) PROFESSIONAL – Know your job and execute it with excellence!
- 7) PATIENCE – Be patient with swimmers, coaches, fellow officials and other volunteers.

Traps & Pitfalls that can occur if you let them are:

- 1) DO NOT be a SLAVE to the timeline.
- 2) Select your team lead – Chief Judge – with great care (It has been said that this is the single most important person on the leadership team).
- 3) AVOID the “god” COMPLEX – there are people on the deck who are more experienced and smarter than you. USE THEM!
- 4) Be prepared to LIVE with the PRECEDENT you set.
- 5) The MOST IMPORTANT PERSON on the deck is NOT YOU – It’s the S&T Judge. This is where the rubber meets the road. It’s important to be able to trust your officials. They are on the line making the calls and determining outcomes for the athletes.
- 6) WALK THE DECK – Circulate – you’ve got your team executing the plan. Let them work it. Be on deck to “take the temperature of the meet”. Know the leadership coaches on deck. You need to know who the leadership coaches are. Talk to coaches, athletes, and officials. Make sure to check and make sure things are going well, if not try to fix when possible. Remember to keep a dialogue.

Closing Quote: “I am frequently wrong but I am never in doubt”!

## **IX. Starter – Jeannine Dennis**

Jeannine currently serves as a member of the National Officials Committee and has previously served as a member of USA-S Rules and Regulations Committee Board of Directors. Jeannine has been a Starter at several Olympic Games, National and International Championships, and was on the FINA list as a starter.

Whether you do or not, you want to look like you know what you’re doing! You need to look and be professional. You want to be approachable. You want to have a voice that is “inviting”. YOU ARE INVITING THE SWIMMERS TO SWIM with the “Take your mark” command. This is not supposed to be an order to swim. Record your voice so you hear what you sound like to others. Say “Stand” or “Stand Please” in a calm manner. Don’t ever use a jerky voice when you are a starter. One of the first things to remember when you arrive at a meet

is to check out your equipment. Don't assume it's ready to go. You need to familiarize yourself at times with the equipment – not all equipment is the same.

Meet with the referee. You need to know what to do when problems happen because they will. **IT'S YOUR JOB AS A SENIOR OFFICIAL TO MAKE EVERYONE FEEL WELCOME.** If you do something wrong on deck, forgive yourself! "There's nothing that you have done on deck that I have not already done"! **DO NOT ADOPT THE EUROPEAN STYLE OF STARTING** which is "Take your – BEEP". They start very fast and often do not allow swimmers to set. Allow swimmers to set – give them time. Work on the fine line between "letting them coil or set" and not holding them too long.

Practice **COMMON SENSE.** Know what's happening. After the start, the referee watches the field and the race. The starter should watch behind the blocks. What's going on? Has a goggle broke, suit split? Is the "bull pen" mom looking stressed (is one of her ducklings missing?). This can help you anticipate problems. You can tell if someone is looking overly stressed. Focus on the athletes. The athletes will tell you when they are ready to start through their body motion. **NEVER HURRY!** Watch what they are doing. Be the most observant person in the world. You as a starter are part of a team with the Referee. Each of you are watching different areas for the benefit of the athletes. Referee – eyes on pool and starter eyes on the starting area. Starter really should not be taking the order of finish, should not have a clipboard, do not let cord dangle off of microphone (do not put it over your arm, around your neck, or hang it over the starting system). Hang it up properly on the hook or set it down. Do make sure you have the protocols for whatever meet you are doing (USA-S, LSC, NCAA, HS, etc.).

Stand where you are most comfortable. Hold the cord of the microphone with the hand not holding the microphone in case someone trips or steps on it. This keeps the microphone in your other hand. Be comfortable, stand or move to where you can see. Starters need to take care of themselves. Stay hydrated. Take a break when needed. The 4 hour rule can be a blessing as well as a curse. It is important not to rush swimmers on the blocks. They need to have time to catch their breath and settle before starting.

**The agenda had to be changed due to time limitations. The remainder of day one consisted of a breakout session to go over questions and situations that were submitted by the attendees.**

## DAY III

### X. Wrap-up – Burning Issues & Open Forum

Bruce Stratton opened the session by reviewing the Butterfly rule interpretation. It was surprising to learn the number of LSCs that had not adopted the latest interpretation of the rules which requires some portion the arms (wrist to

shoulder) to recover over the water. The entire arm is not required to be out of the water, but using the analogy of a boat in water the arms should similarly recover over the water.

Question was also asked about verticality in the Individual Medley with respect to the backstroke finish.

**A question was asked** – “We are encouraged to use “common sense” and to “be practical”. What have you learned over your years of officiating that helps you in your decision making? What factors influence your decision making?

Jim Sheehan - We find ways to solve problems without breaking the rules. The athletes are just swimmers – we do not keep track of who is where, etc. Use the information you know to help you make good decisions. Don't let the fact that you know someone interfere with your decision. Work meets in other areas. This helps you gain experience and increase your knowledge.

Bruce Stratton – The things that are the very most important are the rules in Section 101. There are other rules that are administrative things. Take everyone into account that the decision will apply to and apply it consistently. Make decisions in the best interest of everyone involved.

Jeannine Dennis – If you are doing it for the athlete you are okay.

**A question was asked** – How to determine when the swimmers are ready to start?

Jeannine Dennis – Once I learn something about someone – it does not distract or startle me. I am able to keep my focus and not be distracted by their movements. That's how you use that sort of information about a swimmer to know when they are set and ready for the start.

Dan McAllen – It doesn't matter what their name is – if they're not ready, don't start the race.

National Deck Selection Criteria (Jr. & Sr. Nationals):

- It is for the athletes, however we also want to provide opportunities for Officials to grow and do new things.
- Prefer N3 Officials – will take N2 (Certification is a criteria in the selection).
- Prefer Officials that will be there for the whole meet.

Other closing comments:

- Having a good relationship with coaches can be very beneficial – work toward that

- Encourage LSCs to get everyone into OTS and keep it up to date.
- Encourage everyone to get involved and work higher level meets.

## **XI. Miscellaneous**

A suggestion from Indiana Swimming [www.shoesforcrews](http://www.shoesforcrews) has slip resistant soled sneakers that they encourage their officials to wear.

See the new USA-S website launching the week of May 17. It is vastly improved and has more content for officials to use. Look for FAQs on rules interpretations.

Many LSCs are utilizing radios in their LSC meets. This helps to move the meet along, officials become used to using radios and its not foreign to them at higher level meets, and they use this as a mentoring activity for beginning officials to listen in during the meet so they get used to using the correct language.