

**Swim Alberta Referee Retreat  
November 19, 2017 – 10:30am to 3:00pm  
Red Deer College, Room 2301**

**Notes**

**1. Update from Swim Alberta - Cheryl Humphrey**

- Overview of the Swim Alberta strategic plan.
- Changes to operating committees including the Alberta Officials and Competition Committee (formally the Alberta Officials Committee), Alberta Technical Program Committee (formally the Alberta Coaches Council and High Performance Advisory Committee) as well as previous changes to other committee structures such as the Masters Committee.
- Provincial Competition Review was implemented last competitive season (2016-17). Changes have been made based on feedback received and will be implemented in the 2017-2018 competitive season.
- Swimming Canada's Phase 2 Competition Review will provide recommendations for competitions and will be provided in the Spring of 2018. These recommendations will inform the second phase of Swim Alberta's Competition Review.
- Emphasis on growth and support to our membership at all levels has been the focus over the last year and includes additional programming with both our Non-competitive youth as well as our Masters.
- Dr. Stephen Norris has been contracted to assist with the development of a High-Performance Strategy for the province. In addition, we are providing additional resources to support the development of para swimming programs.

**2. Overview of the National Officials Symposium- Jennifer Flowers**

Two members of the AOCC as well as a member of the Swim Alberta staff had the opportunity to attend the Swimming Canada Officials Symposium in Toronto. Highlights from the Symposium include:

- The revised Swimming Canada rule book will be available in January 2018.
  - Timers; one timer instead of two if you have full electronics. It should still be best practice to have two timers, and we should not be turning timers away.
- Modesty wear and Universal Participation has been addressed in the Swim Alberta Competition Sanctioning Policy:

***Universal Participation***

*10. Swim Alberta is committed to encouraging equity, inclusion and universal participation within its membership and to supporting universal participation within its programs and activities. Swim Alberta supports the participation of all qualified swimmers into all competitions including provincials and provincial championships meets.*

**Excellence, Integrity, Innovation, Collaboration**

*a. Para-swimmers are eligible to participate in all Swim Alberta sanctioned competitions, provided they meet the provincial qualifying standard for swimmers with a disability.*

*b. Swim Alberta permits the wearing of religious coverings/suits so long as the material is permeable and will not aid in the buoyancy of the swimmer.*

*c. Swimmers are permitted to enter into competitions based on the gender they are registered with through the National Registration System. An athlete can compete in events of the gender in which they are registered and may only identify with one gender at a time.*

[http://www.swimalberta.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/Bylaws/competitionsanctioningpolicy - may 27 2017 effective sept 1 2017 amended 12.17.pdf](http://www.swimalberta.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/Bylaws/competitionsanctioningpolicy-may272017effectivesept12017amended12.17.pdf)

- Officials need to be made aware that there will be swimmers wearing modesty wear. Coaches should advise meet management in advance that they have a swimmer wearing modesty wear. As officials, we need to be open and prepared so that we are not creating unintended barriers for participation.

**3. Swimming Canada's updated Clinics –Cheryl Humphrey**

- All clinics have now been updated by Swimming Canada. Swim Alberta will utilize these clinics going forward.
- The new pdf and Powerpoint clinics are to be used by officials teaching clinics. Powerpoint clinics are not to be adjusted and are to be delivered as developed. These are available through a link on the Swim Alberta website or on the Swimming Canada website.
- The changes to the clinics include:
  - Timer Clinic is now part of the Introduction to Swimming Clinic. (Level 1)
  - Safety Marshall and Recorder Scorer are now stand alone clinics.
- Clinics will be reviewed yearly and a process for updating clinics and implementing feedback has been created. Officials are welcome to contact the AOCC to notify or provide feedback for yearly review.
  - **NEW ACTION ITEM:** Swim Alberta Office to create form on website for any feedback/suggestions/changes to be collected from officials who have delivered a clinic and noticed errors or updates required.
  - **NEW ACTION ITEM:** Swim Alberta Office to suggest to Swimming Canada that when a change is made to the clinic, there should be a revision date posted so officials know they are accessing the most recent version of the clinic.

#### **4. Role of the Advisory Referee –Doug Bird**

- The word 'Advisory' was chosen to reflect the mentor type role it is outlined to be.
- The role was created to also add continuity to multiday meets as well as the opportunity to develop officials as they come up through the certification system.
- Many revisions have been done over time to this document to ensure the person in the role of the Advisory Referee is clear on what their duty is and that they are strictly there for advisory purposes.
- Hand out on the updated 'Role of the Advisory Referee' was circulated to participants and updated versions will be posted on the Swim Alberta website.

#### **5. Briefings and Infractions -Rob Farmer**

- A Powerpoint presentation was delivered on tips for briefings with the theme being to keep them short and simple. He also provided some tips on how to manage infractions with officials and coaches.

#### **6. Overview of the Officials Certification Pathway – Jennifer Flowers**

- A review of the revised Swimming Canada Officials Pathway was shared and discussed.
- Pathway includes name changes (Level One to Intro to Swimming etc.)
- Safety Marshall is now a stand-alone clinic however a deck evaluation is not required. If officials teach combined clinics they need to make sure that the candidates get credit for all clinics taught.
- Discussion on the process for Level 4 and 5 evaluations in Alberta; Level 4&5 there will now be four evaluations in total. A document on the process for evaluation will be created and circulated to officials and posted on the Swim Alberta website.

#### **7. Creating a Positive Deck Environment -Jennifer Flowers**

- As referees we are often the most knowledgeable on deck. We need to be leaders and mentors for all other officials.
- Develop a calmness on deck for the rest of your officials... an advisory referee can help do that.
- Make time to check in with your officials...make sure they're okay, enjoying themselves, thank them etc.
- We should consider signing up for more roles than just referees at Provincial and Championship meets, especially if we will be at the duration of the meet due to our children participating in them.

**8. Open discussion- Topics chosen by the participants for an opportunity to share experiences and generate discussion.**

Triton Wear

- One official came across this device at a meet he was officiating at the day prior to the Retreat. He had asked the swimmer to remove it, as he did not know what it was or if it was legal.
- The Triton device records strokes on the back of the head where the swim cap is.
- Apparently being introduced to Olympic team as a training device.
- It's a recording device that does not have a pace ability.
- It is not a two-way communication device. Information only goes one way and that is sending data to the coach.
- Does it fit within the rules that were already set in terms of buoyancy, pacing, advantage etc.
- **NEW ACTION ITEM:** Jennifer to reach out to OCRC to ask for the intentions of the Triton wear in Canada.

Consistency of Calls

- Referees are aware that some rules are not being implemented at some meets. How do we create consistency across the province?
- Watches; Rules say they cannot wear a pacing device (fitness tracker etc.)
- Tape; Rules state taping is not allowed. Referees are required to follow the rules however they do have the discretion if the swimmer presents a medical note.

Meet Packages

- Swim Alberta sanctioning policy states that deadlines for scratches need to be outlined in the meet package. Requirements for Meet Packages is a resource on the Swim Alberta website and outlines the minimum requirements for sanctioning.  
[http://www.swimalberta.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/Meet-Manager-Info/swim\\_alberta\\_-\\_requirements\\_for\\_meet\\_packages\\_-\\_july\\_14\\_2017.pdf](http://www.swimalberta.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/Meet-Manager-Info/swim_alberta_-_requirements_for_meet_packages_-_july_14_2017.pdf)

CJE/CFJ

- Two different roles and officials need to be trained on both.
- CJE needs to be able to apply CFJ principles if they fall behind.
- You could have a CFJ and a recorder scorer if you're doing non-fully electronic timing.
- Challenge is getting people in to those positions, shadowing etc. It becomes a community where the same people are always working it, which makes it hard for people to develop but then when those swim family moves on you're stuck with inexperienced people.

Signing off on results:

- Two schools of thought:
  - ensure all data is printed and do a quick review of finish orders to ensure they match the referees finish order. *Some referees have found finish orders to be out of sorts on the data which has impacted the over placings. This could impact someone making a final.*
  - Only print results. Trust the people in those position of recorder/scorer at that given meet.

Backstroke Ledges

- Encourage clubs to develop an installation process. Create a 'team' that is solely responsible for backstroke ledges. Referee does the sweep to make sure all is good. IT's have been identified as the position to remove and install, however a team that is responsible for this can also be put in place.

Para

- Lockie Lister spoke about the importance of taking the para clinic so you are aware of the rules.
- **NEW ACTION ITEM:** Lockie to work with Lindsay English to set up another domestic para course within the next 6 months.