

Rome Yount

From: Rome Yount [rbyount@insightbb.com]
Sent: Monday, September 03, 2007 4:03 PM
Subject: ISI Officials Update 9/3/07 .

Monday, September 3, 2007



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Welcome back to another wonderful swim season! We hope you have had an enjoyable summer, an enjoyable month of August away from wearing navy and white, and that you are looking forward to watching our swimmers swim this short course season!

This email covers the following topics:

- (1) Note from Dave Olack, ISI Officials Chair
- (2) Swim Officials Clinics
- (3) ISI Officials Renewal Process
- (4) ISI Officials Renewal / Re-entry Policy
- (5) ISI Short Course Championship Dates
- (6) Reflection on what it is all about ... a must read

- (1) Note from Dave Olack, ISI Officials Chair

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all officials for their contributions of time and talent during the past year. Your willingness to volunteer is greatly appreciated by the swimmers, coaches and parents. All ISI swim meets rely on volunteers to be successful and all officials play an important role regardless of level. I especially want to thank all those officials that supported both the short and long course championship meets this year. All of the championship meets were very well attended by officials which is always a delight for the meet referee. I need to thank the great folks from Quincy, IL and the Sheridan Swim Club, and especially Debbie Rhoades for all the wonderful hospitality provided for the Long Course Age Group Championships. This year was my first visit to Quincy and the experience was a pleasant surprise. We have a full schedule of clinics planned for the Fall and I encourage everyone to invite a friend to join the ISI officiating ranks and get them started by attending a clinic.

See you on deck!

Dave Olack
ISI Officials Chair

- (2) Swim Officials Clinics

Clinics are tentatively set up for the following dates/locations. Information has been posted to the website.

- September 9 - Sterling
- September 15 - New Trier High School
- September 16 - Olympia High School (Stanford, IL)

9/3/2007

- September 23 - St. Charles
- October 13 - Homewood-Flossmoor

(3) ISI Officials Renewal Process

Renewal packets have been put in the mail to all officials to begin the recertification process. This is not a testing year, so the only requirements are your completed sessions card, and for referees, proof of CEU completion, along with renewing your USA Swimming non-athlete membership. Information is also on the website (http://www.ilswim.org/officials/Reg%20Instructions%20and%20Official%20Registration%20Form_08.pdf)

Policy regarding situations where an official has not completed the 10 sessions requirement are covered under topic (3).

(4) ISI Officials Renewal / Reentry Policy

Questions frequently arise regarding situations where an official has been unable to complete the required 10 sessions, or has had their certification lapse, and would like to be recertified. A formal policy has been developed and approved, and is attached and will be posted on the website.

Key items in the policy:

- An official may request an extension of 46 days (to 2/15 of the following year) to complete the required 10 sessions. If the sessions have not been completed by then, the official is no longer certified, but may become recertified by following the re-entry process.
- An official who has completed the necessary sessions (and CEUs if applicable) in the prior year, may recertify anytime during the new calendar year. They would not be certified from the end of the prior calendar year until they complete the necessary paperwork and tests, if applicable, in the new calendar year.
- An official who has not been certified for one year or longer may become recertified at the level they were last certified by following the re-entry process.

(5) ISI Short Course Championship Dates

Please save the following dates for the short course championship meets. An email communication will go out once the applications to officiate the championship meets are available on the website.

- Feb. 22 - 24: Regional Meets
- Feb. 29 - Mar. 2: Senior Championship Meet
- Mar. 14 - 16: Age Group Championship Meet

(6) Reflection on what it is all about ... a must read:

Swim officials unexpectedly lost one of our own, Bob Stalling, at Junior Nationals. Pat Lunsford, USA Swimming's VP Program Operations, shared the following thoughts and article:

Attached is the article that was written a number of years ago which I referred to last Friday morning. Several people thought it might be a good thing to share with everyone. Each of us grieve in a different way - you saw mine and I saw yours. Circumstances may change our reaction in the future. My point last week and into the future is that you carry those thoughts and the attached philosophy into your family life, church life, business world, and to your friends.

Regarding officiating, I strongly believe the philosophy should also be practiced. Too often, someone is critical of another official for a number of reasons. If we are truly the swimming family that serves as an extension and support group for our own families, we need to look at what is really important - treating the athletes, coaches, volunteers, and our fellow officials with the respect we have all earned and deserve. If anyone feels they were shortchanged in assignments, placement on the deck, elections, etc., at any meet or swimming function, the perspective, in my opinion, has been lost. If everyone practices the attached philosophy and works to their fullest capacity, then good things can happen. The timing may be different than expected, but good things can happen. I am not saying any of this occurred in the last two weeks - it may have or may not have. The point is to look forward, reflect on your own personal goals, and treat people as you wish to be treated. If you work every session as if it was your last, you will always be remembered for your efforts and no one can ever take that away from you.

One last thing - say a prayer for Bob Stallings' family and friends as they gather tomorrow and Wednesday to celebrate his life.

The article:

IT MAY BE YOUR LAST!

Walter Payton was 45 when he died from cancer. He needed a transplant which didn't occur and he knew that he had but a few tomorrows left. He was never the fastest or the most graceful but no other player mastered the game more completely. He played every game as

IF IT WERE HIS LAST.

His inspiration came from Pete Rose who stood for hard work and total effort, hence the name "Charlie Hustle". Others will be better at different parts of their game but few, if any, will play each day any harder than these superb athletes. We, as swimming officials, must perform our tasks each meet as

IF IT WILL BE OUR LAST.

We cannot wait until tomorrow to do better. There is no promise or guarantee for any tomorrows. Your health, an accident, or politics may prevent you from ever officiating again. Be remembered for YOUR best effort to give athletes THEIR best performance the last time you stepped onto the deck -

IT MAY HAVE BEEN YOUR LAST!

rpl 11/99

Thank you for your volunteer efforts and commitment to our sport! Have a great season!

Carla Murray
Rome Yount
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