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Greetings and Happy New Year from the Officials' Committee!

- 1) **Registration Reminder** – It is now 2010 and you should be sporting your new credentials when stepping on deck. The Meet Referees will be checking to make sure that everyone is current and up-to-date or you will not be allowed on deck. Mind you, we **want** you on deck! If there is some reason that you have not received your 2010 credentials let us know right away. Are you lacking deck sessions? You can go to OTS on the USA Swim site to check and make sure that all your sessions have been recorded. If you are having difficulty navigating OTS perhaps this FAQ sheet will help you out. Check the Toolbox at <http://www.ilswim.org/officials/index.htm>.
- 2) **Championship Meet Applications** – Before you know it the end of season championship meets will be here. Senior State Championships will be held March 4-7, 2010 at UIC with Bonnie Quinn as Meet Referee. Speedo Sectional Championships will be held in Minneapolis, MN March 10-13, 2010 and Age-Group State Championships will be held March 12-14, 2010 at UIC with Lisa Gregor as Meet Referee. Applications to officiate have been posted to the Illinois Swimming website at <http://www.ilswim.org/officials/index.htm>. All are welcome to apply. Commit early and for multiple sessions (at least 4) and you will receive a shirt.
- 3) **Final Evaluation for N3** - Please let us know as soon as possible if you are ready for final evaluation for N3 at any level and would like to be evaluated at Senior State Championships March 4-7, 2010. We need to make sure that we invite the appropriate level and number of evaluators to accommodate any requests. Please submit your application indicating your request.
- 4) **Butterfly Situation/Resolution Change** – The change is that it used to be that any portion of the arm must break the surface of the water during the recovery. Now it is that the entire arm must break the surface of the water during the recovery. The update is excerpted:
 - A swimmer in a 10 and under 50 butterfly with insufficient strength to lift her arms completely over the water during the recovery phase of her stroke, pushes her arms forward with her elbow and part of her forearm remaining in the water, but with the remainder of her forearm, her wrists, and her hands clearly out of the water. The Stroke Judge signals a disqualification for failure to “bring the arms forward over the water” as required by Rule 101.3.2. The Deck Referee overrules the call and explains that as long as any part of the arm recovers over the water the recovery requirement is met. Correct ruling?

Recommended Resolution: No. First, the arm is defined as that body part running from the tip of one's shoulder to the wrist. So, by definition, this swimmer's arms did not recover over the water. The Deck Referee erred by saying that the rule was satisfied if any part of the arm recovered over the water. In fact, the entire arm must recover over the water. However, there is no requirement that there be a visible space between the water and the recovering arms. Thus, had this swimmer been able to lift the arms sufficiently so that during the recovery the entire

arms were above the water, or broke the surface of the water even though not completely clearing the water, the swim would have been legal.

Applicable Rules: 101.3.2

- 5) **Advancement to Referee** – Recently there have been a number of questions regarding the criteria for officials advancing to Referee. One of the requirements is that 20 worked sessions must be worked since becoming a starter. These 20 sessions do not necessarily need to be sessions worked as a starter. The criteria is 20 additional sessions worked as an official since becoming a starter will fulfill this requirement.
- 6) **Officiating Practices** – The question was recently raised by a Head Coach that their team has attended a number of meets this season in which he and his swimmers have not been made aware of disqualifications until it was noted on the results when they were posted at the meet.

The USA-Swimming rule (102.10.2) states the following: .2 The Referee or designated official making a disqualification shall make every reasonable effort to seek out the swimmer or his/her coach and inform him/her as to the reason for the disqualification.

There are times when the staffing is tight and it isn't possible to reach the swimmer or coach at the time of the infraction, however, hopefully this will be the exception instead of the rule. As officials, our role is to provide the swimmers with a level playing field and help them learn. If it isn't possible to speak with the swimmer or coach immediately after the swim, alternate means of communication would be encouraged such as use of dual part DQ slips so that one copy can be given to the coach or review of the disqualification log (you can print this out of meet manager) with coaches during freestyle events.

- 7) **Official Certification Clinics** – It is never too early to talk to other parents on you team about becoming an official. Nobody knows the rewards and benefits of officiating better than you. Information on the Spring Clinics will be available soon.
- 8) **Summer Regional Meets** – ISI will be hosting 3 regional meets this Summer 2010 in Short Course Yards for our swimmers who have achieved Regional Time Standards. Mark your calendars now for the weekend of July 24 and 25, 2010. Check the ISI for more information as it becomes available at www.ilswim.org.

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