

January 13, 2009

Happy New Year!

Hope you all got to enjoy some special time with your families during the holidays. And here's wishing everyone a healthy and happy New Year.

A **very special thank you** to **all** the officials who were able to help at the Short Course State Championship meet in December. That was an exciting meet. I don't think I have ever seen so many ties at a swim meet. It got to where I had to make sure I had a quarter with me at the start of each prelim session just in case.

Thank you to our Maui and Big Island officials. We could not have done the meet without your help. It is always great to see you all, and also to put a face with a name for our new officials. We had a lot of fun, but it was hard work too. There were certainly a lot of faces we usually see but did not see this time around. Please know that you were missed. Great job to all for providing our swimmers with the type of well-run meet that they deserve at a State championship level meet.

I would really like to see more officials moving into other positions on the deck – chief judge, starter, referee, timing judge, console operator, clerk of course. So when asked, I hope you will agree willingly to learn new jobs on the deck. And if you have an interest in a certain area, please let the Officials Representative for your island or me know of your interest.

The Officials Committee is going to try very hard to get caught up with nametags, new officials shirts and up keeping the USA Swimming Official's Tracking System in 2009. [Sorry for being delinquent in that department]. Suggestions, comments and new ideas (or old ideas that were never implemented) are always welcome to make officiating in Hawaii more efficient, more fun, more appealing for recruiting and retention purposes.

High School State champs is right around the corner February 13-14, 2009 at the Veterans Memorial Aquatics Center, Oahu. If you plan to be on Oahu for that meet, please let me know so that

we can have a full compliment of officials on deck. I don't know who is in charge of the high school meet, but if asked, it would be nice to give him/her an idea of how many officials will be there.

Also a reminder to Island Officials Representatives (Audrey, Mustafa, Kim) for your respective high school Championship meet: please remember that the championship meets are blanket observed meets for the age group swimming program. A USA Swimming Referee needs to make a list of disqualifications and must submit that list to Fred Tester [grandpainhawaii@hawaii.rr.com] or Peggy Glasgow [ladynav135@aol.com]. The times for age group swimmers participating in the respective championship meets will count toward times submitted to SWIMS, unless a swimmer is disqualified for his/her individual event.

Our **Long Course State Championship meet** was moved to the month of July. The current dates are July 16-19, 2009, (Thursday to Sunday) in Kihei, Maui. Those are the dates on the 2008-2009 Meet Schedule but please watch the Hawaiian Swimming web pages in case of any changes. I hope you will put these dates on your calendar and/or keep the dates in mind as the more officials we have, the better run meet we can provide.

Other dates to keep in mind – August 5-9, 2009, Western Zones Age Group Championship meet, which will be held on Oahu, at the Veterans Memorial Aquatics Center [VMAC] and Hawaiian Swimming is the host organization. I hope that you will consider sending in your application to officiate at this meet. Applications will be posted and I will also send out reminders as well. We are expecting many mainland officials will be applying for this meet as well. So please keep an eye out for the posting and meet notice.

Immediately following the Western Zones meet, August 9 to 12, 2009, there will also be a Senior Age Group Championship meet, co-sponsored by USA Swimming. This is the first of its kind. I'm sorry I do not have any details at this time, other than the approximate dates. I just wanted to get the word out so you will also keep this meet and the dates in mind. It should provide a great opportunity to witness some great swimming, and

an opportunity for you as officials to fine-tune your already excellent skills.

Thank you all for everything you do to help the Hawaiian Swimming age group program, Masters swimming program, High School swimming program, Aloha State Games, and Special Olympics. Plus all you do for your individual age group team. Of course, when asked to help on your individual islands, I hope that you are all responding promptly to the host club or host organization. Keep spreading the word that Hawaiian Swimming needs more, more, **MORE** officials on all of our respective islands. If you are visiting a neighbor island and happen to come for a swim meet, I also invite you to come on deck and let the Deck Referee know that you are available to help.

Don't forget to support the monthly age group swim meets and especially our Invitational Swim meets. Our Invitational meets honor someone (a Hawaiian swimmer, Hawaiian Olympian or Coach) who has made a great contribution to the sport of swimming. So, again, please let the meet or deck referee know you are there and are available to help officiate.

Thank you all for making officiating so enjoyable. Little did I know when I first started this that I would come to enjoy volunteering at swim meets as much as I do now. Keep up the good work! Keep sharing the experience with others so we can recruit more. And keep on smiling!

Aloha,
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