

Minutes for Face to Face Meeting of the SNZ Technical Advisory Committee

**held on Saturday, 12 May 2012 commencing at 10:00 am
and resuming on 13 May 2012 at 9:00am**

Venue: Pelorus Trust Sports House, Petone

Present: Jo Davidson, Lesley Huckins, Lyn Sutherland, Dave Beattie, Ross Bragg, Matt Meehan, Kent Stead, Lisa Conroy, Mark O Connor

Apologies: Mark O Connor (absent Sunday)

Minutes: November 2011 moved by Lesley Huckins, seconded by Ross Bragg

Matters Arising:

Correspondence: The process for appointments for international meets needs to be explained to the membership. The decision for appointments is solely by FINA. There are no applications called for. FINA send invitations out to FINA list officials to officiate at FINA meets. This change happened about 4 years ago. The initial recommendation is done by the FINA Swimming Technical Committee and then the FINA Bureau make the final decision. They will not recommend you if they haven't seen you, so it can take a lot of years for officials to be invited if ever selected. Oceania is a stepping stone for FINA officials to see people in action but a lot of hours and work has to go on before selections are considered. Swimming New Zealand as a federation have no input into selections. Kent will put together a document to go in Fastlane/Technical newsletter and in officials guide to educate everyone on the processes.

2012 Meets: Meet Director Reports:

2012 New Zealand Open Water Championships –

Paul Matson & Matt Meehan – a new Open Water Disqualification form was implemented.

2012 New Zealand Junior Championships –

Dave Beattie (Hamilton)

Matt Meehan – (Wellington)

2012 New Zealand Age Group Championships –

Matt Meehan

2012 New Zealand Open Championships –

Ross Bragg

With having later morning sessions for Open Nationals it was suggested that breakfasts are done away with and just provide biscuits and tea/coffee prior to each session.

2012 New Zealand Division II Competition –

Lyn Sutherland

Assessments: Jo made a point that it is good to have a dedicated assessor for each meet who is not a meet director.

General discussion regarding assessments including Assessment Papers – altering wording of 2.2

The form needs to now say - good observation of the 15m mark at start and turns and during race when required.

Appointments:

Refer to spreadsheet on website for individual appointments.

2012 New Zealand Short Course Meet - Wellington

Meet Director – Lesley Huckins

Assessor – Liz Agnew/Dave Beattie

2012 New Zealand Secondary Schools – Hamilton

Meet Director – Dave Beattie

Assessor – Dianne Farmer

Junior Pan Pacific Championships –

Official recommendations: Yvonne Voss

Trans Tasman - official recommendations:

1 scholarship – Minoo Ghadiali

1 user pays – Ann Benseman

FINA/International:

1. Report from 10th FINA World Technical Officials seminar, Tokyo – Jo
2. 2012 Oceania Championships
3. Rule changes for 2013 FINA Congress
Lyn proposes rule change to SW 8.1 and SW 7.2 and SW 10.13.
4. FINA applications for Referees and Starters for the next list:
5. TAC recommend:
Starters – Jacqui Forsythe/Greg Forsythe
Referees – Lyn Sutherland/Ron Clarke/Matt Meehan

Regional Updates:

Jo and Lesley's Visit to Nelson/Marlborough went well and got a good reception from those present. The best thing that has happened down in this area is building the pool in Blenheim which has made them a lot closer and stronger.

Upper North – Ross

4 x National referees now qualified in Northland. Going well in the region with an anniversary coming up. A few more National qualifications from Auckland. The volunteer timekeeper who applied for Open Nationals worked out well at Opens.

Central North – Dave

Counties Manukau is working well with a good group of officials, have 1 x IOT/1 x Referee passed, and a forum coming up. Waikato is going well, have put through 3 x Ref/1 x IOT's qualifications. Starters podium has had a report sent to the board. Have suggested that they do a review of the TAC and a date will be put in place for this and a forum.

Bay of Plenty - Dave thanked everyone for the opportunity to go to Ron Armstrong's funeral. Dave suggests targeting this region for support and a visit.

Lower North – Matt Meehan

Matt offered to do assessments from Wellington for any officials. Taranaki have a swim meet coming up 10/11 August and would like to send 2 TAC members to go to this – Matt and Dave are likely to represent the TAC (TBC). Manawatu is going well with an active TAC. Wairarapa – spoke to Margaret and seem to be going well, will try and make a time to visit them either on Skype. Wellington still has a large number of officials coming through, Greg is doing a great job here with a lot of IOT's moving to JOS, and JOS to Referees.

Upper South – Lesley Huckins

Ashburton has a lot of officials. One more national referee's exam to do next week before Oceania. Lesley has been looking after Eastern Districts to the best of her ability. Nelson Marlborough visit was mentioned earlier.

Lower South – Lyn Sutherland

Delighted with the way Otago has stepped up and Colin Walker is the new chair, Kay Alexander is on the committee and working well together. Lyn will visit Otago again in July. Southland need a bit of a push as there are enthusiastic people there.

Discussion regarding implementing a visitation programme for the regions next season.

General Business:

1. One timekeeper at National Meets – Ross & Jo
Due to backup issues at Opens, one timekeeper was not sufficient at opens, so they switched to two. Ross suggests we use one timekeeper with 2 backup buttons in future. Needs to be assessed around the venues.
2. Caps – Rule advertising – Ross
Many swimmers are wearing caps that are outside the rules and regulations but we agreed that at this stage we do not have the manpower to police this. The TAC and SNZ will keep a closer eye on it for now and if it becomes more of an issue we will look into solutions.
3. Coaches in the start area and marshalling – Matt
You need a strong marshall to enforce keeping coaches out of the marshalling area. If coaches still do not comply then the meet director needs to address the problem. Having a brief with the marshalls and COC may help.
4. Distribution of the officials shirts – Jo
Will look at having an SNZ staff member at officials meeting to help with distribution, but no firm decisions made on best scenario at this stage.
5. Calibration of Start blocks – Jo & Kent
Going into Opens it was going to cost about \$800 to get the blocks calibrated. It seemed to be a complete waste of money due to outside factors affecting the accuracy. Lesley said the touch pads need a pressure tested in Auckland as there wasn't consistency shown and some needed alot of pressure tolerance.
6. Appointments at National meets and not turning up – Matt & Jo
Some officials did not show up at all without any indication, it is hard to prepare for this especially with rotation systems in place. It is those that apply and don't show up which cause problems. It is felt that educating them more might help, explaining that clubs have worked rosters around it etc.
7. Taping – Jo
Dave Gerard's advice was, that if it was to support a medical injury then it was acceptable, eg broken toes or fingers being taped together – 2 is ok but 3 is not as a web is then formed. No medical certificate is required, unless you have a real suspicion and permission still needs to

be given by the Meet Director. SNZ needs to have something in the meet flyer, including educating SCAT.

8. Freestyle events – Jo
JOS sitting during freestyle events – the TAC would like to apply the ruling to all freestyle events so there is no confusion as to when they sit.
9. Guide to Disqualifications – Protests at Age Groups – Matt, Lesley and Jo
Officials should be referring any DQ to a rule, and if they can't do this then they shouldn't completing a DQ. The guide for wording is that – a guide and should always be used in conjunction with the FINA rules.
10. SCAT – Protest training, Sprint Lane and pace lanes for whole length of warm up, clearance of pool deck of non-accredited personnel – Jo & Lesley

Jo spoke with Neville at NAGs and agreed that it would be good to educate coaches on the topics mentioned. SCAT are looking at getting ID cards for all of their members and if they can't show this then they shouldn't be on pool deck. Kent explained that SNZ have also looked into getting yearly ID cards for everyone, coded to specific area allocations. Kent will talk with Neville to see if there is any value in SNZ using 5 lanes for Dive Starts at a specific time during warm-up at Short course, which would be run by a starter to mentor and monitor dive starts.

11. Budgets – Kent & Jo
Jo recommended regional visits. Each TAC member agreed to put together a plan of their proposed regional visits to give Kent an indication of costs for the next financial year.

It is recommended that each TAC member needs to visit their region at least once as a minimum in order to do assessments and keep their finger on the pulse.

Jo brought up the idea of SNZ running a Referee forum for up and coming referees. An element of it could be user pays and maybe SNZ cover the accommodation. Looking at duration of 1.5 days in November and possibly combine it with the next TAC meeting which would then need to extend to 4 days. The forum would need to be a minimum of 20 people to make it worthwhile. Kent will send out an invitation for expression of interest to regions and the SNZ technical database to start with and we will assess interest from there.

12. Timed Finals Relays and A&B finals for 800m and 1500m at Opens – Jo & Lesley
Lesley and Jo would like these events removed as they believe it is a big ask getting them to swim this distance twice, even if it is the next day. At FINA level they do not have A and B finals. Make the qualifying time at a level that makes it more suitable.

13. Marshalling Relays – Jo

Based on the mayhem in the marshalling area at NAGs we need to look at alternatives when relays are happening so that it is less congested. It was suggested that only one swimmer per relay team reports to the COC and is then the team manager's responsibility to ensure the other 3 team members are positioned at the start end. It is worth trialling this at Short Course champs and if it's not working then the Meet Director has control to change this at the time.

14. Mentoring – NSW document attached – Jo

It would be good to formalise the mentoring programme that was discussed at previous meetings. It was suggested that Jo goes through the NSW mentoring document and looks at setting up something similar for us. Each TAC member would be responsible for looking after an official, but this would be decided on applications.

15. The role of the Chief IOT – Runner or Value-add – Matt

There seems to be a belief that there is no other wording other than what is on the rule card and it appears that the FINA rules are not being referred to. We need the Chief IOT's to do more and the referee to question the official who has put the DQ in to ensure consistency. Put an update in the newsletter about the use of using the cards in conjunction with the FINA book. Needs to be mentioned at assessments to ensure the official understands the requirements. Lesley suggested that the Chief IOT is the only person who has the DQ forms so that they have to see this person when doing one and can justify it. Jo suggests for the next two meets that the Chief IOT's has more responsibility and will review post these events. Lyn will look into updating the technical guide to align with these changes. When Kent contacts the regions about their TAC contacts he will also notify regions that they are to notify their officials to utilise both guides together with the FINA book with copies sent to them.

16. Guide for the wording of DQ Form (SW7.3, SW8.1) – Matt

SW7.3 to be amended to: Elbows broke the surface except at a turn and the finish

SW8.1 to be amended to left the wall on their back

17. Education for Referees on Protest Process / Form – Matt

Lack of education on the process with protests was evident at NAGS, Jo suggested that the mentoring programme should help with this. It would be good to run a few education sessions on this topic, and to adapt the technical guide.

18. Does National Referee require to sit/pass Starter Practical, and if so, at what level meet? Is there an expectation that National Referee's may be appointed to a Starter position? – Matt

An official enquired about this as someone would like to be a Referee, but is not keen on the practical starting assessment. You would have to do the theory and practical as a starter in order to become a referee

and having the regional experience to a high standard. Jo will investigate further and outline the key stages.

Open Water Referee. Requirement to be a Pool Referee before they can qualify for OWS? – Matt

It is the TAC's decision that you do not have to be a swimming referee to be an open water referee as they are two different disciplines. You just have to be a member of a club and therefore affiliated to SNZ.

19. Discrepancy between SNZ Regs Protest Rule 4.2.5 and Fina Rule GR 9.2.2 (e) – Lyn

20. Need to adjust rule SW 4.25 wording from competition to event

21. FINA Officiating DVD online - link to youtube on SNZ web page

22. Separate qualification for JOS – Lyn

Jo suggested Dave looks at the regional assessments he has done and look at how we can adjust the IOT's to include a JOS section. This way there is more of a progression from regional qualification to National, as it's very similar at present. It was also suggested by Jo to have a control room supervisor qualification and she will check old notes on previous processes and get back to TAC members on this.

Kent and Jo went over the TOR for the Technical Advisory Committee recently and one idea that came out was to add in an extra person to help with Wellington covering 6 regions.

This would make the TAC 7 members including the Chair who would stay independent and not be responsible for a region. It is recommended that a FINA swimming representative is an appointed person affiliated to the TAC but does not look after a region and be an ex-officio due to the knowledge needed. The TAC will call for applications at the end of July when Ross/Jo's terms come up for renewal.

The new two split areas would be:

- Wellington, Wairarapa and Hawkes Bay/Poverty Bay
- Manawatu, Wanganui and Taranaki.

Amendment under Duties and Responsibilities - no 1, to add in *also within the SNZ regulations*

Under Operating Principles – No 4 – need to change the word *examination to qualification*

23. Review of rules – Dave

24. Review SW 9.3 – Dave

Reinstate SW9.3 – *failed to finish the backstroke/breaststroke/butterfly leg in accordance with the finish rule for the stroke.* In the medley either the stroke rule or SW 9.3 can be used.

25. General Business

- Newsletter – Lisa will add in about Lyn Sutherland attending the World Masters Games and Ross being selected to be torchbearer at Paralympics, and suggested having a link to PNZ newsletter/website.
- It is essential that officials should be signing in on entry to ensure they are in attendance, this process will stay.
- Discussion at opens regarding when lap counters should be turned, it was decided that it would be at the 10m mark for SC and 15m for LC.

The next proposed date is 3-4 November 2012 for the Face to Face TAC Meeting (TBC)