

Officials Committee Report--May 2004

Clinics,

This year we had more clinics than ever before with 3 Referee clinics, 4 Starter clinics and 10 Stroke and Turn clinics. In addition, we conducted 2 Hytek and 1 Colorado clinic. The number of attendees at the clinics was good.

However, we on the officials committee are increasingly concerned about the escalating number of meets, especially when three or more fall on the same weekend. We are spreading our officials too thin and it's leading to burnout. In addition, too few officials on deck lead to meets that don't provide the best experience for the athletes. All of our athletes deserve well run meets and it's not always happening.

Another problem that has surfaced is the tendency of some of the club run meets to become so big and overcrowded that it is a safety issue. The February meet at South Run was the worst example with sessions that ran more than two hours past the recommended four-hours. It also led to an extremely overcrowded deck. The fact that no one was injured tripping over outstretched legs etc was a miracle. If there had been an emergency, it would have been difficult for all the swimmers to exit the building. If clubs can't limit their invitational meets to keep them within the guidelines, they should not be sanctioned.

Marie-Beth (Boots) Hall
Chair, Officials Committee