

Sarah Obbagy - USA Swimming Business Workshop Recap

MAAPP/Safe Sport

This was particularly helpful in that we learned about how reasonable the expectations are in every area. So things like driving athletes, or how to handle the locker room issue basically came down to this - if there is more than one person there, it's all good. If there is only you and one athlete, then the situation needs to be observable and interruptible. Very much appreciated the common-sense approach.

Situations a Meet Ref might run into

We worked in small groups, which was pretty much the only time we were allowed to talk to others in groups because the rooms were so small and there were so many of us we couldn't move pretty much. These focused on everything from a missing child, to weather related disasters, to finding someone taking photos of girls in the locker room. Great way to review the possible resolutions.

Perspective from an Olympian: Brendan Hansen

Brendan talked with us for about an hour, and he explained his journey and how what we do matters. He was very motivating, and he spoke to us from his role as Director of Team Services. It was neat to hear his perspective on what it was like to be Team Captain for 3 Olympics and what athletes go through at that level. Also focused on coach to athlete relationship.

Reviewing a Meet Announcement

We did this in small groups, but it was super crowded, and we didn't have much time. We were given two meet announcements for a Sectionals-level meet and then we had to figure out which one was incorrect. Once we figured that one out, which was pretty easy to spot as there was no sanction number on it, we then had to go through it against a check list and find how many other errors there were. It was a great exercise and gave me ideas for how to help mentor people with the meet announcement.

Rules in General / Timeline for getting ready for a meet

There was, of course, discussion about rules in general, and that was good to review. Nothing new there, but good review overall. The order of things for a timeline before a meet was good information as well. From 4 months out up until the time of the time at the pool.

Critical Conversations and Building Currency with Coaches (Jack Swanson)

This was a great talk about how important building relationships with coaches is. Keep in mind always what the goals are for both of you

Leadership Styles

Great review of various styles of leadership and figuring out which kind we are ourselves.

OQM/When the Evaluator is on Deck

No more than 8 evaluations at a meet. Discussed ways to look at interacting with the evaluators. Their role; the MR's role.

New Meet Ref Things to Know (Clark Hammond)

A whole bunch of things from Meet Announcements, to Juries/protests, to Best Practices, to cameras and what's coming regarding cameras at national meets. We also saw a lot of examples of what these cameras can see as we watched about 15 examples of butterfly on breast with them. Eligibility issues. Gender issues. Swimming under protest. Building capital with coaches.