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10 October 2009



FROM: Sanction Chair, South Texas Swimming, Inc. (STSI)

TO: House of Delegates
South Texas Swimming, Inc.
Annual Meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas

SUBJECT: Report of the Sanctions Chair

- I. So far in 2009, 78 Sanctions and / or Approvals have been issued.
 - A. Of those, four were canceled or other wise voided because the meet was not held for some reason, usually swine-flu related. Two were eventually reassigned to the same host.
 - B. Approximately 92% have so far been applied for 35 or more days in advance of the meet start date.
 - C. Almost 8% have so far been applied for inside the 35 day window, incurring a \$50 fee.
 - D. None have so far been applied for inside the ten day window, which would incur a \$100 fee.
 - E. About 18% of the Sanctions and Approvals issued so far in 2009 have been for CLOSED competition, which is approximately 11% more than at this same time in 2008.
- II. Early in September, the undersigned was publicly accused by an active USA Swimming coach of deliberately delaying the issuance of one or more Sanctions in order to ensure the Meet Host would be required to pay a higher Sanction Fee. Not surprisingly, these allegations were made in my absence, therefore making either a prompt response or defense impossible.
 - A. The accusations are patently false and I have categorically and publicly repudiated them, both verbally and in writing.
 - B. To date there has been no retraction, public or private, of the allegations.
 - C. This remains an open, serious matter of personal as well as organizational concern, as there is a clear implication of collusion and / or conspiracy with one or more members of the Executive Board.
- III. The Sanction and Approval Policies were revised in July and approved by the Executive Board on August 10, 2009. The revision was posted on the STSI Web Site on August 23, 2009.
 - A. The revision contains several new and / or clarified elements and includes a section addressing the swim suit restrictions recently imposed by USA Swimming.
 - B. The use or presence of cell phones in locker rooms is now forbidden, which must be explicitly stated in meet informations. Draconian penalties are in place for violators.
 - C. Meet hosts now must state in meet informations whether or not their courses have been professionally certified, a requirement levied by USA Swimming.
 - D. A minor revision was made to the document on 24 September 2009 to bring the Section on Swim Suit restrictions into complete alignment with the USA Swimming revision adopted at last month's USA Swimming Convention.

- IV. The Sanction / Approval Checklist also again been revised to include an item addressing conflicts with "bid" meets.
- V. There is evidence to suggest meet hosts are not terribly conversant with the Sanction and Approval Policies and Procedures.
- VI. The STSI Sanctions Web Site Page continues to be somewhat underutilized.
- VII. In general, Sanctions or Approvals are issued within 48 hours of receipt and often more quickly, unless there are problems with the meet information, requiring revision and / or correction by the meet host; in which case meet host delays are sometimes occurring, but are wholly determined by the Meet Hosts.
- VIII. Beginning next May (2010), there will be a significant change in the management of "Approved" meets.
 - A. Unless they are "Closed Competition, they will require approval by USA Swimming Program Operations.
 - B. The details have not yet been made clear.
 - C. This will impact several meets in the valley, Cinco de Mayo in San Antonio, as well as some higher level invitationals at UT.

Respectfully submitted: 10 October 2009.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. B. Graham", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Colonel R. B. Graham, USAF, Retired
Sanction Chair
South Texas Swimming, Inc.