



OFFICIALS' NEWSLETTER



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Greetings from the Chair

By: Dana Covington

We talk about how important it is for you, as an official, to venture out of your own Local Swim Committee (LSC) area to experience officiating through a different lens so you may add some new tools to your officiating toolbelt. This can be done at an LSC meet or at a Speedo Sectionals, Zone, or national-level meet. This spring, we ushered in another great long-course season with some phenomenal national meets: three TYR Pro Swim Series meets and the Toyota National Championships, which served as a selection meet for the 2025 World Championships, 2025 World Junior Championships, and the 2025 FISU Summer World University Games.

At some of these meets, we stretched our wings, practiced the art of flexibility, and learned some different officiating protocols that are more aligned with World Aquatics. All who officiated at these meets took home some new knowledge that may come in handy one day. Just as this does not mean that we are currently adopting World Aquatics protocols across the board, when you officiate outside your LSC where a meet may be conducted a little differently, it does not mean you must change your LSC protocols or the other LSC is incorrect. There is gray in how we dance around a deck to ensure that the rules are being followed and to execute a fair competition. As we approach our summer season, I encourage you all to step out of your comfort zone and officiate at another team's pool, help out your neighboring LSC, spread your wings a little, and enjoy the art of officiating. The gift of your time and expertise is appreciated.

Announcements

- **National Meets:** Applications to officiate at national meets are generally posted six months (~180 days) prior to the meet start date. Applications typically close four months (~120 days) prior to the meet start date, but applications may close earlier if a sufficient number of applications have been received.
- **Futures:** July 23-26, 2025. N2 certifications preferred. Applications are now closed.
 - Greensboro, N.C. - MR: Jason Shibata
 - Justin, Texas - MR: Barb Ship
 - Madison, Wis. - MR: Curtis Myers
 - Ocala, Fla. - MR: Betsy Russell
 - Sacramento, Calif. - MR: Rob Stevens
- **Speedo Junior National Championships:** July 30-August 3, 2025, in Irvine, Calif. MR: Anne Lawley. N3 certification preferred. Applications are now closed.
- **TYR Summer Championships:** August 5-8, 2025, in Irvine, Calif. MR: Ellen Colket. N3 certification preferred. Applications are now closed.
- **Toyota U.S. Open Championships:** December 3-6, 2025, in Austin, Texas. MR: Mike Dilli. Regular applications are now closed, however, [waitlist-only applications are open](#).
- **Speedo Winter Junior Championships:** December 10-13, 2025. Regular applications are now closed, however, [waitlist-only applications are open](#).
 - East: Indianapolis, Ind. - Kevin Hogan

- West: Austin, Texas - Marianne Walling
- **2028 U.S. Olympic Team Trials - Swimming** is heading back to Indianapolis! Read more [here](#).
- If you missed the pre-order deadline of Dec. 2, 2024, for receiving a printed copy of the rulebook, you can purchase one through [SwimOutlet](#). The [full rulebook](#) and the [mini rulebook](#) are also available as PDF documents, which can be downloaded for free.
- The next **National Officials Committee Quarterly Meeting** will be held by Zoom on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 5 p.m. MT. This is an open meeting.
- The next **LSC Officials Chairs Quarterly Meeting** will be held by Zoom on Wednesday, July 2, 2025, at 6 p.m. MT. This is an open meeting (request the Zoom link from your LSC Officials Chair), but only LSC Officials Chairs may comment or ask questions. Please contact your LSC Officials Chair to learn more about the items discussed at these meetings.
- The [Officials Certification Standards FAQ document](#) has been updated (June 11, 2025). The updates largely reflect the completion and availability of the Certification Course and Assessment for each of the pool-based officiating positions, which now include Administrative Official, Stroke and Turn, Starter, and Referee.
- The 2024 and 2025 issues of the USA Swimming Officials' Newsletter can be found on the [Newsletter Archive page](#) of the USA Swimming website.

USA Swimming Foundation Soliciting Applicants for its Board of Directors

By: Elaine Calip, USA Swimming Foundation

The [USA Swimming Foundation](#) is currently soliciting applicants for its Board of Directors. This is a fundraising board with three-year terms. [Click here](#) to view or complete the application form.

The Foundation works around the three pillars of: Saving Lives, Building Champions, and Impacting Communities. We welcome your application if you are passionate about giving back to our sport in this unique way.

If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to the Executive Director of the Foundation, Elaine Calip (ecalip@usaswimming.org).

April Survey Results

By: Jason Johnson

In the April 2025 USA Swimming Officials' Newsletter, the survey focused on two areas: first, what topics would you like to see covered in the future? Many great suggestions were received that ranged from open water officiating to what is a good progression pathway for new officials to certify at new positions to remembering that our target-audience ranges from the "newbie" stroke and turn official to those who have officiated at the Olympics; second, what was the impact of the April article on evaluating and mentoring? [Click here](#) to see the results of the February survey.

The Official Coordinator Position in Colorado Swimming

By: Scott Powell and Derigan Silver

An unfortunate situation at an Officials Qualifying Meet (OQM) inspired the Colorado Swimming Officials Committee to create the position of “officials coordinator.” The officials coordinator’s key roles are to help prepare Colorado Swimming officials for evaluations at OQMs, vet officials for national evaluation prerequisites well in advance of OQMs, serve as a mentor for officials who wish to be evaluated or mentored in any position in Colorado Swimming, and to provide evaluators with copies of meet histories and evaluation histories of officials prior to an OQM.

[Click here](#) to learn more about how the Colorado Swimming Officials Committee has implemented the officials coordinator role.

Mentoring Officials for Success at All Levels

By: Trish Martin and Marianne Walling

Mentoring, both formal and informal, takes place at every meet. Whether we are training apprentice officials, sharing experiences from other meets, or being evaluated for a national certification, the adage that officials should “learn something new at every meet” is a guiding principle.

[Click here](#) to learn more and [click here](#) to test your knowledge after you have read the article.

Online Training for Open Water Officiating in Development

By: Dana Covington

With the tremendous success of the online USA Swimming University certification trainings for officials at stroke and turn, starter, referee and administrative official, the USA Swimming Board of Directors has approved production of a similar online clinic training for officials wanting to pursue open water officiating. Online training is expected to be available in 2026. Keep your eyes open for more information to come in the future.

Hot August Nights

By: Jason Johnson



Officials Training at the 2025 USA Swimming Annual Summit

By: Dana Covington and Macie McNichols

Each Local Swimming Committee (LSC) is invited to nominate and send one official to participate in the Officials' Track at the 2025 USA Swimming Annual Summit.

[Click here](#) to learn more.

LSC Officials Chairs Liaison

By: Trish Martin

The Local Swim Committee (LSC) Officials Chairs (OC) liaison role on the National Officials Committee (NOC) is to provide a contact point resource for the LSC OCs to reach out to with any questions they may have.

[Click here](#) to learn more.

Documents and Forms

By: Kevin Hogan

The USA Swimming website has numerous web pages devoted to officiating. If you haven't done so already, I highly recommend exploring the ["Officials Documents"](#) page. The page is subdivided into four sections: "Officials Training;" "Forms for Officials;" "Reciprocity, Recruitment, Retention;" and

“Record Applications.” Highlights of what can be found in these sections can be found by [clicking here](#).

Situations and Resolutions

By: Jack Swanson

The Online Testing Working Group spent the last year updating the Stroke and Turn and Starter/Referee Situations and Resolutions, adding situations and resolutions based on recent rule changes and adding situations pertinent to officiating athletes with disabilities (thanks to the Disability Subcommittee of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee for their help!). Links to the situations and resolutions are below and are also published to the USA Swimming webpage:

- [Stroke and Turn](#)
- [Starter and Deck Referee](#)

Each newsletter, we will highlight a situation and resolution from each group. [Click here](#) to see two selected situations and resolutions.

Swim Trivia

When were goggles first introduced to competitive swimming?

Goggles were first worn by David Wilkie, a Scottish swimmer, in the 1970 Commonwealth Games. David's goggles were homemade and were used, in part, to protect him from a chlorine allergy. Goggles were first allowed in Olympic competition in the 1976 Montreal Olympics. That's right—Mark Spitz swam without goggles when he earned seven gold medals in the 1972 Munich Olympics!

Congratulations!

Congratulations and thank you to the following officials who recently served at their first national meet (*Note - we apologize for any omissions or errors*):

TYR Pro Swim Series – Ft. Lauderdale

Erin Fauzie – MN

Shane Lamb – UT

Emily Patterson – VA



Officials' Excellence Award

Congratulations to the June winner of the Officials' Excellence Award: Barb Ship from the Potomac Valley Swimming LSC.

Barb Ship has been a swim official for almost 20 years and is the epitome of a compassionate servant leader on and off the deck. Barb has dedicated her life to serving others in her professional, personal, and volunteer life, and always with a smile. Barb currently serves as the Potomac Valley Swimming Officials' Chair, overseeing almost 500 officials, and she makes time to routinely communicate with the LSC officials and the organization as a whole. Barb is an exceptional listener with great compassion and empathy for others. She is highly sensitized to the needs of others and is constantly working to seek out opportunities to facilitate development and advancement of individuals for the betterment of themselves as well as the organization. You can find Barb on most weekends on deck at a swim meet. Barb serves at many different meets – Age Group, Senior, National, Masters, as well as Special Olympics and always leaves others in a better place because of her selfless mentoring. Barb has, and continues to be, a gift to the Potomac Valley Swimming and USA Swimming community; she deserves the recognition and appreciation for her contributions to all facets of swimming and to those who have the opportunity to serve with her.

Thank you, Barb!

Looking for more details on the Officials' Excellence Award?

The Officials' Excellence Award:

- National recognition for outstanding officials for LSC contribution
- Anyone can submit, although we will ask the LSC Officials' Chair or LSC General Chair for input
- The nominee must be an active member of USA Swimming with current registration
- There are six awards each year, one each in odd-numbered months
- Nominations close around April
- Nominations are held for two cycles (24 months) unless selected

- The National Officials Committee votes in May for the July through next May period (1 cycle)

Hopefully, your LSC OC committee is actively looking for ways to acknowledge officials and appreciate their service at the local level. This award is just a way to further acknowledge those deserving higher recognition. The link for the nomination form is [here](#).



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