
Officials' Newsletter - December 2022

1 message

USA Swimming Officials <Officials@mail.usaswimming.org>

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OFFICIALS' NEWSLETTER



Greetings from the Chair

Happy Holidays to all! The local weather forecast tells me our temperatures will be falling into the single digits and there is a chance of snow, just in time for travel challenges!

It is hard to believe that 2022 is about to come to an end. Where did the time go? Hopefully, you are all taking time to reflect on the year that has been and the year that will come. I am thankful for all of you and the countless hours you spend at swim meets of all types around the country and outside our borders. That time is invaluable to the athletes and coaches who have in turn spent countless hours of their own honing their craft in order to challenge themselves and the stopwatch. In just a little over 18 months from now, the USA's best and brightest will converge on Lucas Oil Stadium for nine days of incredible swimming. The Toyota U.S. Open at the beginning of this month kicked off the qualification period, and the swimming community will be looking at the first Trials to be contested in an NFL stadium!

As we move into 2023, let's continue working on all the little things we do each day to make ourselves

better officials, just like our athletes and coaches will be working on what they need to do to keep their swimming journeys on an upward trajectory. Remember, it is likely that not every day will be as successful as we would like. There will be bumps in the road, but as long as we can look back and say we did the best we could, that's all we can ask of each other.

It is my sincere wish for all of you that you stay safe and enjoy the holiday season and coming new year with all that it may bring. Thank you again!

Sincerely,
Matt Wilson

Announcements

- **2023 TYR Pro Series Meets:**
 - Knoxville, Tenn. // January 11-14 (MR - Mike Dilli) - application closed
 - Fort Lauderdale, Fla. // March 1-4 (MR -Kathleen Scandary) - application closed
 - Westmont, Ill. // April 12-15 (MR - Matt Wilson) application closed
 - Mission Viejo, Calif. // May 17-20 (MR - Trish Martin) coming soon
- **2023 National Meets:**
 - Open Water Nationals - Sarasota, Fla. // April 21-23 (MR - Pam Wilson) application posted
 - Phillips 66 National Championships - Indianapolis, Ind. // June 27-July 1 (MR - Jamie Cahn) coming soon
 - 2023 TYR Pro Championships - Irvine, Calif. // July 26-29 (MR - Mickey Smythe)
 - Futures Championships July 26-29
 - Richmond, Va. (MR - Kenneth Chung) coming soon
 - Ocala, Fla. (MR - Marcus Stromberg) coming soon
 - West Fargo, N.D. (MR - Ellen Colket) coming soon
 - San Antonio, Texas (MR - Derigan Silver) coming soon
 - Sacramento, Calif. (MR - Fran Werner) coming soon
 - Speedo Junior National Championships - Irvine, Calif. // July 31-August 4 (MR - Anissa Kanzari)

Please note, the [National Meet Applications can still be found on the USA Swimming website](#) under the *Officials' Popular Resources* section at the top. A formal notification will be sent out once the applications have been migrated to SWIMS.

The USA Swimming Office will be closed December 22 through January 2 to allow staff to enjoy the holidays with their families. We look forward to working together in 2023!

2023 Rules and Regulations - Derek Paul, Chair,

Rules & Regulations

The USA Swimming House of Delegates and FINA Technical Congress brought changes in the 2022 legislative cycle. Here's a quick roundup of some of the biggest legislative changes:

The Blue Section:

Changes to Articles 102.10.3 and 102.10.4 clarify the number of Marshals needed for competitions, requiring at least two, with at least one of each gender.

Amendments to SW 6.1 update the requirements for wall contact on the backstroke start to be as minimal as "at least one toe of both feet" to comply with current practices. Updates to USA Swimming Article 101.4.1 will mirror this language.

The removal of the language "and on the same horizontal plane" in SW 7.2 and SW 7.4 creates a major update to the Breaststroke rules. In 2023, officials will no longer need to assess whether athletes' arms or legs are on the same horizontal plane. You'll see the change reflected in USA Swimming Article 101.2.2 and 101.2.3.

Especially Pertinent to Clubs:

New requirements for Meet Announcements now include a statement of available medical supervision, per Article 202.4.11.

The 120-day transfer period has been reduced to 60 days through amendments to Article 203.3 and Article 203.9.2.

APT/Background Check Information

As swim meet season quickly approaches, we want to ensure all USA Swimming members in good standing can continue to be credentialed for on deck access. We have heard your concerns as some of your membership cards do not reflect your recently completed required training, and therefore are not completely up to date.

Before you arrive at a swim meet, we suggest you do the following.

Check your current SWIMS membership card:

1. Login to your USA Swimming account dashboard on the [website](#) or on the USA Swimming app;
2. Click your membership card to view all membership requirements; and
3. Confirm all membership requirements are not expired and your membership status states you are a member in good standing. (Memberships in good standing should have a gold check mark).

If you have courses that have not been completed or are expired:

- Login to your USA Swimming account dashboard on the USA Swimming website;
- Click the "Education" tab in the blue banner towards the top of the website;
- Click "Course Catalog";
- Find the expired course and complete it (we suggest saving a PDF or other proof of completion).

APT, Background Check, and CANRA will update on your member record within 48 hours. Concussion Protocol Training completion certificates should be sent to your LSC.

If you have a completed APT, Background Check, or CANRA which is not up to date on your membership card and it has been more than 48 hours since completion:

- [Click here](#) to submit a ticket with proof of completion. This can include a PDF or screenshot.
- Please be advised that turnaround time could take up to 30 days.

If your Concussion Protocol Training is not up to date on your membership card:

- Contact your LSC. The LSC is responsible for maintaining these requirements.

If your membership requirements are not displaying on your member card correctly when you attend a meet, be prepared to do the following to demonstrate you are a member in good standing. **Please note the below steps can be used until the end of 2022, until all membership requirements are current in the SWIMS database.**

Athlete Protection Training (APT)

Adult members of USA Swimming (i.e., those 18 years and older) must complete APT annually. To demonstrate compliance, members must first show their member card via the USA Swimming App. You may then show your APT certificate of completion via hard copy, PDF or screenshot. Certificates of completion must show the corresponding member name and an up-to-date expiration date for the CORE or Refresher course from the U.S. Center for SafeSport to be accepted.

Background Check

For those members that must complete a background check, there is NO substitute for demonstrating a completed background check. If your USA Swimming account does not reflect a current background check, you will not receive deck access and/or a credential.

CANRA (for California registered adult non-athlete members only)

Adult non-athlete members registered in California may show their certificate of completion of the *Mandatory Reporting: Understanding Your Responsibility* training course via hard copy, PDF or screenshot. Members must first show their member card via the USA Swimming App, then show their certificate of completion which must correspond to their member name and an up-to-date expiration date for the correct course from the U.S. Center for SafeSport to be accepted. USA Swimming will only accept completion of this specific U.S. Center for SafeSport course; certificates from CANRA training programs provided by organizations other than the U.S. Center for SafeSport will not count towards good standing with USA Swimming.

Concussion Protocol Training

Members must first show their member card via the USA Swimming App, then show their completion of Concussion Protocol training via hard copy, PDF or screenshot. Completion must show the corresponding member name and an up-to-date expiration date to be accepted.



FINA World Cup

By: Kathleen Scandary, Coordinator Program & Events

After the competition stopped in Berlin and Toronto in just three weeks' time, the third and final leg of the 2022 FINA World Cup came to Indianapolis on November 3-5. To describe the races as fast would not tell the story accurately, as we witnessed three new World Junior Records being broken and a world-record swim from Katie Ledecky. The athletes put on quite a show for the crowd, but we officials know where the best seats in the house are always located. As you can see by the photo above, 30 selected officials came from all across our country to serve these incredible swimmers and were led by FINA TSC (Technical Swimming Committee) members Craig Hunter of Great Britain and Louise LeBlanc from Canada. Rumor has it the water levels may have dropped because the officials absorbed gallons at every turn, but not a single one of your colleagues even flinched! You could hear shoes squeak as they walked off and puddles became evidence of who was assigned in those positions. [Check out the video replays](#) for a good laugh because we have all been in "those shoes" before.

Go Team USA!

Carol Zaleski Wins Impact Award for Her Decades of Service

By: Kenneth Chung, USA Swimming Board of Directors

I was honored to attend the 2022 Golden Goggle Awards this past November at the Marriott Marquis in New York City. The event raised money for the [USA Swimming Foundation](#), and also celebrated the successes of our athletes who competed at the FINA World Championships this past summer. In addition to our athletes, USA Swimming also recognized Carol Zaleski, who made a tremendous

contribution as both an official in the U.S. and on decks internationally. This Impact Award is given to individuals who have made significant lifelong contributions to the sport of swimming.

After accepting the Impact Award, Carol shared her two guiding principles: "1) It is an honor and a privilege to help with the sport, and 2) if all decisions are based on what is in the best interest of the athletes, good decisions will be made."

You can [watch her full speech here](#).

Well said, Carol. Thank you for your decades of service.

Congratulations to These Officials Who Served at Their First National Meet Recently!

Note - We apologize for any omissions or errors.

Toyota U.S. Open

Emily Kintz - Georgia Swimming

Matt Stoneburg - Florida Swimming

Speedo Junior Nationals East (Greensboro)

Heather Alexander - South Carolina Swimming

Blair Cameron - Potomac Valley Swimming

Christopher Cannon - Indiana Swimming

Yonca Ozbelli - North Carolina Swimming

Brent Lightfoot - South Carolina Swimming

Michael Long - North Carolina Swimming

David Rache - Indiana Swimming

Speedo Junior Nationals West (Austin)

John Comfort - Oklahoma Swimming

Son Comfort - Oklahoma Swimming

Brad Crysel - Colorado Swimming

Joseph M. De Risio - Oregon Swimming

Daniel Diver - Wyoming Swimming

Catherine Foy - Alaska Swimming

Maureen Helm - South Texas Swimming

Bryce Leach - North Texas Swimming

Ginger Leacox - Sierra Nevada Swimming

George Mathes - Wyoming Swimming

Michael O'Neil - Colorado Swimming

Joseph "Joe" Potts - Arkansas Swimming

Jason Slavik - Colorado Swimming

Darryl Strabuk - Metropolitan Swimming

Ava St Thomas - Metropolitan Swimming

Glen Taffinder - South Texas Swimming

David Wicklund - Arkansas Swimming



Officials' Excellence Award

Cathy Vaughan - Utah Swimming.

Cathy Vaughan has been an official in Utah Swimming for over 20 years. Due to her long tenure and strong skill set, she was one of the LSC's first trained mentors. Her support and encouragement are critical in instilling confidence, as well as training deck skills to new officials. She has been instrumental in developing our officials at all levels, and encourages them to further their advancement by being evaluated as national officials. In addition to her work with officials in the LSC, Cathy assisted in the roll out of the Safe Sport program in the Western Zone. There, she established the initial Utah Safe Sport Committee. In 2016, Cathy was the Meet Director for the Western Zone Age Group Championships in Utah. After her success at the meet, people requested her meet-hosting resources, to which Cathy created [a website to share resources for hosting meets](#).

Although the site is geared towards swim meets, it can be used as a resource for many types of events. Cathy is also currently serving as the Chair of the Governance Committee for Utah Swimming. She goes above and beyond each year to help make her LSC, and the sport of swimming, great.