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TO: LSC Officials Chairs, LSC General Chairs, Zone Officials Chairs,
Officials Committee

FROM: Jim Sheehan, Chair, Official's Committee

SUBJ: Trainees on Deck

For the past several years there has been discussion about the training of officials and the need for the trainees to be members of USA Swimming in order to be on deck. The Chair of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations Committee has issued an opinion that a trainee does not have to be a member to be on deck. The following is the text of that opinion.

"As long as the person is a trainee, there is not a requirement to be a member. I don't think a person is serving in an official capacity when they are there as a trainee/apprentice. However, as soon as the person is considered a "certified" official and/or has the responsibility on deck as a "certified" official, they must be members of USA Swimming."

Additionally, the following statement has been received from our insurance agent that applies to the insurance aspect of a non-member being on deck.

"The individual is acting as a "volunteer" on behalf of [USA Swimming] so would be provided General Liability/Excess Liability coverage. They, of course, would not be entitled to the Excess Accident coverage since they weren't a member."

The above may provide a number of opportunities for LSCs to improve their recruiting of new officials. This could include:

- Having parents who may have an interest in becoming an official follow along with a certified official to see what it is like on deck.
- Have clinics at meets that can now include the trainees watching swimmers during warm-ups or at other times as a practical part of their training.
- Delay the decision by a trainee to join USA Swimming and pay the membership fee until he or she really wants to be an official. There may be some parents who aren't sure and are discouraged from going forward due to the requirement of paying the fee before they get on deck.

I'm sure that there are other possibilities where having trainees on deck may be of benefit to the recruitment and initial training of officials. Please let your Zone Officials Chairs know of any new procedures or initiatives that you have implemented to take advantage of this opportunity so they can be shared with the rest of the LSCs in your zone as well as around the country.

Thanks.



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