

USA Swimming Officials' Newsletter // April 2023

1 message

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

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OFFICIALS' NEWSLETTER



Greetings from the Chair // Matt Wilson:

Flowers are blooming, bees are buzzing, and we're about to head into the long course season! As we work meets this spring and summer (and fall and winter), think of these words from Benjamin Franklin: "Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn."

We should always be looking to identify, teach, train and involve our replacements. We should be mentors as well as students, constantly looking to learn as well as be educated. At meets, regardless of how long we may have been officiating, we should be asking ourselves "What did I learn today?". Just like the athletes, we should constantly be looking to get better at everything we do every day. Will it happen every single day? Probably not. But if we don't strive to achieve goals like these, will we end up sitting back and saying "What if?". Probably.

Again, thank you all for everything you constantly do to help the swimming community work to achieve bigger and better things! Hope to see you on a pool deck (or open water venue) in the not-too-distant future!

Announcements:

- The **Quarterly Officials Chair call** occurred at the beginning of April. Check with your OC about any pertinent information that was shared.
- The National Certification Interim Process is posted [here](#).
- National Certifications will be updated monthly in the [online report](#). The review process may take up to two months to complete.
- **Applications / Meets:**

- [Meet applications](#) can be found at USASwimming.org > Officials menu > National Meet Applications. There are many opportunities to work this summer for those with an N2 certification.
- **2023 National Meets:**
 - 2023 TYR Pro Championships - Irvine, Calif. // July 26-29 (MR - Mickey Smythe) // application posted
 - Futures Championships // July 26-29 // application posted
 - Richmond, Va. (MR - Kenneth Chung)
 - Ocala, Fla. (MR - Marcus Stromberg)
 - West Fargo, N.D. (MR - Ellen Colket)
 - San Antonio, Texas (MR - Derigan Silver)
 - Sacramento, Calif. (MR - Fran Werner)
 - Speedo Junior National Championships - Irvine, Calif. // July 31-August 4 (MR - Anissa Kanzari) // application posted

2024 U.S. Olympic Team Trials - Swimming // Meet Referee:

Preparations for next summer's Olympic Trials in Indianapolis at Lucas Oil Stadium (June 15-23) are already underway. We are excited to announce that Kathleen Scandary has been selected to serve as Meet Referee for this fantastic event. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

Additional 2023 Rule Changes - How to Stay Up to Date:

World Aquatics now has the ability to change rules, interpretations and procedures whenever the Bureau meets. Due to the potential for off-cycle changes, it is of the utmost importance that you stay abreast of these changes.

All registered Officials received two emails regarding the most recent changes (backstroke finish and change of the start command to "Take Your Marks") on 3/10/2023. These should be printed and kept with your rule book, as they won't be reflected until the 2024 edition.

To assist in keeping up-to-date with these changes, a section has been added to the website under "Officials > Rules and Policies" and "About > Rules and Policies". It is the second section, under "Top Resources" and can be found here: [Additional 2023 Rule Changes](#).

As changes occur, they will be communicated as well as added to this section. Each rule includes a PDF file that can also be printed for your physical rulebooks.

Although our rules largely mirror World Aquatics, interpretation or implementation should not occur until you have been notified by USA Swimming that our rule has changed. If you have any questions about a new rule, please check this [page](#). All effective USA Swimming Rules will be in the current-year rulebook, or on this [page](#).

OTS - Missing Meet Sessions:

An identified OTS development issue was fixed in March but did result in sporadic deletion of sessions in an official's history and occasional deletion of an official from a meet. Officials should check their individual meet sessions in OTS since 9/1/2022. If sessions are missing, please contact the Meet Referee(s) for the meet(s) and CC your LSC Officials Chair. The sessions will need to be logged again. It is also possible that the Official may need to be re-added to the meet.

Congratulations and thanks to Officials who recently served at their first national meet!

TYR Pro Swim Series - Fort Lauderdale

Joseph Glennon - FL Swimming
Justin Spooner - FL Swimming

TYR Pro Swim Series - Westmont

Fraisa Carballo - OH Swimming
Lori Howard - MW Swimming
Brian Keating - IL Swimming
Kathryn Lydiatt - NE Swimming
Sarah Olson - WI Swimming
Amber Pareja - IL Swimming

We apologize for any omissions or errors.



Officials' Excellence Award: Andrew Olson, Wisconsin Swimming

Andrew has been an official for nearly nine years. He elevated his commitment to officiating in 2018. Since then, he has obtained his LSC level Administrative Official, Starter and Referee credentials, has obtained four N2 level certification and one N3 level certification. He has officiated frequently outside his home LSC and attended Futures, TYR Pro Swim Series and U.S. Open meets. He is also fully open water certified. Most impressive is the number of sessions he works on the local level. He is not affiliated with a team and is committed to helping small teams in the LSC so they can host meets. He does not limit himself to his home area or meets his daughter attends. He travels the state, often with his wife, who is also an official.

In 2018, Andrew worked 108 sessions; in 2019, he worked 156 sessions; and in 2020, he worked 55 sessions – 21 of them prior to the shut down due to the global pandemic. Andrew has also volunteered to fill the role as Head Chief Judge and as meet referee at the LSC Age Group Championship meet. Andrew is always willing to help in whatever position there is a need at a meet.

He is eager to mentor new officials. Andrew is a real asset to the Wisconsin LSC and the sport of swimming overall.