
Officials' Newsletter - April 2025

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

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OFFICIALS' NEWSLETTER



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Greetings from the Chair

By: Dana Covington

Another championship season is under our belts. The past couple of months have presented many opportunities to officiate at a variety of swim meets. These meets could not have happened without you! A heartfelt THANK YOU to all of you who spent your precious time on a deck officiating at one (or two or three) of these LSC Championships, Speedo Sectionals, Open Water Nationals, Zones, NCAA, YMCA, Masters, TYR Pro Swim Series, or High School meets. What a gift you have given to these teams and athletes.

This was also a busy Officials Qualifying Meet season. N2 and N3 evaluators conducted many evaluations at these meets. Thank you to each one of you who has taken the opportunity to seek out this mentoring opportunity to advance your knowledge and skill as a volunteer official. I am very proud of the effort of the National Evaluators to share their expertise with others in a positive learning environment. As we support and elevate others, we become better as a body of officials. We are a wonderful team of officials in 59 LSCs, and it shows!

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.
 - **National Championships:** June 3-7, 2025, in Indianapolis, Ind. MR: Mickey Smythe. Applications are now closed.
 - **Futures:** July 23-26, 2025. N2 certifications preferred. Regular applications are now closed, but Waitlist Only applications are open.
 - Greensboro, N.C. - MR: Jason Shibata
 - Justin, Texas - MR: Barb Ship
 - Madison, Wisc. - 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. Regular applications are now closed, but Waitlist Only applications are open.
 - **TYR Summer Championships:** August 5-8, 2025 in Irvine, Calif. MR: Ellen Colket. N3 certification preferred. Applications are now closed.
 - 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, May 7, 2025 at 6 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 online **Referee Certification Course** is now available through USA Swimming University. This course, which also includes assessment questions, replaces LSC-based Referee Clinics. With the introduction of this course, there are now certification courses for each of the pool-based officials' certifications: Stroke and Turn, Starter, Referee, and Administrative Official. These courses now serve as the primary certification/recertification courses and assessments for all new and renewing officials. The Foundations of Officiating course is also available for volunteers new to the world of officiating. Read more [here](#).
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February Survey Results

By: Kevin Hogan and Jason Johnson

In the February 2025 USA Swimming Officials' Newsletter, we asked two communications-focused questions and received responses from 171 officials.

[Click here](#) to see the results of the February survey.

April Survey Question

By: Jason Johnson

The survey questions this month focus on the current educational article written by Marianne Walling and Trish Martin, with an additional question seeking suggestions for future topics.

Responses are anonymous and will help the National Officials Committee know if it is meeting the needs of the officials it serves. Thank you in advance for answering this month's questions, which can be found [here](#).

Mentors: A Walk Through the Evaluation Process

By: Marianne Walling and Trish Martin

In the February newsletter, we discussed the importance of N2 mentors and how LSC Officials Chairs can identify those with the aptitude for mentoring. This month, we will focus on the evaluation process and the Officials Tracking System (OTS) tools available to all mentors and how to implement these tools from planning through to the completion of an evaluation.

[Click here](#) to see more.

Congratulations to New N3 Evaluators

By: Trish Martin

The National Evaluation and Mentoring Working Group named two new N3 mentors to the May 2025 list. Congratulations to Doug Galinsky (IN) and Tom Schultz (ST), the newest N3i CJ evaluators. The working group also added four new positions to current N3i evaluators' rosters and advanced six evaluators to N3f level in new positions. The May list has been posted to the [National Certification & Evaluation page](#) of the USA Swimming website. Once on the page, scroll down to the "Officials Qualifying Meet List and Application" section and select "Current N3 Mentors/Evaluators" to download the list.

National Certification Reminders

By: Trish Martin

If you've recently received a satisfactory evaluation, congratulations! The National Certification group has developed this handy dandy chart to summarize how N2/N3 certification or recertification evaluations in one position may renew certifications in another position. This information is detailed in the Certification and Recertification Requirements documents for each position. Please remember that a successful N3i evaluation cannot be used for advancement, but it can be used instead of an N2r evaluation if an official needs to renew their N2 certification before they can obtain their N3f evaluation.

Summary of N2/N3 Evaluation Reciprocity							
		Renews These Certifications:					
		AO	ST	CJ	DR	SR	AR
A Successful Evaluation for:	AO	X					
	ST		X				
	CJ		X	X			
	SR		X			X	
	DR		X	X	X		
	AR		X	X	X		X

Before applying for advancement or recertification in the Officials Tracking System (OTS), please remember to first do the following:

- Check to see that your evaluation or evaluations have been uploaded to OTS and are showing in “My Official History” under the “EVALUATIONS” tab.
- Check to see that your sessions from the Officials Qualifying Meet (OQM) have been entered and are showing in your “MEET HISTORY.”
- Check the corresponding [Certification and Recertification Requirements](#) documents to ensure that you have met any time requirements.

Once the above elements have been satisfied, sign in to OTS, select the “Officials” tab, and then select “National Certification Application” to advance or recertify.

Hot August Nights

By: Jason Johnson



Communications and Social Media Working Group

By: Kevin Hogan

The USA Swimming National Officials Committee (NOC) Communications and Social Media Working Group focuses on providing USA Swimming officials with timely updates and announcements, educational items, and human interest articles.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the working group.

Evaluation/Mentoring Working Group

By: Trish Martin

The Evaluation/Mentoring Working Group's primary responsibilities are maintaining national nominating criteria and performance standards for N3i and N3f evaluators and overseeing the appointments of N3 mentors.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the working group.

OTS and National Certification Working Groups

By: Marianne Walling

The OTS Working Group and National Certification Working Group support the development and education of officials as they advance through the national ranks by adhering to the standards established by the National Officials Committee (NOC).

[Click here](#) to learn more about the working group.

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.

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 Westmont

Michael Baird – Potomac Valley
Jeffrey Childs – North Carolina
Trevor Gillis – Pacific
Thomas Goosmann – Lake Erie
Derek Helmer – New England
Melissa Vandenhouten – Wisconsin
Ronald Vandenhouten – Wisconsin
Khanngun Zamora – Potomac Valley
Samantha Wong – Illinois

TYR Pro Swim Series Sacramento

Megan Gembolis – Inland Empire
Kimber Guzik – Pacific
Deanna Hogenboom – Sierra Nevada
Audrey Lungershausen – Oregon
Ryan McCarthy – Southern California
Dino Nguy – Pacific
Deborah Schmidt – New Mexico
Kian Tavakoli – Pacific
Hisako Watanabe-Cenizal – Sierra Nevada
Kevin Waterson – Sierra Nevada



Officials' Excellence Award

Congratulations to the March winner of the Officials' Excellence Award: Brett Ewald from Florida Swimming.

Brett Ewald, a distinguished USA Swimming official with Florida Swimming, has been recognized with the prestigious Officials' Excellence Award for his outstanding contributions to the sport of swimming. This esteemed award acknowledges his unwavering dedication to officiating, leadership, and mentorship within the swimming community.

Brett's involvement with Florida Swimming spans many years, and his leadership within the Florida Swimming Officials Committee has been invaluable. He has served as an Area Representative for several years and held key roles, including Vice Chair of the Officials Committee for four years and Chair of the Committee for two years. Brett's influence also extends to the broader governance of Florida Swimming, where he served as Administrative Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors for one year and is currently the General Chair.

Beyond his leadership roles, Brett has been instrumental in mentoring new and emerging officials, particularly through National Evaluation. His dedication to developing the next generation of officials has had a lasting impact on the sport. Many officials have advanced in their careers thanks to Brett's expertise and his commitment to maintaining the highest standards of officiating.

The Officials' Excellence Award is presented to those who demonstrate exceptional skill, leadership, and a deep commitment to the growth of the sport. Brett's significant influence on Florida Swimming and his mentorship of countless officials make him a truly deserving recipient of this honor. His continued leadership and passion for swimming ensure that the sport remains fair, competitive, and driven by excellence.

Thank you, Brett!

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](#).
