

Subject: Officials Newsletter: Concussion Training Requirements

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USA Swimming Officials Newsletter | August 2019



OFFICIALS NEWSLETTER

From the National Officials Committee Chair

Looking **toward** Convention, and looking **forward** to celebrating!

We are winding down the swim year by way of looking at how the Officials' Committee has addressed the survey responses from last December. Our business meeting at convention will provide an opportunity to hear the initiatives and the actions that have been taken by sub-committees. The second meeting at convention of the National Officials Committee will be one of celebration. The athletes on our (that means all-y'all in the Southern Zone) committee, Jack and Shelby, will present a special thanks through stories of appreciation for what we do on every deck across the four zones. The fun will continue as we celebrate some of the individuals who have achieved positions, guided great teams through this year's five-star meets and traveled internationally as representatives of USA Swimming. I look forward to seeing many of you in St. Louis. For those of you who cannot be in attendance, watch for the video/pictures!

Kathleen Scandary
Chair, National Officials Committee

Heads Up Goggles Not Valid for Competition

The great news is that there are folks who are always looking for ways to enhance or improve athletes' performance. One new piece of equipment are goggles with a minicomputer and heads up display. These goggles were developed by [Form](#). The goggles shown here enable a swimmer to use the smart display to know split times, distance, and more, as they swim. As such, these goggles, while seemingly excellent for training, would be illegal during competition. Rule 102.8.1E provides:



No swimmer is permitted to wear or use any device, substance or swimsuit to help his/her speed, pace, buoyancy or endurance during a race (such as webbed gloves, flippers, fins, power bands, adhesive substances, etc.). Goggles may be worn, and rub-down oil applied if not considered excessive by the Referee. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the Referee.

Accordingly, should a swimmer compete with these goggles, they would be subject to disqualification.

Another developer is the VUZIX who has developed the Smart Swim™ head-up display for swimmers providing workout status and information in real-time, during uninterrupted swimming activities. There may be others, but the point is these devices while great for training, are not appropriate for competition.

Clark Hammond
Chair, Rules & Regulations Committee



New Certification Requirement - Concussion Protocol Training

This requirement is new for all coaches and officials in 2020. Though several states have previously passed concussion education requirements, **USA Swimming will now require all coaches and officials complete Concussion Protocol Training by January 1, 2020.**

- Courses from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), as well as individual states' required courses will satisfy the USA Swimming requirement. (For example, if a coach lives/coaches in a state with a concussion education requirement, he/she must only complete this requirement and will not need to complete an additional course). Many high school coaches will have already completed the NFHS training.
- **For USA Swimming membership, coaches and officials must successfully complete concussion and head injury education at least once.** Individual states may require annual or continuing education and *coaches/officials must abide by the requirements of their home state or states in which they coach or officiate.*
- This requirement is necessary to avoid personal liability for concussion/head strike incidents, ensuring our insurers will continue to provide liability insurance protection to USA Swimming, coaches, officials and clubs.
- Please direct questions about Concussion Protocol Training to George Ward at gward@usaswimming.org. A FAQ document is also posted on the website.

Summer International Championship Meet Reports

Cecil Gordon - Pan American Games - Lima, Peru

With the exception of the Olympics the Pan Am Games are host to more sporting disciplines than any other international competition. The meet was outstanding and the U.S. team dominated the swimming competition. The newly constructed Videna Aquatic Center was a sellout each night of competition. The atmosphere boasted a lively Caribbean flavor with festive music and an energetic crowd.

As a member of the UANA TSC my role varied each day at the meet. On Day 1 I was deck referee for the women's competition. My Starter was Lisa Vetterlein, who did an outstanding job. Having worked other meets together, we were both comfortable setting the tone as the first team up. Day 2 found me in the Control Room, working closely with the Omega crew, monitoring all the activity on deck (DQs and early relay takeoffs). Day 3 was spent in Call Room #2. This was a first for me. It was a fun learning experience checking credentials and lining up the athletes for Finals' introductions. I was a stroke judge on Day 4. The highlight of Day 4 was presenting the awards for three of the events. It was quite a challenge going to and fro - working as an official and running to the Awards Room. Finally, Day 5 found me in Lane 4 as a judge on the turn end of the pool. "Wet" was the order of the day as a counter for the 1500.

The experience was awesome and I look forward to the UANA Cup returning to Lima in February, 2020.

Lisa Vetterlein - Pan American Games - Lima, Peru

Fue un fantástico encuentro de natación y una experiencia oficiante impresionante. It was a fantastic swim meet and awesome officiating experience! I speak very limited Español,

and while translator apps were not always necessary, I enjoyed several one-on-one conversations using them.

The first day (after uniforms) was the technical meeting for the coaches, and a roll call of the countries was taken. I was awestruck by the number of countries and islands being represented (and that I would love to visit) and the incredible opportunity to be a part of this swim meet.

While there were many Pan American records broken and celebration of those, this meet was like no other. Every moment was a celebration. Prior to the start of the meet, music was being played and the spectators danced waiting for their moment to be shown on the televised screens. I can now do the Macarena correctly (I think). More unusual for me to witness, from the moment the start signal sounded (almost before the athletes hit the water) music began again.

Another huge take-away was the mere fact, that regardless of country, officials are an incredibly committed, wonderful group of people and boundaries recede into the background. Thank you again for the opportunity.

Wayne Shulby - World Championships - Gwangju, Korea

You may have noticed the pink coats at finals, but that wasn't the only thing different from a typical US championship meet. This was the first meet where FINA officially used the underwater cameras. They used the system like the US does. Once a call was received, the referees in the video room would review the call and determine if the video supported, overturned the call, or was inconclusive. Coaches could review the video if a disqualification was made. The video review was well received by the officials and coaches. I would not be surprised if we see it in use at the Tokyo games next summer.

One of the differences with a FINA meet is the disqualification process. If the Inspector of Turns (Turn judge) or Inspector of Stroke has a call, they get the attention of the Chief Inspector of Turn (CJ) who radios the referee that there is a call in "x" lane at "xxx" meters. The reserve is sent in and the judge reports directly to the referee to discuss the call. If a call is accepted, the inspector writes the disqualification in long hand (using a cheat sheet,) which is then signed and accepted by the referee. The disqualification is displayed on the board and announced by the announcer. The next heat is not started until all disqualifications/timing issues are resolved. In USA meets, the CJ would vet the judges call and radio the call to the referee who would then accept the call. The CJ would write up the DQ slip and inform the swimmer upon completion of their swim of the disqualification. Subsequent heats would continue while the DQ is processed.

It was a great experience. I witnessed some great swims and made some new friends, so in many ways it was the same as any other meet.

Robert Broyles - World Junior Championships - Budapest, Hungary

Top 10 things I (re) learned as an ITO at the 2019 World Jr Championships in Budapest

- 10) I am appreciative/ thankful for USA Swimming officials and our training.
- 9) I am very appreciative and thankful for USA Swimming starters and our training.
- 8) One should not take cold drinks for granted.
- 7) Always bring your own pen.
- 6) At a FINA event, a briefing is the true intent of the root word.
- 5) One size larger than what you usually wear is a good plan.
- 4) Watching freestyle turns over the top still makes me crazy.
- 3) Being Chief Inspector of Turns, like CJ, is the "dry side" of officiating.
- 2) Team USA is fun to watch!!!
- 1) Stroke and Turn may indeed be the universal language!

Thank you for the opportunity to represent the USA in Budapest. I enjoyed working with the international and Hungarian officials and the FINA Technical Swimming Committee in what could be the best permanent swimming facility in the world. This meet was a well-run event that would match up to anything we do in the USA.

Learning Opportunities for Officials

My presentation at the LSC Officials' Chairs workshop focused on learning opportunities for officials. I encouraged LSC Officials' Chairs to ask themselves, "What do your learning

opportunities look like?" We focused on three learning styles – visual, auditory, and kinesthetic – and how we can incorporate each learning style into clinics and trainings for stroke and turn, starter, and deck referee positions.

Some questions to consider regarding clinics and trainings include:

- Do your learning opportunities take into account the 3 different learning styles?
- How might you include a different learning style in your existing training?
- For each position, are there various learning opportunities, or are some only on deck training?
- What kind of challenges do you face in delivering training?
- How flexible is your training?

Set times each season?

Set locations?

On demand?

- Are there non-traditional ways you can address the challenges you face?

Between sessions opportunities

Opportunities at practice

Swim lesson observations for incorrect strokes

Meeting w/ food (potluck? restaurant?) to review situations/resolutions

Finding ways to address your challenges while incorporating the various learning styles will help you develop and deliver both traditional and non-traditional training and mentoring opportunities that meet the needs of all officials.

Anne Lawley

Sub-Committee Chair, Education Sub-Committee

NCAA Officiating Application

USA Swimming officials may apply to officiate at the NCAA Division I, II, and III National Championship meets. [Click here](#) for the link for the application to serve as an official during the 2020 NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships.

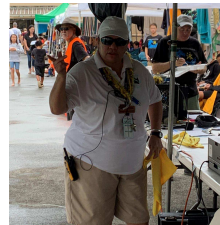
The deadline is Monday, October 14 at 5 p.m. ET for submitting the application and passing the rules test (swimming officials only). Please share this information with anyone else who may be interested in serving as a swimming or diving official for the 2020 NCAA championships.

Rules questions and/or interpretations should be directed to Greg Lockard, secretary-rules editor at greg@swimdiverules.com. If you have questions regarding the NCAA official's application, feel free to contact Robin L. Hale at rhale@naaa.org.

Officials' Excellence Award July 2019

Marcelle Arakaki - Hawaiian Swimming

Marcelle Arakaki has been an official for Hawaiian Swimming for over 20 years. Marcelle is the glue that keeps Hawaiian Swimming together. Marcelle comes to each and every meet early to help start setting all the equipment up. She makes sure everyone has what they need. Marcelle works in any position requested without hesitation. She has been Meet Referee for numerous State Championship meets. Marcelle has served as a deck official for six Junior Pan Pacific Championships. She regularly holds clinics for any teams on Oahu who have new interested potential officials. Marcelle is one of our most knowledgeable officials in the state. She shares her knowledge while mentoring new officials. In the last couple of years, Marcelle decided she should learn the dry-side of conducting a meet. She has mastered the timing system as well as what it is to be an AO. She is a well-rounded, athlete focused official who is extremely deserving of this award.



Congratulations, Marcelle!

Gina Mensay | USA Swimming | Senior Program Manager, Member Services |

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USA Swimming | 1 Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909

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