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Officials Newsletter - August 2020

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Officials Newsletter

Greetings From the Chair

For those on the outside looking in, giving freely of our time by a multiple of days, money in the hundreds, and closet space for uniforms to fit a variety of swim meets is nothing short of mystifying. It probably doesn't help for me to report that recently hearing "Take your mark", followed by the horn was music to my ears. The club that I am affiliated with ran its first competition in nearly six months on August 1st, and I believe the officials were smiling just as big as the athletes. If this is not something you have experienced yet, I hope it comes soon to a venue nearby. In the meantime, there are virtual clinics being taught and a cool, [new USA Swimming website](#) to explore!

Stay well.
Kathleen Scandary

Announcements

- Fall and Winter Meets - meets are being reviewed and further information will be shared within the next two weeks
- Convention - The United States Aquatics Sports (USAS) Convention has been canceled, so USA Swimming is moving forward with a virtual Convention during the same timeframe. Although there is no charge, **you must register to participate in the Convention**. There is information on the Convention, including a link for Registration here: usaswimming.org/about-usas/governance/convention-2020.
- The Officials Committee Business meeting usually held at Convention was held via Zoom on 8/15. It was recorded and the link will be made available

NCAA Officiating Applications

The application to serve as an official during the 2021 NCAA Swimming and Diving Championship is now open! Applications must be completed by Monday, October 5, 2020. The application can be found by visiting the NCAA Officials section on the USA Swimming website or by following this link: [2021 NCAA Swimming and Diving Officials Application](#).

In order to receive consideration for an officials position, applicants must successfully complete the rules test with a minimum score of 85 percent on or before October 12, 2020. The rules test is located on the USA Swimming website in the NCAA officials section or can be accessed by going to www.usaswimming.org/ncaaofficials. Test results are good for two years; therefore, you do not need to complete the test until September 1, 2021 if you successfully passed after September 1, 2019.

Rules questions and/or interpretations should be directed to Greg Lockard, Secretary-Rules Editor at greg@swimdiverules.com. Questions regarding the NCAA Official's Application can be sent to Robin Hale at rhale@ncaa.org.

FINA Pool Officials

Every two years, a new FINA list is nominated. We announced the Open Water Officials in the June newsletter and now the pool officials have been approved.

Please congratulate the new FINA Starters - Jason Johnson (NT), Anissa Kanzari (OH) and the new Referees Peter LaGow (MD) and Trish Martin (NC)!

Provisional Official

This non-membership certification has been extended to December 31, 2020 in order to accommodate for the continuation of restrictions set upon the sanctioning of meets in all LSCs. [Click here](#) for the steps to certification.

Please remember that the 25 question PO test is a Google doc that is accessed from the Provisional

Officials information on page 2, "Testing (5 events)". It does NOT appear on the web site under testing. [Click here](#) to view the information.

Virtual Meets

By Suzanne Heath, Eddie Hughes, and Lisa Olack

Virtual meets allow club teams to compete against each other while swimming locally within their own LSC or across different LSCs. A team may swim a virtual meet as an intrasquad competition at different venues, or teams may compete against each other. These meets have been part of the YMCA competition schedule for many years and have been held in several different parts of the country by USA teams as well. The information shared by the "Y" organization has helped to create opportunities for competition among USA Swimming members with the re-opening of pools that were once closed as a response to the coronavirus pandemic.

The competition is held as a single meet but can have multiple sessions taking place at different sites and at different times as long as the start and end dates are the same. Meet names do not have to be the same but the start and end date **must** be the same. All venues shall complete their competition within a ten (10) day period. A swimmer's age on the start date established for all venues shall determine the swimmer's age for the entire meet regardless of when a venue begins their sessions.

Every team agrees upon the session format for stroke and distance as stated in the Meet Announcement. The order of events must be followed so that each site's results can be merged and uploaded into the SWIMS database. If sanctioned by an LSC, USA Swimming Rules for the conduct of the competition, including timing and officiating, apply to all teams competing in the Virtual Meet. Sanctioning is not required when the goal of the meet is to simply let the athletes have the fun of the experience.

- If running the virtual meet **within the same LSC**
 - Host team responsibilities include, but are not limited to:
 - Development of meet announcement
 - Order of events
 - Fee structure, if applicable
 - Application for sanction
 - Pre-meet registration recon submission according to LSC policy
 - The merging of the meet for scoring and awards, if applicable
 - Submission of any fees according to LSC policy
 - Submit file for uploading to SWIMS after merging and scoring/placing
 - For OTS, identify administrators from each venue to enter official sessions

- If running the virtual meet **in multiple LSCs**

- Host team determined with the above responsibilities
- Additionally, each LSC venue responsibilities include but are not limited to:
 - Application for sanction
 - Fee structure, if applicable
 - Pre-meet registration recon submission according to LSC policy
 - Submission of any fees according to LSC policy
 - For OTS, identify administrators from each venue to enter official sessions

Timing Clarifications

Question: A team is only using semi-automatic timing. Rule 102.24.3A(2) states (paraphrasing) 2-3 timers per lane when semi-auto timing is utilized as the primary. Are there any exceptions to this requirement?

Answer: No. The semi-automatic timing in this case must also use 2 or 3 buttons. Since it is the “primary” system, you must also have a manual watch on each lane in the event there is a malfunction. Rule 102.24.3C.

Remember that Rule 102.24.1D provides:

“Except when the primary system consists of watches, backup timing shall be provided for all competitors. **No swimmer shall be required to re-swim a race due to equipment failure which results in unrecorded or inaccurate time or place.** It is the Meet Director’s responsibility to provide the proper timing systems so that swimmers can expect to achieve official times that will satisfy the requirements of 102.24.1C.”

Question: Can timers time from the side of the pool or the stands?

Answer: Nope. Timers are required to be behind the blocks at the finish. Rule 102.17.3 states:

“**B Stand directly over the assigned lane at the finish** to observe a touch above, at, or below the surface of the water and stop the watch and/or push the semi-automatic system button when any part of the swimmer’s body touches the wall.”

Tech Suit Rule for 12-and-Unders Begins September 1

Any suit that does not have the FINA logo on it is approved for 12-and-Under use. There are a handful of suits on the market that have the FINA logo that would be considered legal for age-group competition because they do not meet the definition of what is deemed a technical suit. These suits and only these suits will bear an additional check mark logo developed by USA Swimming to indicate that the suit is compliant with the rule. This check mark will be placed to the left or right of the FINA logo on the suit; an example can be viewed in the article linked below.

Below are complete lists of the suits that will be restricted for athletes 12 and under, and then a list of those tech suits that will be allowed for athletes 12 and under:

- [Restricted 12-and-under tech suits](#)
- [Approved 12-and-under tech suits](#)

More resources, including a breakdown of restricted suits by brand, check-mark example, FAQ document and a short video featuring Leah Smith, can be found [here](#).

Renewal of National Officiating Certifications

It has been brought to the attention of the NOC that there is still confusion regarding expiration of National Certifications. Please note that your LSC Officials Chair was sent a clarification from Matt Wilson. The information was also posted on the website [here](#).

If you have questions about your LSC certifications your LSC chair can provide the most accurate answer.



Officials Excellence Award

Lexie Insogna - Sierra Nevada Swimming

Lexie started her Officiating journey in October of 2014 as a certified Stroke and Turn Judge. From the time she became a certified Official, she worked 30 meets and 72 sessions as a Stroke and Turn Judge. Less than two years later, she became a certified Starter, where she has worked at 12 meets and 31 sessions. She wanted to become certified as a Deck Referee, so she did, but her main focus now is being a certified Administrative Referee and Administrative Official, for the simple reason, the LSC needed her to step up and help out in these areas. She has worked 18 meets and 66 sessions as an active AO and 5 meets and 16 sessions as the assigned Administrative Referee. She has even found time to travel out of Sierra Nevada Swimming to attend meets in the LSC's of Pacific Swimming and Central California Swimming. She has attended two Officials Qualifying meets to obtain her N3 S/T certification and another Officials Qualifying Meet to obtain her N2 Starter certification. She recently received a successful N2 Administrative Official evaluation. This single mother finds time to be active in both of her son's activities, which is Boy Scouts for one and swimming for the other son and of course school work always for both sons. It takes some travel time to attend to the duties of one son who wanted to be active as a Counselor of a Boy Scout summer camp, near Yosemite and one son still enjoying his swimming experiences. Lexie is very gracious and humble, helping clubs achieve success. One time recently, she was asked to help out a club that just couldn't operate the computer and timing system. The meet was stopped. She was notified of this delay by phone and drove almost an hour to help out, thereby making sure that the swimmers would get swims and the times would be "official." It is always nice to see Lexie on deck, since we all know that whatever assignment she receives, the job will be done with a smile. She gives the greatest gift to our swimmers, her time.

Talk to us today

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