
Officials' Newsletter - December 2021

1 message

USA Swimming Officials <Officials@usaswimming.org>
Reply-To: Officials@usaswimming.org

Mon, Dec 20, 2021 at 3:31 PM



Officials' Newsletter



Greetings From the Chair

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all you for giving me tremendous support during my time as the National Officials Chair. The honor was as great as my experience. I wish you the best in the new year and look forward to seeing you on deck and hearing from you in my new role as the Coordinator of Program & Events.

Have a wonderful season of good cheer!

Kathleen Scandary

Announcements

- Reminders:
 - As we head into the New Year, please make sure that your membership is current. This includes 2022 USA Swimming membership registration, Athlete Protection Training, Concussion Protocol Training, Level-II Background Check and any LSC requirements. Direct links to the Athlete Protection Training and Background Check webpages are below.
 - [Athlete Protection Training](#)
 - [Complete a Background Check](#)
 - For assistance with the Learn Platform or any APT related items, please contact learn@usaswimming.org.
 - USA Swimming Headquarters will close on Thursday, December 23 for the 2021 Winter Break. The office will reopen on Monday, January 3. Staff responses may be delayed during this time.
- National Meets:
 - [TYR Pro Swim Series Knoxville](#) | January 12-15 | Knoxville, Tennessee
 - [TYR Pro Swim Series Des Moines](#) | March 2-5 | Des Moines, Iowa
 - [TYR Pro Swim Series San Antonio](#) | March 30-April 2 | San Antonio, Texas
 - [Open Water National Championships & Junior Championships](#) | April 1-3 | Fort Myers Beach, Florida

Request a Hard Copy of the 2022 USA Swimming Rulebook

Starting with the 2022 Rulebook, USA Swimming will make available a hard copy of the rulebook to registered non-athlete members upon request. Registered non-athlete members wishing to receive a hard copy of either the mini rulebook or the full rulebook can do so by completing an online request form located [here](#). Please submit your request no later than December 31, 2021.

As always, the electronic version of the rulebook is available at www.usaswimming.org/rulebook. The most current version of the USA Swimming Corporate Bylaws is available at www.usaswimming.org/bylaws.

Dressel, Troy, Cassidy & Zaleski Receive Honors at FINA World Aquatics Gala

Congratulations to U.S. swimmers, coaches and leaders honored at the 2021 FINA World Aquatics Gala in Abu Dhabi, UAE, especially Caeleb Dressel, Gregg Troy, Stephen "Sid" Cassidy and FINA Technical Swimming Chair & Past USA Swimming President Carol Zaleski who received the FINA Order.

[READ MORE](#)

Invigilation - the Act of Being Vigilant

Contrary to what many may think, invigilation is not a made-up word. It is defined in Webster's dictionary as, "to supervise students at an examination", and the Oxford dictionary defines it as, "to be watchful, watch over, and keep watch."

What does this have to do with invigilating at a swim meet? A team of two, a DR and a SR are assigned to this role for each session. The invigilator has several responsibilities: keep equipment out of the competition pool, open the pace and sprint/start lanes and be available to coaches who need information or have concerns. Invigilation is done only in the hour prior to the start of competition and it is performed at levels from LSCs to major FINA meets.

Why do we keep equipment out of the pool? In some cases, it may be to protect the timing equipment from being damaged, but it is also due to safety of the athletes competing in the upcoming session. The swimmers are from many different teams, and each have their individual warm-up program with different equipment making these less-than-organized moments in the water. Coaches may have other distractions during this time and are not always able to keep an eye on their athletes. Invigilators have witnessed injuries such as broken fingers, lacerations and even more severe life-threatening issues requiring their assistance.

The opening of lanes for sprint and pace are usually defined and are at a specified time in the warm-up procedures. However, it is not unusual for a coach to request a sprint/pace lane or just one for starts earlier than the scheduled time. One may feel a little reluctant to open a lane early when the pool is crowded. Dan McAllen, in his role of VP Program Operations, once advised that if you can grant a request for a coach, it is worth the goodwill developed. It may be surprising how quickly these lanes fill and stay busy during warmups. If you open lanes early, do so one at a time by first clearing the lane. If the demand is evident, open a second, and so on.

Invigilators also provide visibility on the deck for coaches to get information, taking a DFS or relaying any concerns they may have to the right person (the Meet Referee, Admin, or facilities).

Don't look at invigilation as an obligation, but an opportunity to get to know the coaches and athletes!

Wayne Shulby
Kathleen Scandary



Meet the New National Officials Committee Chair - Matt Wilson

First and foremost, it is my honor to accept this appointment. I am humbled by those who have shown confidence in me to follow the path of those who have so ably filled this position up to now.

My officiating career spans 22 years and three LSC's (IN - twice!, OH, and FL) and includes serving as the Florida Swimming Officials Chair and on the National Officials Committee as the chair of the Open Water and OTS/Certification subcommittees.

I attended my first national pool meet in Minneapolis in 2008, but my first national meet was at the Open Water National Championships the year prior in Fort Myers. I marveled then and now at the work being done by people like Pat Lunsford, Jim Sheehan, Clark Hammond and Kathleen Scandary. I will constantly strive to walk in their footsteps.

I hope to continue the great work that has been done by my predecessors while also keeping our sport moving forward. I am a collaborative person by nature, and I'm not afraid to say that I don't have all the answers. If I don't have an answer, I will leverage the resources available to me and our committee to find the answer. I want to continue cultivating a positive culture within our officiating membership which will best serve our core customers: the athletes and coaches!

Ratings Used in the National Certification Template - Dana Covington

Now that OQMs are happening at close to pre-pandemic levels, some questions are arising regarding the templates used in the national certification program and specifically how the scoring is applied.

The NOC developed the current system of 4, 3, 2 and 1 to allow for some quantitative feedback within the evaluation and mentoring process. Listed below are the criteria as they appear on the evaluation form:

Exceeds Criteria: Performs criteria consistently without error in all areas of responsibility.

Meets Criteria: Performance often meets criteria in all essential areas of responsibility. More experience will help refine skills. Feedback was well received.

Partially Meets Criteria/Needs More Experience: Performance did not meet criteria in area(s) of essential responsibility. Feedback was well received but needs more opportunities for building knowledge and experience.

Did Not Meet Criteria: Performance was consistently below criteria in essential areas of responsibility and reasonable response toward implementing feedback was not made.

The NOC spent a considerable amount of time reviewing and defining the rating criteria and were deliberate in wording. This was in response to officials wanting some objectivity in the evaluation process.

What were we aiming for:

4 - Really exceptional. Official was presented with an extraordinary situation and performed without error. (calm, humble, critical thinker). A rare rating not because the official is not exceptional, but the opportunity may not have been present

3 - A great team member that is performing exactly as they need to be.

2 - A great team member, but, for whatever reason they did not exhibit proficiency that would ensure success at the next level. Open to feedback. A rating of "2" is not a failure. However additional experience in a particular area is required to be successful at the next level. Our goal is to have officials prepared for the next level, not pass people that still need some time to develop. A "2" may be noted in some line items but an overall "3" for the evaluation can still be achieved. Any area with a "2" is a skill to focus on before seeking the next advancement evaluation or assignment.

1 - Mentoring suggestions were not well received. Does not appear interested in feedback or in applying new processes or procedures.

Mentors and mentees should keep in mind that the goal of the national program is to train and develop officiating skills through constructive, detailed feedback and observation so that officials are prepared and confident as they take on more responsibility at higher level meets.

Congratulations to These Officials Who Served at Their First National Meet Recently

Note - We apologize for any omissions or errors.

Junior Nationals West (Austin)

Richard Hall - Colorado Swimming

Brett Heintz - North Texas Swimming NT

Stephanie Monahan - Hawaiian Swimming

Lomax Napper - Louisiana Swimming

Alicia Simon - Utah Swimming

Cathy Vaughan - Utah Swimming

Abby Vorthman - Missouri Valley Swimming

John Walgast - Colorado Swimming

Junior Nationals East (Greensboro)

Robbie Compton - South Carolina Swimming

Astrid DeLeon - Georgia Swimming

Felix Gonzalez - Florida Gold Coast Swimming

Rob Jorgenson - Middle Atlantic Swimming

Tom Matysek - Maryland Swimming

Holly Russell - Michigan Swimming

Bhagwati Subramaniam - Allegheny Mountain Swimming

Virginia Tate - South Carolina Swimming



Officials Excellence Award

Jacqueline Jugenheimer - Wisconsin Swimming

Jacqueline (Jacky) Jugenheimer of Wisconsin Swimming is a dedicated volunteer, a tenacious advocate for athletes and fairness and is a mentor to her peers. For a long time, Wisconsin had been the only LSC to have a combined deck referee and starter certification. After noticing that both positions were not performing as well as they could, she gathered national data to present to the officials committee, which eventually split the two certifications and developed a transition plan for people currently certified. Allowing officials to focus and learn each position separately has improved consistency for athletes and officials.

Jacky continues to gain experience by traveling to other LSCs and by participating in the mentoring program. Not only does she work in pool competitions, but she is frequently helping at open water meets as well. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, she has continued to educate and recruit returning and new officials. In addition to her role in officiating, she remains a voice of reason for Wisconsin Swimming.

719 866 4578

1 Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909-5780

Copyright by USA Swimming, Inc.