
Officials' Newsletter - December 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

The holidays are upon us, and I would like to say an extra thank you to all the officials who have been working swim meets this holiday season by giving your time, talent, and treasure to make these meets happen. What a gift you give to teams and swimmers!

Additionally, thank you to all the officials at the Toyota U.S. Open and Speedo Winter Championships and to the Local Swimming Committee (LSC) officials chairs who filled out the year-end survey that was made available to you. This survey was created so that the National Officials Committee can develop goals for the upcoming year based on what you want and also measure our success in the past year. Please know that each comment is anonymous and will be read and considered by the National Officials Committee members.

This will be my last “greeting” to you as the National Officials Committee Chair; my term will be finalized at the close of 2025. Thank you for entrusting me to lead such a fine group of people over the last two-plus years. The passion and dedication that every official gives to the sport of swimming is remarkable. I hope that as you give your gift of time and talent, you also are receiving a gift by knowing that you are helping to raise the next generation of great people through the sport of swimming, and there is no way to measure that gift.

Enjoy this season with family and friends, and I hope to see many of you on a deck somewhere in 2026.

Announcements

- I am thrilled to share that **Trish Martin** has been asked to be the next chair of the USA Swimming National Officials Committee (NOC) and she graciously accepted! This position is appointed by and reports to the USA Swimming CEO.

Trish brings years of tremendous officiating experience from the LSC to the international stage. She also brings significant experience in USA Swimming governance. She has demonstrated her knowledge and skills as a leader in her home LSC of North Carolina in addition to national governance through work on multiple national committees. Trish's professional business and marketing skills helped to drive the initiative to build the Greensboro Aquatic Center. She also is a leader in North Carolina Swimming where she served in many leadership roles over more than 15 years including general chair, administrative vice chair, safe sport chair, and as a member of the Officials Committee. Her national governance leadership has spanned 10 years as chair of the Nominating Committee and the Safe Sport Committee. She served on the NOC Evaluation and Mentoring working group for a few years before leading that group as a member of the NOC two years ago. The experience that Trish brings to this committee will continue to drive the important work that the NOC is responsible for.

Please help me in congratulating Trish as the new chair of the National Officials Committee.
- Dana Covington

- It pleases me to announce to you that **Jamie Cahn** has been named the program and events coordinator for a term that begins January 1, 2026. Jamie has a long history of serving as a volunteer USA Swimming official and a commitment to athletes and coaches that began over 30 years ago.

Within that time, Jamie served his Maryland Swimming Local Swim Committee (LSC) as a Board of Directors member where he performed the duties of the vice-chair of finance and became a member of the Maryland Officials Committee, collectively spanning 20 years of

dedication. Not only was he a critical member of Maryland LSC governance, but Jamie was also selected to be a part of the National Officials Committee where he oversaw the development of what we now recognize as the LSC Officials Chairs Quarterly Calls.

Jamie has achieved remarkable heights across many aspects of officiating. He has been a meet referee at every level of USA Swimming, including the 2024 U.S. Olympic Team Trials - Swimming, his fifth Olympic Trials (2008-ST, 2012-ST, 2016-CJ, 2021-DR, 2024-MR). Jamie shows broad and distinct acumen on the pool deck and when he is on a team for open water competitions. Jamie is a sought-after N3 evaluator for all positions and those who have been mentored by him very quickly learn that he has high expectations and is able to impart knowledge in a thorough and supportive way, wanting only the best for those we serve. Few of us have this kind of list of accomplishments.

Leadership is a well-honed set of skills exhibited by Jamie, no doubt practiced from his years leading institutional divisions for national banking and investment firms as well as being a long-term firefighter. With his extensive background, both in swimming and in the professional world, this is a perfect new role for Jamie.

Congratulations, Jamie! - *Kathleen Scandary, program and events coordinator*

- **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.
 - **TYR Pro Swim Series:** The Sacramento and Indianapolis TYR Pro meets will be considered as a group of two – officials may apply to both, but depending upon the applicant pool, may only be selected to work one of the meets. See “On the Horizon” below for information on how these two meets will be officiated.
 - January 14-17, Austin, Texas – MR: Derigan Silver (application is now closed)
 - March 4-7, Westmont, Ill. – MR: Phil Barnes (application is now closed)
 - May 20-23, Sacramento, Calif. – MR: Kathleen Scandary (application is now closed)
 - June 17-20, Indianapolis, Ind. – MR: Peter LaGow ([application is now open](#))
 - **2026 Open Water National and Junior National Championships** (Applications for Open Water will be considered alongside the TYR Pro Series winter/spring meets [Austin and Westmont])
 - April 2-4, Sarasota, Fla. – MR: Mike Murphy (application is now closed)
 - **Toyota National Championships**
 - July 28-August 1, Irvine, Calif. – Officiating details TBA
 - **TYR Futures Championships**
 - July 29-August 1, Multiple locations – Officiating details TBA
 - **Speedo Junior National Championships**
 - August 3-7, Irvine, Calif. – Officiating details TBA
- The 2024 and 2025 editions of the USA Swimming Officials’ Newsletter can be found on the [Newsletter Archive page](#) (scroll down to “Officials’ Newsletter” section) of the USA Swimming website.
- The next **LSC Officials Chairs Quarterly Meeting** will be held by Zoom on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 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 next **National Officials Committee Quarterly Meeting** will be held by Zoom on a date and time to be determined. This is an open meeting.

On the Horizon

By: Dana Covington

You may notice a [new format to the 2026 TYR Pro Swim Series \(PSS\) line up](#). This is in part to help our athletes train and prepare for meets as we advance through the Quad. Similarly, there will also be a strategically designed change to how we officiate at two of these meets. The 2026

Sacramento and Indianapolis PSS meets have been selected to observe World Aquatics (AQUA) officiating protocols. Just as we look to prepare our elite athletes for international competition, we also must work to prepare the officials who may need to understand and embrace these protocols. This means a more streamlined officiating team at these two meets.

The National Officials Committee is committed to providing national meet opportunities for all officials with targeted educational and training needs.

What It is Like to Be a USA Swimming Open Water Official

By: Tom Lombardo and Mike Murphy

Becoming a USA Swimming open water official is a unique journey into a world where swimming meets adventure, unpredictability, and a deep commitment to athlete safety. Unlike pool swimming, open water events unfold in lakes, rivers, and oceans, presenting officials with challenges and rewards that are as varied as the environments themselves.

To learn more about open water officiating, [click here](#).

Officiating Protocols – AQUA and USA Swimming

By: Ron Van Pool – Chair, USA Swimming International Relations Committee

At higher level national meets we may encounter the term “protocols.” These protocols may be World Aquatics (AQUA) protocols or USA Swimming protocols. As officials, these protocols may change how we do our jobs and how we prepare for officiating at the international level. So, what are AQUA protocols as opposed to USA Swimming protocols? Why are there different protocols? When are AQUA protocols used and when are USA Swimming protocols used? Why are these different protocols especially important at this time?

Answers to these questions can be found [here](#).

Education Working Group 2025 Highlights

By: Jason Johnson

The USA Swimming National Officials Committee (NOC) Education Working Group focuses on providing educational items and opportunities for USA Swimming officials.

To learn more about what the group has focused on in 2025, [click here](#).

Open Water Working Group

By: Mike Murphy

The USA Swimming National Officials Committee (NOC) Open Water Working Group focuses on open water swim officiating.

To learn more about the working group, [click here](#).

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 represented USA Swimming in international competition:

World Cup, Carmel, Ind (October 10-12, 2025) and Westmont, Ill. (October 16-18, 2025)

The World Cup Series held in Carmel Indiana and Westmont Illinois this past October was a resounding success with 64 USA Swimming officials serving on deck as National Technical Officials. The officials represented the body of USA Swimming officials very well. I could not have been more proud of all the officials. - Dana

Congratulations and thank you to the following officials who recently served at their first national meet (Note - we apologize for any omissions or errors):

Speedo Winter Junior Championships East, Indianapolis, Ind, December 10-13, 2025

Susan Hammond - Southeastern

Speedo Winter Junior Championships West, Austin, Texas, December 10-13, 2025

Karen Bond - North Carolina

Beth Boudreau - South Carolina

Nathan Gloier - North Texas

John Kovacs - Potomac Valley

Michael Sizemore - Virginia

Hunter Smith - Iowa



Officials' Excellence Award

Congratulations to the December winner of the Officials' Excellence Award: Clarice Wasmuth from Georgia Swimming.

Given her exceptional leadership and service as the officials chair for the Georgia Swimming LSC, Clarice Wasmuth is very deserving of the Officials Excellence Award. As chair of the committee, Clarice demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to enhancing the quality of officiating and the overall experience for swimmers, coaches, and families across the LSC. With more than a decade of involvement in Georgia Swimming, Clarice brought a unique combination of expertise, dedication, and passion to her position.

Under Clarice's leadership, Georgia Swimming saw significant improvements in the training and development of officials, as she worked tirelessly to recruit, mentor, and retain a diverse pool of qualified individuals. Her focus on fostering a positive, collaborative environment for officials ensured that meets ran smoothly and that all athletes had a fair and consistent competition experience.

Clarice's exceptional organizational skills and ability to handle complex logistical challenges has earned her widespread respect within the Georgia Swimming community. She is a tireless advocate for the integrity of the sport, always prioritizing the well-being of athletes and the importance of fair play. Beyond her official duties, Clarice's mentorship of new officials and her approachable, supportive nature help to cultivate a culture of professionalism and mutual respect within the organization.

Clarice's unwavering commitment to excellence in officiating and her dedication to the sport make her an ideal recipient of the Officials Excellence Award. Her leadership continues to have a lasting impact on Georgia Swimming, and she is deeply deserving of this recognition.

Thank you, Clarice!

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](#).

Newsletter Feedback

In this newsletter, we strive to provide information that will benefit the community of USA Swimming officials. Please let us know if we are meeting that objective. Feedback, both positive and negative, is welcome, as are suggestions for future topics. [Click here](#) to provide us with your feedback and suggestions. Your comments are anonymous unless you choose to leave your name.

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