



Officials' Newsletter - July 2021

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

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Officials' Newsletter



Greetings From the Chair

Greetings to all and a happy belated 4th of July as well!

I am happy to report that my emails include a robust number of OQM applications and I couldn't be more excited to see them! A big note of gratitude must be expressed to the group of people who process these - Jacki Allender, Lisa Olack, Marianne Walling and Macie McNichols. You have been patient and helpful to those who have admitted being either new to the process itself or the new forms, or are just a bit rusty from the 15 months without meets.

Thank you to the mentors who have taken the training seminar and learned to use the new evaluation templates that include the simplified formatting changes done by Tim Husson and Kelly Rowell. Our officials are better equipped for learning and educating because of these collective efforts.

Our official Facebook page ([USA Swimming Officials](#)) is exploding with great posts like "Where are you this weekend?", and TONS of pictures - Open Water, indoors, outdoors, masked, unmasked, you name it. We are back in action! Check it out.

Kathleen Scandary
Chair, NOC
Anne Lawley
Chair Publication and Communication Sub-committee

Announcements

- **Quarterly Officials Chair conference call** will be on Wednesday, July 7. Please expect communication from your Officials Chair regarding pertinent topics
- **National Meets:**
 - Speedo Summer Championships - Greensboro and Irvine
 - Assigned teams have been selected and notified
 - Deck has been notified
 - Applications are still open for Irvine
 - Winter Meets: (applications will be posted early August)
 - US Open (12/01-12/04) - Greensboro, N.C. | MR: Trish Martin
 - Juniors East (12/08-12/11) - Greensboro, N.C. | MR: Peter LaGow
 - Juniors West (12/08-12/11) - Austin, Texas | MR: Lisa Olack
 - Pro Swim Series: There will be no PSS meets in the fall. A full 2021-2022 meet schedule, including the TYR Pro Swim Series, will be announced following the 2021 Speedo Summer Championships Meets.
- **Zone Meets** - see your Zone web page or contact your Zone Officials Chair for more details
 - Eastern Zone -
 - Age Group - Richmond, Va. | Aug 4-8
 - Central Zone -
 - Age Group (AR, IL, MW, MN, MV, ND, OK, SD) - Westmont, Ill. | Aug. 5-8
 - Age Group (IN, IA, LE, MI, OH, OZ, WI) - Elkhart, Ind. | Aug. 5-8
 - Speedo Sectionals North (IA, IL, WI) - Pleasant Prairie, Wisc. | July 8-11
 - Speedo Sectionals North (MN, ND, SD) - Minneapolis, Minn. | July 7-10
 - Speedo Sectionals South (AK, MV, MW, OK, OZ) - TBD | July 14-17
 - Speedo Sectionals East (IN, LE, MI, OH) - Geneva, Ohio | July 15-18
 - Southern Zone -

- Age Group - Tupelo, Miss. | July 27-31 | [Application to Officiate](#)
- Senior - Lewisville, Texas | July 27-31 | [Application to Officiate](#)
- ESSZ Eastern Speedo Sectional - Greensboro, N.C. | July 15-18
- SSSZ Southern Speedo Sectional - Plantation and Gainesville, Fla. | July 8-11
- WSSZ Western Speedo Sectional - Austin, Texas | July 22-25
- Western Zone- Western Zone meets have an Officials Reimbursement program for Western Zone Officials
 - Sr Zones - Clovis, California | July 27-31 | [Application to officiate](#)
 - AG Zones - Lewisville, Texas | Aug. 4-7 | [Application to officiate](#)
 - Sectionals - Austin Texas | July 15 - 18 | [Application to officiate](#)
 - Sectionals - Fullerton Calif. | July 15 - 18 | [Application to officiate](#)
 - Sectionals - Roseville Calif. | July 15 - 18 | [Application to officiate](#)

USA Swimming Annual Business Meeting & Zone Workshops - Kelly Naze

Following the United States Aquatic Sports' (USAS) decision to end its yearly Convention, USA Swimming will host its own annual-member meeting in Colorado Springs – Olympic City USA – at the organization's Carolyn Dirks headquarters beginning in September 2021. The condensed Annual Business Meeting in the fall will be complemented by new enhanced Zone Workshops every Spring.

This year, the Annual Business Meeting will take place from September 23-25, 2021. The standard two-and-a-half-day event, scheduled from Thursday to Saturday afternoon, will feature a keynote speaker or panel, Board of Directors' meetings, USA Swimming business meetings and the annual meeting of the House of Delegates.

To proactively create a safe and comfortable environment for our members, the 2021 event will feature a hybrid in-person and virtual format. To avoid a mass gathering in close quarters a limited number of individuals will be invited to Colorado Springs and will take part in the event from a variety of locations. Virtual attendees will have the opportunity to view or participate in every scheduled event. Letters of invitation for in-person attendees will be distributed by early summer.

Further information will be available at: [2021 Annual Meeting](#).

The new enhanced Zone Workshops will begin in the Spring of 2022. The targeted schedule will see the Workshop hosts rotate through the four Zones over the course of the Quad cycle.

The three-to-four day Workshop will tentatively feature several exciting events, such as athlete leadership opportunities, Local Swimming Committees (LSC)/Committee-specific workshops, staff update sessions, Zone Meetings, legislative shaping/feedback opportunities and more.

Address to the Wave II Officials on the last night of Olympic Trials - Clark Hammond, 2021 Olympic Trials Meet Referee

How you were selected.

The 80 officials of both the assigned and the technical deck crew from Wave I and II were chosen from a list of 256 officials who, in 2019, met the criteria to be considered. You earned your spot through your commitment to all levels of officiating from the LSC to the national meets, and recommendations from various sources.

Be humble.

You have achieved an honor only a few in our ranks enjoy. You should be proud of your accomplishments, but use what you have achieved and give back to the LSC. Do not be like some who think they should be given special privileges or positions as a result of being an official at Trials. Do not laud it over anyone.

Be thankful.

Go back and thank those who have been in your corner during the years and equipped you to be a deck official at Trials.

Be a mentor.

Your years of knowledge and experience enables you to provide insight as to the art of officiating as well as guidance for those who may wish to work at national meets or Trials. Be ready to share your experience and knowledge in an appropriate and helpful way.

Be an encouragement.

Encourage new officials to a national deck to reach as high as they desire to go as an official.

Find your replacement.

There are only so many positions on the deck at all levels of our sport. In order for others to move up, those above must either move up or out of the way. It is also true that in order for you to move up, you need to find someone to fill the role that you leave open.

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

Note - We apologize for any omissions or errors.

TYR Pro Swim Series - May 2021 (Indianapolis)

Aleksey Abramovich - Illinois Swimming

Mike Artim - Indiana Swimming



Officials Excellence Award

Mike Urbanowicz - Colorado Swimming

Mike Urbanowicz has served Colorado Swimming (CSI) for 17 years as an excellent official and mentor. He is nationally certified as an N3 official for ST, DR, CJ, and AR. He has served on numerous national decks as ST-DR and CJ, and was selected to work Olympic Trials in 2012, 2016 and 2021. He also serves on the testing sub-committee for USA Swimming. Since 2014, Mike has served as officials coordinator on Colorado Swimming's officials committee, where he has impacted numerous officials throughout the LSC, making sure they are prepared and ready to either advance to a new position in CSI or advance to an N2 or N3 evaluation. What really sets him apart is his willingness to serve Colorado Swimming in any capacity needed — as a meet referee for one of CSI's large prelim/final meets or at a small seasonal meet that is looking for a referee or a stroke-and-turn official to make the meet legal. Whenever asked he also teaches clinics at any level and is willing to travel to some of the more distant teams in the state.

Talk to us today

719 866 4578

1 Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909-5780