

Subject: Officials Newsletter April 2020
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OFFICIALS NEWSLETTER



Note From the NOC Chair: The Golden Whistle

As recently as the LSC Officials Chairs Quarterly Conference Call on April 1st, the perennial question about how to retain officials was asked. At the heart of the matter is respect. Honor their time spent in the voluntary act of giving of themselves, knowing that sometimes it's over decades. Recognize who they are and what they have achieved for this sport. The Golden Whistle is one example of how a first-time, National Meet Referee is celebrated publicly, and it's often but not always awarded during the briefing held before Finals on the last night of competition.

The history behind this event began with Frank Ching. It was something he had done for meet referees while LSC Officials Chair for New England Swimming. Frank brought this act of recognition with him when he became the National Officials Chair and it was continued by co-chairs Dan McAllen and Joel Black, Jim Sheehan, Clark Hammond and Jim Holcomb. Now I have the pleasure of seeing The Golden Whistle passed on to others and want to spotlight a few of the recent recipients. In 2018, while Lisa Vetterlein was receiving hers in Austin, Mark McCaw was at Juniors East in Greensboro, focused on the safety of everyone trying to escape a rapidly approaching winter storm. Sadly, we didn't get to present one to Mark. Just to let you know, Mark, I have a whistle with your name on it to be given when it's least expected! Last year, Trish Martin's golden whistle meet was celebrated at convention. This past December, Don Hougardy was awarded his whistle at Juniors West by his longtime friend and fellow official, Robert Broyles. An early surprise, and Academy level performances brought Jason Johnson his whistle on, you guessed it, Friday the 13th!

Thank you all for the sacrifices you and your families make that allow you to attain whatever your personal goals are in officiating for USA Swimming.

Kathleen Scandary
Chair, National Officials Committee

Guidance for Expiring National Certifications Because of Coronavirus

There have been several questions from officials whose National Certifications expire on 6/30/2020, and what they can do regarding them. The good news is that you have three years after the expiration date in order to complete the recertification requirements for that position before you would need to start from the beginning. That means you have until 6/30/2023 to complete any necessary recertification requirements. However, please note that officials whose certifications expire 6/30/2020 cannot serve as evaluators at an OQM until their certifications have been brought current.

Also, N3 final evaluations need to be completed within 3 years of the N3 initial evaluation. Due to the current shutdown of meets, we are extending the expiration window for officials that received N3-initial evaluations between 3/12/2017-5/31/2017 to 9/1/2020. Depending on when meets can begin again, these dates may be re-evaluated for further extension. We will keep everyone posted as the situation dictates.

Virtual Meets

As things continue to evolve with COVID-19, we are not certain when swimming and competition will be able to resume in the United States. We are hopeful that it will be sooner rather than later, and we will let you know updated information as soon as we can. It's likely that when meets resume, there will be a slow return to usual competitions and many LSCs and clubs may want to utilize a Virtual Meet format so that teams can compete against each other without having to travel to other locations. More information on virtual meets can be found below.

[READ MORE](#)

As you may know, the LSC Officials Chairs meet quarterly via conference call to get updates from the National Officials Committee and to share information relating to officiating nationwide. Hopefully, your LSC Officials Chair is sharing that information with you. The notes from these calls and the minutes (when completed) from National Officials Committee meetings are posted on the website linked below.

[Quarterly Call Minutes](#)

Updated Professional Documents

The Professional Documents for all of the positions have been updated for clarity and are available on the website on the National Certification and Evaluation page. If you have copies of these documents that you use in training and certification or they are posted on your website, please be sure you are using the current version (March 2020).

[National Certification & Evaluation Page](#)

Reminder - Teaching/Learning Activities are Needed for National Certifications

As officials, we are constantly teaching and learning, often at the same time! Whether it is presenting or attending a clinic, briefing at a swimposium, participating in deck mentoring as a mentor or apprentice, or attending committee meetings, there are numerous opportunities throughout the year to get credit for continuing our education. Having at least one learning activity in the last 18 months is required for all National Certifications, and a teaching activity is also required for all National Certifications (except N2 Stroke & Turn and N2 Administrative Official). Every meet has at least one briefing, right? That is the perfect type of event to enter as an activity. If you're a Meet Referee, it should be a goal to include at least one activity at every one of your meets.

There are a few ways to enter Activities into OTS, depending on your access level. First, everyone can enter them after selecting the "View My History" link in OTS Section 1. From there, click on the Activity History tab, and then go to the bottom of the page to the section for "Your Other Meets". There you will have a link to "Add Other Activity". On that page, you will complete at least the required fields noted with an *, then save the activity.

For Meet Referees and Meet Administrators, you can enter them into your meet in OTS by selecting the meet, then going to the Officials tab. There, you will find a link for "Activities for this Meet". Select that link, then select the "Add Activity for this Meet" and complete at least the fields noted with an *, then save the activity. After that you'll be able to click on the Participants tab and add those as necessary.

One nice trick is on the Participant Search page that comes up, if you put a * in the Last Name field, then select the radio button for the Meet Name under “Meet Name”, it will bring back any officials you have already entered into the meet!

The third way to add an Activity is to select the “Activities” link under OTS Section 1 (if available to you). There you can search for any activities by the different search parameters. Once the results have returned, you will have the ability to select the “Add Activity” link. From there, the steps are like adding an Activity within a meet.

New Apparel Vendor

USA Swimming has partnered with a new apparel vendor for meet officials. The new online store has white polo shirts with a new “USA Swimming Meet Official” logo on them. This is where you can order shirts for national meets as well as shirts for LSC meets if your LSC allows them. Note that white polos with the old “meet official” logo are still fine to be used for national meets. You do not have to order new shirts, but you may do so if you wish. If there are other items (like jackets, caps, etc) you’d like to see in the Meet Official store, please send a note to gmensay@usaswimming.org with your request.

[Shop](#)

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

Note - data obtained from Team Lead Chief Judges to the best of their ability. We apologize for any omissions or errors.

TYR PSS - Greensboro

Kevin Bottomley - North Carolina Swimming
Pete Cera - North Carolina Swimming
Julie Clevenger - North Carolina Swimming
Nathan Dean - Potomac Valley Swimming
Juan Domecq - Florida Gold Coast Swimming
Chris Hoover - North Carolina Swimming
Ann Kuhklin - Potomac Valley Swimming
Susan Mechler - Ohio Swimming
Bilan Mo - North Carolina Swimming
Anne Marie Schneider - North Carolina Swimming
Charlie Stephenson - North Carolina Swimming
Lynn Tippetts-Fazen - North Carolina Swimming

Toyota US Open - Atlanta

Elisa Reuter - Sierra Nevada Swimming

Speedo Winter Junior Championships East - Atlanta

Terrence Anchrum - Ohio Swimming

Chad Capps - South Texas Swimming

Bill Hollowsky - Florida Swimming

Jimmy Hong - Pacific Swimming

Aimee McMillan - South Carolina Swimming

Fabio Miera - Florida Gold Coast Swimming

Chandler Mulford - Georgia Swimming

Aimee Onoszko - South Carolina Swimming

Jason Overby - South Carolina Swimming

Kristin Weaver - North Carolina Swimming

Caroline Horne - Georgia Swimming

Jason Lu - Georgia Swimming

Speedo Winters Junior Championships West - Federal Way

David Baer - Pacific Northwest Swimming

Cristen Brouwer - Sierra Nevada Swimming

Troy Brovold - Colorado Swimming

Wesley Campos - Pacific Northwest Swimming

Richard Chapman - Pacific Northwest Swimming

Alice Coffman - Colorado Swimming

Kevin Cooney - Pacific Northwest Swimming

Richard Cox - Pacific Northwest Swimming

Darrell Geymann - Oregon Swimming

David Guffey - Pacific Northwest Swimming

Holly King - Colorado Swimming

Deborah Laderoute - Oregon Swimming

Ed Lesnick - Pacific Northwest Swimming

Sheila Lovell-Otterstrom - Oregon Swimming

Ray Pasicaran - Inland Empire Swimming

Leia Richter - Sierra Nevada Swimming

Kathryn Robertson (Tamura) - Pacific Northwest Swimming

Scott Robertson - Pacific Northwest Swimming

Samuel Scott - Pacific Northwest Swimming

Scott Sewell - Sierra Nevada Swimming

Jason Shibata - Sierra Nevada Swimming

Nick Siripipat - Pacific Northwest Swimming

Bernadette Witty - Pacific Northwest Swimming

Evangeline Swift - Oregon Swimming

TYR PSS - Knoxville

Lisa Blok - Gulf Swimming

Martin Chen - Georgia Swimming

Leah Choate - Southeastern Swimming

Roger Deary - Florida Swimming

Heidi Duncan - Southeastern Swimming

Brett Ewald - Florida Swimming

Morgan Breckenridge - Southeastern Swimming

Debra Pearson - Midwestern Swimming
Kim Renze - Iowa Swimming
Scott Reynolds - Gulf Swimming
Craig Schoenlein - Ohio Swimming
Dean Schroeder - Michigan Swimming
Margaret Schroeder - Michigan Swimming
Tom Schumann - Southeastern Swimming
Brian Shepherd - Arizona Swimming

TYR PSS - Des Moines

John Gupton - Wisconsin Swimming
Brent Kock - Iowa Swimming
Darcy Smith - Oregon Swimming
Jodie Stone - Iowa Swimming
Woddie Woodlief - Missouri Valley Swimming
Bo Zhang - Connecticut Swimming



Officials' Excellence Award - March 2020

Craig Porter - Minnesota Swimming

Craig Porter has served the swimming community for over ten years. Having spent many of those years on every pool deck in southeast Minnesota, Craig has broadened his volunteer hours to regional and national level USA Swimming competitions, proving to be a fair, consistent and well-informed official. Outside of USA Swimming, Craig also has a long history officiating High School League competitions, rarely missing officiating opportunities at the State High School League Championships. Craig has even served as a diving judge at these championships. At the college level, Craig is frequently seen officiating Division I, Division II and Division III dual meets, invites, and even the National Championships. Measurables aside, it is Craig's positive attitude and big smile that set him apart. Craig loves to be on deck and helping in any way he can. In fact, it can be said that nothing can keep him away! Even after knee surgery, Craig was back on deck the moment he was cleared. His love for the sport is unparalleled and few are more deserving of this recognition.

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