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## Officials' Newsletter - June 2022

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**USA Swimming Officials** <Officials@usaswimming.org>  
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## Officials' Newsletter



### Greetings From the Chair

Welcome to summer! Long course meets are in full swing, and another season of meets leading up to summer-championship meets of all shapes and sizes is upon us. Some of these meets are Officials Qualifying Meets (OQM), which give opportunities for mentoring and evaluation of USA Swimming officials for N2 and N3 Certification and Recertification. I want to thank the people responsible for reviewing and approving these events (over 200 in a typical year): Marianne Walling, Jacki Allender, Lisa Olack, and Macie McNichols. I also want to thank the team who reviews each application submitted for National certification advancement or recertification (around 2,000 or so per year): Marianne Walling, Peter LaGow, Phil Lakota and Rich McMillen. Their efforts are instrumental in ensuring these events and subsequent applications align with the mission of OQMs, which is to expand the education of officials through mentoring, participation and evaluation as well as recognizing those officials who have demonstrated their knowledge of swim officiating at each level and position.

As we're all aware, there are meets of all shapes, sizes and types happening in our LSCs every weekend. We cannot thank you all enough for the hours and hours you put forth for our core

customers: the athletes. As is often asked: "Where are you this weekend?" I know many of you will be on a pool deck, watching the next generation of incredible athletes continue their journey through the USA Swimming pyramid.

See you on a pool deck (or OW beachside) soon!

Matt

## Announcements

- Quarterly Officials Chair conference call Wednesday, July 6. Please expect communication from your Officials Chair regarding pertinent topics. If there is something you would like discussed please contact your Officials Chair.
- Futures Championships, 7/27-7/30
  - All sites are still taking applications for Stroke & Turn officials here: [Futures Meet Applications](#)
  - Cary, NC (Rich McMillen)
  - Geneva, OH (Kathy Fish)
  - Minneapolis, MN (Matt Wilson)
  - College Station, TX (Mike Dilli)
  - Santa Clara, CA (Traci Johnson)
- Eastern Zone - [Eastern Zone](#)
- Central Zone - [Central Zone](#)
- Southern Zone - applications here: [Southern Zone](#)
  - Senior Zones - Morgantown WV (great location for Eastern Zone folks!!!) July 26-30
  - Age Group Zones - Tupelo, MS July 26-30
- Western Zone - [Western Zone](#)
- [Due to the shutdown of OTS \(see below\), applications for the December meets will go live in the next few days and will come down early. Plan accordingly.](#)

## OTS CLOSES SEPTEMBER 1

As discussed in the last two Officials Chair calls, as well as the April Newsletter, the current OTS will end in September, with a new OTS anticipated to launch in 2023. Until then:

- No user interface for traditional input of OTS data
- Interim solution without customized LSC based functionality
  - New levels of LSC certification can be managed in SWIMS
- Existing OTS data will be ported over and available in SWIMS 3.0 Database
- Online member portal for Officials to check membership
- Some national level/rulebook specified reporting functionality for LSCs

Thank you all for your patience and understanding. If you have any questions feel free to contact Abigail Howard at [ahoward@usaswimming.org](mailto:ahoward@usaswimming.org).

### **OTS Closing - ACTIONS YOU SHOULD TAKE - Marianne Walling**

In anticipation of the Officials Tracking System being under construction starting September 1, 2022, officials who have national certifications expiring in 2022 and 2023 are strongly encouraged to submit an application for recertification **by August 12, 2022**.

Before doing so, please make sure that valid evaluations, those three years or less, are present in history, meets and session requirements have been met and activities have been entered.

The reference for N2/N3 Recertification Requirements document is on the National Certification webpage and here: [N2/N3 Recertification Requirements](#)

Those mentoring and submitting evaluations will also need to be cognizant of the above timeframe, and make sure all evaluations are finalized and entered in OTS by August 12, 2022.

After September 1, national certifications will continue to be reviewed, but the processing time frame is anticipated to be extended until OTS is fully operational.

Please have patience as the new OTS is developed and brought on board.

## **UANA Becomes PanAm Aquatics - Jay Thomas**

In November 2021, Union American de Natacion (UANA) completed a rebranding effort which created the PanAm Aquatics (PAQ) organization. PanAm Aquatics is the continental organization which oversees aquatic sports in the Americas. It consists of 43 National Federations (NF's) and is divided into four Zones:

- Zone 1 – CONSANAT – Confederation of South American Aquatics Nations
- Zone 2 – CCCAN – Confederation of Central American and Caribbean Aquatics Nations
- Zone 3 – USAS – United States Aquatics Sports
- Zone 4 – AFA - Aquatics Canada Aquatiques

Jay Thomas is the Chair of the Technical Swimming Committee (TSC), and there are five USA Officials on the current PanAm Aquatics SW List #4, which is effective through December 31, 2023. They are:

Edgar Caraballo	Referee
Rich McMillen	Referee
Mike Urbanowicz	Referee
Lorna Anaya	Starter
Traci Johnson	Starter

For more information about PanAm Aquatics - please visit <https://panamaquatics.com/>.

## **Congratulations and Thank You to the Following USA Swimming Officials!**

***The following officials represented USA Swimming in international competition:***

### Junior Pan American Games

- November 26-30, 2021 in Cali, Colombia
  - Dave Olack
  - Mickey Smythe
- June 2-5, 2022 in Trinidad and Tobago
  - Anissa Kanzari
  - Peter LaGow

### 2022 FINA World Championships – Budapest, Hungary

- Swimming: June 18-25
  - Trish Martin
- Open Water: June 26-30
  - Mike Murphy

***The following officials served at their first national meet recently:***

*Note - We apologize for any omissions or errors.*

### TYR Pro Swim Series - Mission Viejo

- Tom Cross - Sierra Nevada

- Chris Dudley - San Diego Imperial
- Melissa Szpik-Serrao - Sierra Nevada
- Mike Wigton - Middle Atlantic
- Jessica Workman - New England



## **Officials Excellence Award**

### ***Michael Harbert | Wisconsin Swimming***

Michael is one of the few officials who came to officiating because he wanted to help the sport. He has no children and so unlike most of us, children's ambitions were not a factor for him. Michael is not only a USA-Swimming certified official, but also a YMCA official and trainer, as well as a high school official. Michael is located in the northern part of the State where few officials cover a very large geographic area, which means that you will find him at a swim meet at least once a week and his service play an integral role in providing swimmers with opportunities outside of the population centers. Michael is very skilled on the dry and the wet side of officiating, and is a great resource for teaching HyTech tips and tricks. Michael also served two terms as Wisconsin Officials Chair. One of his "missions" during this time was to successfully turn the State's 13 and over Championship meet into an OQM, which has enticed a number of Wisconsin officials to pursue national level certifications. His current project is working with coaches in developing a template for future State Championship meets, allowing for more consistency at and among the state meets. Michael is a great people person and aside from teaching officials classes he is an avid mentor and has served in leadership roles at many LSC level Championship meets. In his spare time he likes to cook, work around the house and take walks.