

Subject: Officials Newsletter: End of Year Requirements

From: USA Swimming <officials@usaswimming.org>

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USA Swimming Officials Newsletter | October 2019



OFFICIALS NEWSLETTER

From the National Officials Committee Chair

So much has happened since the last newsletter, two months ago!

Convention was a celebratory event for all officials thanks to a handful of athletes who gave testimony to the fact that officials have influenced not just a swim or two, but how they view this sport through a lens of volunteerism. I hope you were able to watch the video of **Elizabeth Beisel** as she provided her own version of when an official swooped in to rescue her from the suck zipper of her parka, seconds before the finals heat began. Or as her mother, Joanie, who joined us via amplified cellphone put it, "pahka." Following this tribute, the assigned team for the 2020 Olympic Trials was announced, and just last week, the deck crew received media coverage.

Congratulations goes to the over 250 officials who qualified for the selection process by meeting several criteria including an LSC Officials Chair recommendation, serving both nationally and at the LSC on deck, as a mentor, and in governance. You are to be commended for your dedication.

We have our national Winter championship meets, another ISL, and a TYR Pro Series meet, all within the next two months! Thank you all for meeting the needs of our athletes in their quest to reach goals.

Kathleen Scandary
Chair, National Officials Committee

End of Year Tasklist

As you probably know, USA Swimming requires annual membership. Before the end of the year sneaks up on you, make sure you are on top of the following:

- 1) **Athlete Protection Training** – this is now an annual requirement for membership and renewal will take you about 90 minutes to complete online. You probably don't want to spend your New Year's Eve taking the course, so start thinking about when you can set aside that time and get it done.
- 2) **Concussion Protocol Training** – this is a new requirement for membership in 2020. It is a one and done training for most officials, though you must comply with your state's

laws or the state law where you are officiating. Links to the courses are available on the Officials Page on our website.

3) **Background Check** – this is still a two-year renewal. Check your deck pass to see if you are expiring soon and renew your check if needed.

4) **Membership** – you must renew your membership with your LSC every year. You can renew for the following year starting September 1, so 2020 membership forms are available now from your LSC.

5) **Officiating Certifications** – these are completely separate from your membership requirements and vary by LSC as to when they expire and what is required to renew them. Check your deck pass to see if your certifications are due to expire and review requirements on your LSC website to determine what you need to renew.

Creating a Strong Future Through Succession Planning

Yes, it is a job for all of us!

Succession Planning is the transition between the present and the future. And more so, a balance between the individual and the organization. It's hard. It means change. And that isn't always easy.

Why Succession Planning?

- It allows us to continue to move initiatives forward during transition
- Puts the right people in the right seats
- Creates a leadership pool – encouraging more people to move ahead.

“When you open a door for someone else...You open a door for yourself.”

We often think that succession planning should be left to the Officials Chairs or General Chairs. This is not at all true. It is something that each of us need to incorporate into our officiating roles. - [More](#) -

New Rules Passed at Convention

There was a new rule passed at convention that we wanted to highlight for you.

For observed meets, 202.8.4 now allows observers to “be on deck and in position to observe the strokes where the rules are different” rather than requiring them to be at each end of the pool. This does preclude observers at a high school meet from being in the balcony or in the bleachers to observe for violations in backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly, and the IM where the backstroke turn and touches in breast and fly are different. Effective Jan 1, 2020.

Following up on the placement of observers at high school meets, Sandy Searcy of the NFHS, asked us to find out which state high school associations make it difficult to place observers (or dually certified officials) on a deck at invitational or championship meets being observed by an LSC. While state associations have autonomy in the sport management, Sandy might be able to provide some input that would lessen difficult situations. If you are having trouble placing officials to observe on a high school deck, please email Suzanne Heath (sheath506@gmail.com) and she will provide info to Sandy.

You can find all the 2020 rules changes at <https://www.usaswimming.org/utility/landing-pages/governance-lsc/rules-regulations>.

New Resources Available

Best Practices for Numbering Swimmers in Open Water Competition

[Click here for this resource.](#)

New DQ Slip with HY-TEK Codes

The new DQ slip is available to order from [SwimOutlet](#). You may also download a copy from our [website](#).

Advancement of Officials

At the LSC Officials' Chairs workshop in June 2019, the LSC Officials' Chairs spent some time talking about their role in advancement of officials. Advancement can take a number of forms, including a new official advancing from stroke and turn to starter to deck referee, an official striving to take a leadership role on their LSC Officials' Committee, an official striving to advance to national level meets, or an official working to become a national evaluator. We talked about how the LSC Officials' Chair is central to facilitating advancement, and how transparency is key to LSC Officials' Committees, particularly when it comes to advancement.

We also discussed the need for education and mentoring at all levels of officiating. A key powerful tool in facilitating advancement for Officials' Chairs is OTS. It can allow Officials' Chairs to understand who is striving to move forward so they can aid that process. Furthermore, making sure information is being shared with Board of Directors, Officials' Committee, and the general membership of the LSC is important to ensure everyone is on the same page. Finally, succession planning is necessary. LSC Officials' Chairs and other stakeholders must be willing and able to identify those who can and should succeed them in the future. Then, they must provide the tools and the opportunities to achieve. Provide guidance to them while also giving them the chance to learn on their own so they will better prepare them to take over the reins!

Matt Wilson
Sub-Committee Chair, OTS and Certification

Officials' Excellence Award September 2019

Linda Eaton - Colorado Swimming

Linda Eaton has been a certified USA Swimming Official for 22 years in the Colorado Swimming LSC (CSI).

Linda is a nationally certified N3 official, ST, SR, DR, AR with USA Swimming, having served on numerous national decks over the years as well as officiating the Olympic Trials in 2008 and 2012. She travels outside Colorado to be a mentor for officials in other LSCs as an evaluator.



More importantly within Colorado, Linda has been an instructor, mentor and trainer for countless Colorado Swimming officials over the years, including several of the current Sr. officials in CSI. She is often found helping at numerous LSC meets including seasonal. Linda mentors officials where needed with a calm unflappable demeanor. She willingly will serve in any capacity needed at these meets, it is not uncommon for Linda to work over 100 sessions per year.

The Colorado LSC is geographically large and diverse, when an area of the LSC is looking for a clinic instructor or mentor, the CSI Officials Committee can count on Linda to step up and help when necessary.

Linda currently serves on the Board of Directors for Colorado Swimming in the very important position as the Safe Sport Chair. She travels across the LSC to meets, educating clubs and parents, as to what Safe Sport offers to the swimming community. Linda is an asset to Colorado & USA Swimming and is truly deserving of this recognition.

Congratulations Linda and thank you for your service!

Gina Mensay | USA Swimming | Senior Program Manager, Member Services |
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