

---

**Officials' Newsletter - October 2022**

1 message

---

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

Wed, Oct 19, 2022 at 4:00 PM



## Officials' Newsletter



### Greetings From the Chair

Welcome to Autumn! As we turn the page on the long course season and begin the 2022-23 short course season, I want to thank all of you for the countless hours, both on deck and off, helping this great sport of swimming. It couldn't be done without you! As USA Swimming President & CEO Tim Hinchey III noted in his State of the Sport message, in the past year there were 9,075 USA Swimming-sanctioned meets hosted and 269,100 member swimmers registered to swim in those meets. Those meets would not have happened without your time and talents!

As you are probably aware at this point, USA Swimming is in the process of a massive overhaul of SWIMS and OTS. This work was desperately needed, as significant changes to the information technology and data architecture had not been done in more than 20 years. The new SWIMS database launched in September and while there have been some inevitable bumps along the way, registration for the coming year has begun and, at last report, more than 135,000 registrations had been completed. As a result of the SWIMS re-launch, the old OTS application had to be taken down. Originally it was going to be anywhere from 9 to as many as

18 months before the new version of OTS was going to be up and running. Knowing the importance of making that transition period as short as possible, we have spent a lot of time over the past 5.5 months working with the IT team, led by Patrick Murphy, to see what could be done to get OTS back up for us. Just over four weeks after the launch of SWIMS, the first part of the new OTS is available to a limited audience. Additional launches for OTS will occur in December 2022 as well as going into Spring 2023. In the interim, bug fixes and smaller functionality rollouts and enhancements will be happening as they are tested and available. A huge thank you goes out to Patrick and his team for their agility in listening to our needs, understanding our priorities and working tirelessly to help roll them out as quickly as possible in addition to all the other work ongoing with SWIMS 3.0.

Please be patient as these updates and changes roll out. We know there will be bumps in the road that will be smoothed over time. Remember, the application we were using up until the end of August of this year was 20+ years in the making. The functionality and flexibility of the new OTS will be well worth the wait.

Have a great fall and see you on deck!

Matt Wilson

## Announcements

- The 3rd quarter Officials Chair call was held October 5. Check with your OC for any pertinent information
- 2023 TYR Pro Series Meets (2 applications posted):
  - Knoxville, Tenn. // January 11-14 (MR - Mike Dilli) - application posted
  - Fort Lauderdale, Fla. // March 1-4 (MR - Jay Thomas) - application posted
  - Westmont, Ill. // April 12-15 (MR - Matt Wilson)
  - Mission Viejo, Calif. // May 17-20 (MR - Trish Martin)
- 2023 National Meets:
  - Open Water Nationals - Sarasota, Fla. // April 21-23 (MR - Pam Wilson)
  - Phillips 66 National Championships - Indianapolis, Ind. // June 27-July 1 (MR - Jamie Cahn)
  - 2023 TYR Pro Championships // Irvine, Calif. // July 26-29
  - Futures Championships // July 26-29
    - Richmond, Va.
    - Ocala, Fla.
    - West Fargo, N.D.
    - San Antonio, Texas

- Sacramento, Calif.
- Speedo Junior National Championships - Irvine, Calif. // July 31-August 4

## **New System Tips and Tricks**

- Creating your new account -
  - You need a link to the new system, which will be used to start your new account
    - If you are attached to a club, you MUST get the link from the club
    - If you are unattached, the link MUST come from your LSC office
    - You cannot use a link that was sent for an athlete
    - “How To” videos and articles are located at the bottom of the Login page
- APT -
  - EDUCATION tab in your new account (top navy bar). NOT the LEARN platform
  - “My Courses” tab, NOT the “All Courses” tab
  - Correct APT Course doesn’t show up until SIXTY (60) days before expiration
  - If you take the base course and need one of the refreshers it will NOT renew your APT. You must wait until 60 days before expiration to renew.
  - There has been a delay getting APT results linked to the individual record. This is NOT due to the new system, but an issue with the platform housing APT training.
- Background check - from the new system:
  - Education
  - Course Catalog
  - All Courses - Background Check. This will take you to the site
- Concussion Training for new officials
  - EDUCATION tab in your new account
  - Under USA Swimming Course Catalog click on the course
  - This will link to either the NFHS or CDC concussion training
  - Once the training is complete, send the certificate to your LSC registrar
- Problems with registration or any of the above issues - your best resource is your LSC registrar.
- Online testing - currently ONLY the NCAA tests are available online. All other tests are in Google Forms.

- USA Website (NOT your new account) - Officials DROPDOWN
- Online Testing
- Scroll down to find the test you wish to take. Scores must be reported to your LSC OC for tracking.

## **Official Registration Tips for 2023**

For an official to register or renew registration for 2023 a link must be sent to the official.

- If the official is associated with a club, the club must send the link.
- If the official is unattached the link must come from the LSC office.
- The official must also have already created a USA Swimming account. However, do not start the process signed into the account. Start with the link.
- Officials can not use the same link that was sent for registering an athlete. When opened, the link will show the specific club and LSC in which the official is registering. The next window will allow registration of the official or another non-athlete member. Continuing the process requires signing into the official's USA account. DO NOT try to do the process in reverse.

Complete the information on each page, which is similar to the old paper registration. Once complete proceed to checkout and pay for the registration. Once the registration is submitted and payment has cleared the new registration date will appear on the membership card.

## **OTS 3.0**

The first iteration of OTS 3.0 launched in early October. All Officials Chairs have access, as well as any Meet Referees they have granted permission to. Now is an opportune time to understand how sessions are recorded and keep in mind the importance of accurate and ethical OTS documentation.

Additional upgrades to OTS will follow, but the first launch permits recording of positions worked by session. For Officials Qualifying Meets (OQMs), there is no longer a need to enter a meet twice, as individual sessions will be designated OQM or no designation. Positions worked in each session will therefore be identified when worked during an OQM session. Similarly, sessions will be identified in non-OQM meets as timed final, or prelim/final sessions.

One of the next steps will be to show the information in reporting, which will assist in the

identification and development of officials at the LSC and National levels. A repeated concern expressed by National mentors was how we know which sessions should be counted toward certification requirements. Reporting by session will give a clearer picture of how officials fulfill these requirements.

At a meet, an official may work in more than one position in a given session. Make sure to record the position for which they need the credit. Do not assume it is the highest level of officiating. Instead, discuss the goal and needs before the meet or session starts. The types of sessions and positions worked can be very important to those wishing to work towards or on their National certifications or within LSC development. Also, make sure the positions worked are credited in the correct session.

The responsibility for entering the data is the meet referees or their designee for the meet. The initial launch of OTS permits the meet referee to link the existing meet in SWIMS to OTS. The meet will already have the sessions included. The search for and adding officials to a meet will be the same concept as in the past. Again the first iteration of OTS will not have as many options for search. Once an official is added to a meet, then the sessions worked and positions can be entered. Only one position may be designated per session.

Once sessions have been recorded, implement a best practice. Email all the officials who attended the meet thanking them and asking them to review their sessions for any errors. This should be done within five days of the meet and any changes completed within two weeks of the meet.

It is likely there will be added security to OTS in a future iteration that will remove the ability to make changes after some time without discussion and approval with a National Officials committee member. This is to prevent many of the inconsistencies found in the previous database. Please work with your official colleagues to make sure accurate information is entered in OTS following each meet in a timely fashion.



**FINA Junior Pan-Pacific Championships - August 23-27 - Kathleen Scandary**



Honolulu was the host city for the nine nation pool competition. It proved to be a very fast and exciting meet complete with an opening ceremony that featured the ceremonial Hawaiian blessing and anthem, and each country's flag-bearer followed by their enthusiastic team march around the deck.

The U.S. officials crew joined together with two from Australia, two from New Zealand, one Canadian, and a gentleman from Japan to ensure a fair contest for the athletes, to share meals, and tell stories of officiating in their home countries. A special note of gratitude goes to the officials from the islands of Hawaii; without their support and daily commitment the meet would not have run so smoothly.

The high energy from the athletes was contagious and they came ready to compete. Not even the downpour of rain (it wouldn't be an outdoor meet without one!) on one of the nights could dampen their spirits. Over the five days, there were 17 new Junior Pan-Pac records, including a Junior World Record in the 400 Medley Relay set by the Americans. Go Team!

Thanks to the following USA Swimming Officials that worked Junior Pan Pacs:

Kathleen Scandary - Meet Referee	Jamie Cahn - Administrative Referee	Lisa Vetterlein - Head Starter
Kenneth Chung - Team Lead Chief Inspector of Turns	Bryan Andaya	Marcelle Arakaki
Anuschka De Aguiar	Courtney Davis	Sandy Drake
Eugene Drzymala	Francois Duval-Arnould	Lucy Duncan
Lex Escondo	Debbie Faildo	Dar Gerber
Saint Marie Gough	Lexi Hatfield	Russell Iwamura
Anne Lawley	David Marchant	Stephnie Monahan
Ruthie Nishikawa	Dean Otaka	Lovina Sabnani
Pauline Sawai	Robert Scandary	Mickey Smythe
John Starmer	Amanda Wilson	



**2022 Kenneth J. Pettigrew Award  
Winner: Jacki Allender**

The Kenneth J. Pettigrew Award was created to honor Ken Pettigrew, a swimming official who devoted over 30 years to swimming. Each year the recipient is chosen by the Officials' Committee and the award is presented at the annual business meeting.

Congratulations to Jacki Allender, winner of the 2022 Kenneth J. Pettigrew Award!

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

**FINA World Junior Swimming Championships** (August 30 - September 4 in Lima, Peru)

- Peter LaGow



### **Officials Excellence Award**

*Jennifer McDougal - Central California Swimming*

Jennifer is an outstanding member of Central California Swimming. Administrative Referee for all championship meets held within CCS, administrative official at many age group meets, mother, wife and Booster Club President for Clovis Swim Club. Coaches across CCS and those visiting for some of our Senior and Age Group Championship Meets express their gratitude for Jen at our meets. She runs a solid meet with a seamless flow and has trained many if not all of the Admin Officials in the LSC. She is truly an asset to CCS and will be missed when her children are no longer participating in USA Swimming meets. We wish for all coaches to be able to experience one of Jen's meets and hope she knows how much she is appreciated by all of us in our LSC.