

## **Officials Meeting**

October 13, 2024

This document and the information in it are provided in confidence, for the sole purpose of exploring business opportunities and strategy, and may not be disclosed to any third party or used for any other purpose without the express written consent of the Michigan Swimming Board of Directors or its named designee.

© 2023 Michigan Swimming, Inc. All Rights Reserved w | http://www.miswim.org o | +1.248.997.6696



#### Meeting Agenda

Start	End	Duration	Topic	Presenter
12:00	12:02	02 min	Agenda Review	Holly Russell
12:02	12:05	03 min	Committee Introduction	Holly Russell
12:05	12:15	10 min	Expectations for Officials	Holly Russell
12:15	12:35	20 min	R-9	Cynda Avery
12:35	12:45	10 min	Recruitment	Adam Forbes
12:45	1:00	15 min	National Advancement	Casey Kern
1:00	1:20	20 min	OTS	Dean Schroeder
1:20	1:30	10 min	Closing Comments & Adjournment	Holly Russell

# **Committee Introduction**



## **Expectations for Officials**

This document and the information in it are provided in confidence, for the sole purpose of exploring business opportunities and strategy, and may not be disclosed to any third party or used for any other purpose without the express written consent of the Michigan Swimming Board of Directors or its named designee.

© 2023 Michigan Swimming, Inc. All Rights Reserved w | http://www.miswim.org o | +1.248.997.6696



- Arrive on time for the session, in proper uniform with the necessary equipment, ready to officiate, and attend the officials briefing. Be in position on time, must work the entire session, be focused on your assignment, and perform your duties to the best of your ability
- Know the rules, interpretations, and procedures, continually review, ask questions, and stay informed. Always be consistent in the application of the rules and at all levels of competition.
- Enforce all rules fairly and equitably. Do not allow rule infractions to go uncalled simply because no one has gained an advantage. If you see a violation and you are sure of what you saw, CALL IT. But remember that the benefit of doubt always goes to the swimmer.

CONFIDENTIAL

- Disregard a swimmer's identity or club affiliation at all levels of competition and avoid any appearance of bias or favoritism.
- Never warn swimmers (or coaches) that they were almost disqualified. A violation either happened or it did not. A warning constitutes coaching, and officials are present to officiate, not coach.
- The Meet Referee is the final authority at the meet; Follow his/her instructions and guidance. The Deck Referee (and Chief Judge) directly represent the Meet Referee.
- Never engage in cell phone conversations or texting while performing your duties on deck.

CONFIDENTIAL

- Never enter into discussions with swimmers, coaches or parents regarding violations, disqualifications, or rule interpretations (unless you are the Referee for the session).
  - ❖Answer appropriate inquiries in a polite, brief, and professional manner. Further inquiries should be referred to the Deck Referee.
  - No one should never become hostile or abusive to officials. Such incidents should be reported promptly to the Referee.
  - ❖ Parents and other spectators should never be allowed to interfere with or argue about calls and/or decisions of officials. They should be referred to their coach.
- Only offer private constructive criticism of fellow officials. Serious concerns should only be reported to the Meet Referee or the Officials Committee.

- Admit when you have made a mistake and correct the mistake according to the rules. Never make a decision to "make up" for a poor decision made earlier. If you have a second thought about a call discuss it with the Meet Referee. There is no dishonor or disgrace in the withdrawal of a disqualification.
- Be aware of unsportsmanlike conduct and report such acts to the Referee.
- Beware of safety concerns, stop unsafe acts. Report unsafe conditions to the Referee
- If asked to assist with the education of apprentice officials, do your best to convey your knowledge and experience in a positive manner. Report your observations about the apprentice's ability to the Referee at the end of the session.

- Proper/Professional radio etiquette should be followed (be mindful that the radio may have other listeners).
- When on deck, present a professional appearance.
  - ❖When seated be comfortable, but appear professional
  - When observing the pool keep attention on the pool



Thank you

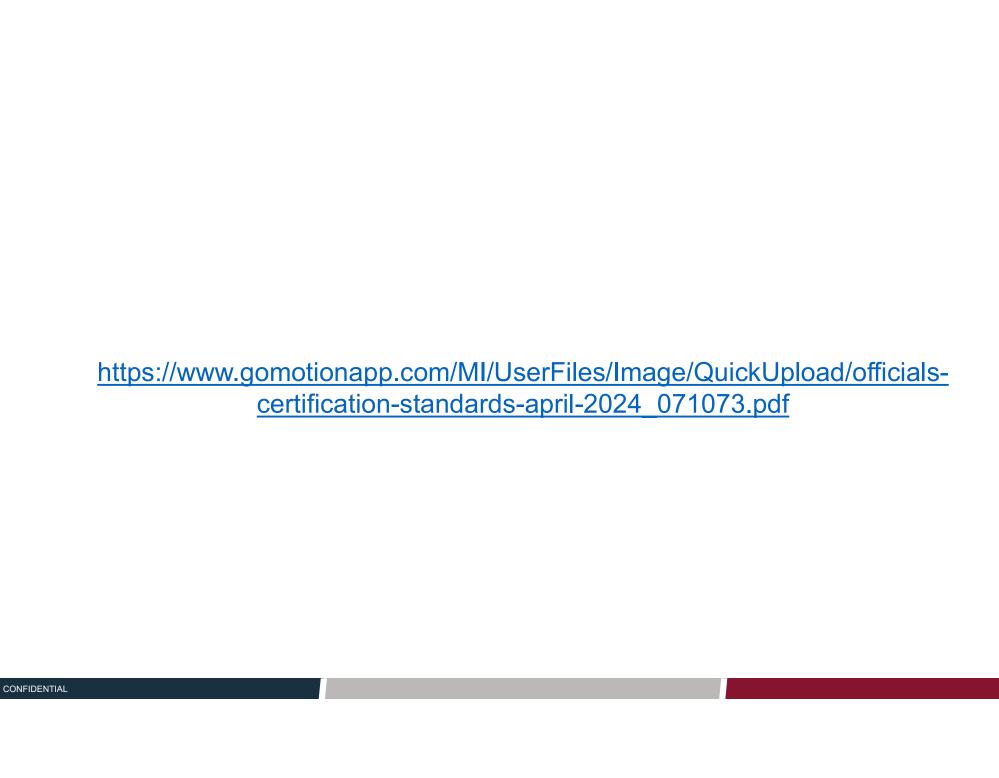


R-9

This document and the information in it are provided in confidence, for the sole purpose of exploring business opportunities and strategy, and may not be disclosed to any third party or used for any other purpose without the express written consent of the Michigan Swimming Board of Directors or its named designee.

© 2023 Michigan Swimming, Inc. All Rights Reserved w | http://www.miswim.org o | +1.248.997.6696







Thank you



#### Recruiting

This document and the information in it are provided in confidence, for the sole purpose of exploring business opportunities and strategy, and may not be disclosed to any third party or used for any other purpose without the express written consent of the Michigan Swimming Board of Directors or its named designee.

© 2023 Michigan Swimming, Inc. All Rights Reserved w | http://www.miswim.org o | +1.248.997.6696



# A large challenge facing MI LSC is the recruitment and retention of certified officials

Recruiting is an opportunity that needs to be approached from multiple sources:

- Current officials
- Coaches
- Club leaders (President, Meet Director, Board,...)
- All MI LSC members

#### How can officials help recruit new officials?

#### Different officials can have different impacts:

- Stroke & Turn Spreading the word to other parents and swimmers in their club whenever possible
- Starters Brief mention to volunteers during timer talks.
- Referees/Administrative Officials Incorporating verbiage into meet packets that prioritize entry to those teams bringing officials. Include the officials site in signature lines
- Everyone Talk to current swimmers that are 16&older about the Junior Officials program
  - https://www.gomotionapp.com/team/MI/page/advancement/stroke--turn-jr

There is a nation wide shortage of officials for all sports and all associations, whilst youth sports continue to grow

Why do people show reluctancy to participate?

#### Why do people show reluctancy to participate?

- Too busy
  - You are at the meet with your athlete already
    - Only work sessions you have an athlete participating
- Too difficult to become official
  - Tons of resources online
    - https://www.gomotionapp.com/team/MI/page/become-an-official
    - https://www.usaswimming.org/officials/how-to-become-an-official
    - No rush on becoming an official, one can apprentice as long as they want to
- Not knowledgeable enough about the sport
  - Again, tons of resources online
    - Nobody knows everything before they are an official and good officials are always learning
    - Did you know everything about your job before you started, did you know everything about being a parent before you had kids?
- Have younger family that needs attention
  - Work when you can and it works with your family, any help helps
  - Other family/friends to sit in stands with younger family?
- Don't want to commit entire weekend to event
  - Again, only work sessions you have an athlete participating



Thank you



# **Advanced Certifications** N2 and N3

This document and the information in it are provided in confidence, for the sole purpose of exploring business opportunities and strategy, and may not be disclosed to any third party or used for any other purpose without the express written consent of the Michigan Swimming Board of Directors or its named designee.

© 2023 Michigan Swimming, Inc. All Rights Reserved w | http://www.miswim.org o | +1.248.997.6696



#### NATIONAL CERTIFICATION LEVELS

There are two levels of National Certification – N2 and N3 – for each of 5 positions:

- •Stroke and Turn Judge
- Chief Judge
- Starter
- Deck Referee
- •Administrative Referee
- •N2 for Administrative Official

CONFIDENTIAL

# Purpose of the Mentoring Program:

- Improve the level of officiating with USA Swimming
- Encourage officials to expand their knowledge of the rules of the sport, officiating, and the officiating program
- -Motivate officials to improve their skills and remain in the program

#### How do you seek N2 or N3 certifications?

Michigan typically has an observer invited to the following meets:

- SC States (ULTRA)
- Namesnik (Ann Arbor)
- Others?

If you are attending the above meets anyway, sign up in advance to be observed and receive feedback to further improve your officiating skills and for N2 and/or N3 certification. You are going to be there anyway, so why not?

# Just do it!

Why would you "just do it?"

What have others said that have started in this direction?

#### Michigan Officials with N2 or N3 Certifications

#### Michigan has:

- 26 officials with a N2 or N3 certification
- A total of 57 N2 or N3 certifications

# WE ARE MENTORS

Workshop

Sponsored by USA Swimming

Stroke and Turn Official or Eyes of the Referee

https://websitedevsa.blob.core.windows.net/sitefinity/docs/default-source/officialsdocuments/national-certification-and-evaluation/professional-official/professional-stroke-and-turn-official-apr24.pdf

Administrative Official or We're here to help

https://websitedevsa.blob.core.windows.net/sitefinity/docs/default-source/officialsdocuments/national-certification-and-evaluation/professional-official/professional-adminstrative-official-apr24.pdf

Chief Judge or
Assistant and mentor to all officials

https://websitedevsa.blob.core.windows.net/sitefinity/docs/default-source/officialsdocuments/national-certification-and-evaluation/professional-official/professional-chief-judge-apr24.pdf

Starter or It's more than three short words!

https://websitedevsa.blob.core.windows.net/sitefinity/docs/default-source/officialsdocuments/national-certification-and-evaluation/professional-official/professional-starter-apr24.pdf

Referee or lt's more than blowing a whistle!

https://websitedevsa.blob.core.windows.net/sitefinity/docs/default-source/officialsdocuments/national-certification-and-evaluation/professional-official/professional-deck-referee-apr24.pdf

# Administrative Referee or It's More Like Service with a Smile!

https://websitedevsa.blob.core.windows.net/sitefinity/docs/default-source/officialsdocuments/national-certification-and-evaluation/professional-official/the-professional-administrative-referee-apr24.pdf

#### How do I find the N2, N3 requirements?

To find the documents for each position (ST, SR, AO, AR, REF) go to:

USA Swimming site, then officials tab, then officials documents, then under the officials training section go to professional document for each position.



Thank you



#### **How to Enter Officials into OTS**

This document and the information in it are provided in confidence, for the sole purpose of exploring business opportunities and strategy, and may not be disclosed to any third party or used for any other purpose without the express written consent of the Michigan Swimming Board of Directors or its named designee.

© 2023 Michigan Swimming, Inc. All Rights Reserved w | http://www.miswim.org o | +1.248.997.6696



#### INTRODUCTION

# Officials Tracking System

Officials Tracking System (OTS) is the tracking system for USA Swimming officials to track their officiating history and certifications.

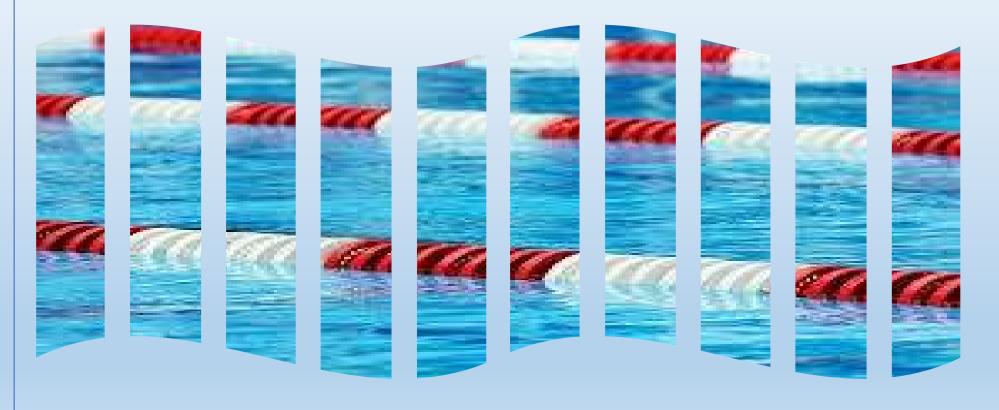
#### **LEVEL OF ACCESS**

The level of access and permissions are granted by USA Swimming based upon roles within each LSC. The LSC Officials Chair is responsible for updating the USA Swimming OTS coordinator as LSC administrators change.

#### WHO ASSIGNS MEET REFEREES

As part of the updates to SWIMS 3.0 and OTS, "Michigan LSC Sanctions Chair" is responsible for adding the "Meet Referees" to your club-hosted meets so that officials who work your meet can be credited with sessions worked.

# **Before the Meet**



## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENTERING



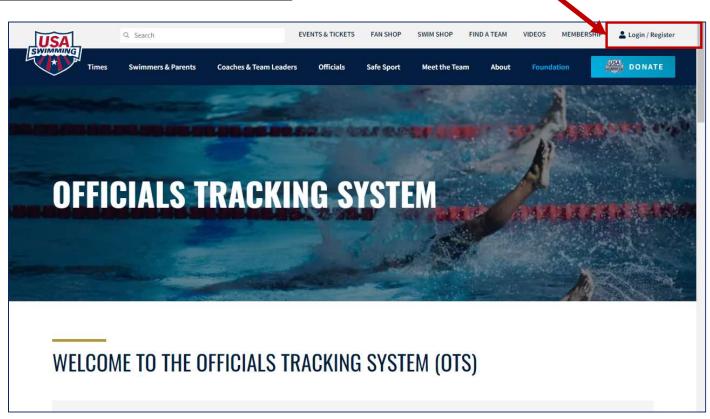
**Meet Referees** are responsible for entering officials into OTS.

You will find meets to which you have been assigned as Meet Referee (for entering officials' sessions into OTS) by clicking on the Officials tab, then on My OTS Meets.



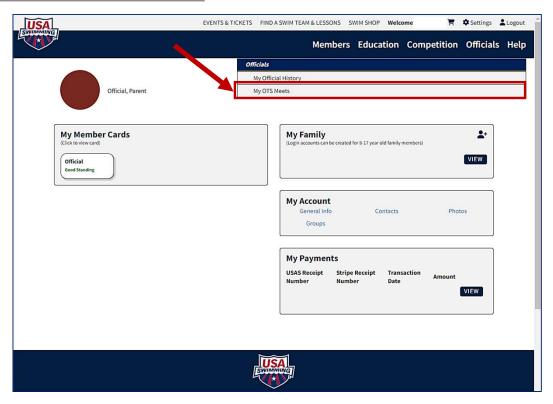
#### Before the Meet

## WHERE TO FIND ASSIGNED MEETS



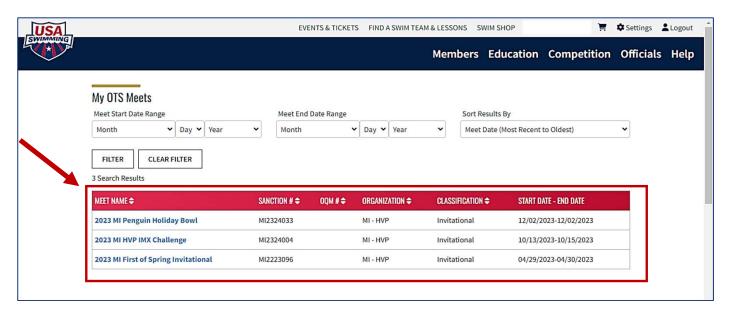
Go to USA Swimming website (<a href="https://www.usaswimming.org/">https://www.usaswimming.org/</a>) and Login

### WHERE TO FIND ASSIGNED MEETS



You will find meets to which you have been assigned as Meet Referee (for entering officials' sessions into OTS) by clicking on the **Officials tab**, then on **My OTS Meets**. When the next page opens, the meets in BLUE will have been assigned to you as Meet Referee.

### **ASSIGNED MEETS**

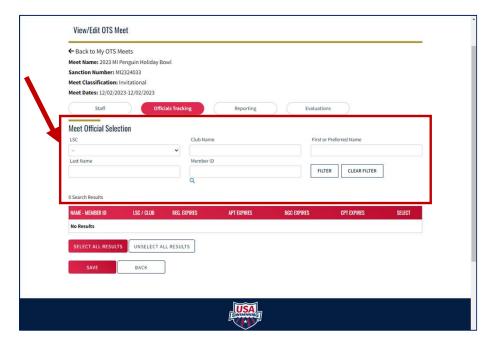


The meets in BLUE will have been assigned to you as Meet Referee.

If you do not see the meet, you can enter filter criteria by entering the appropriate information and click "Search For OTS Meet" (i.e. Host Club Code, Date)

## **FINDING AND ASSIGNING OFFICIALS**

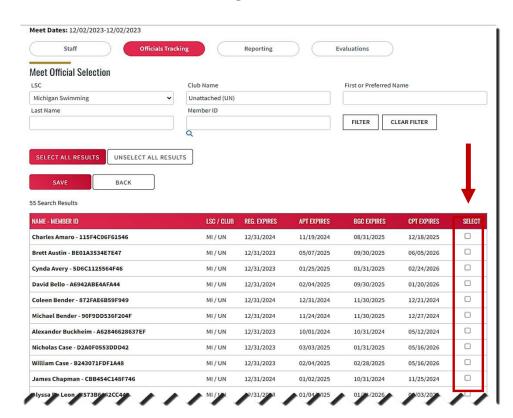
- Enter the First and Last Name of the Official. Enter as much/little info to search. See Tip below
- 2. Click on Filter for result



**TIP:** The fastest way to enter more than one official at a time is by choosing Michigan LSC. This will display all officials registered with MI LSC.

## FINDING AND ASSIGNING OFFICIALS ~ Alternate Way to Search

- Select the drop-down under LSC and choose Michigan Swimming
- 2. Click on Filter to display all officials in Michigan LSC.
- 3. Search results will display all officials register with Michigan LSC.
- 4. Check the SELECT box next to the official's name.
- 5. Click SAVE.



**TIP:** As officials sign up for your meet enter them in OTS. By entering officials in before a meet you can mitigate any certification issues.

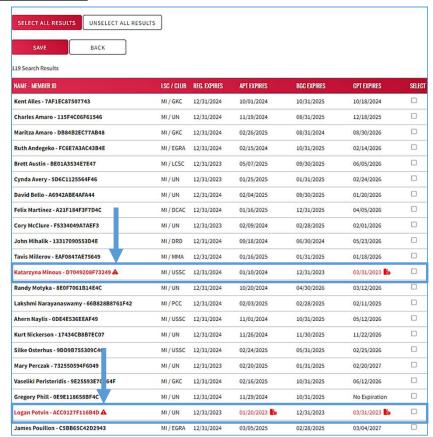






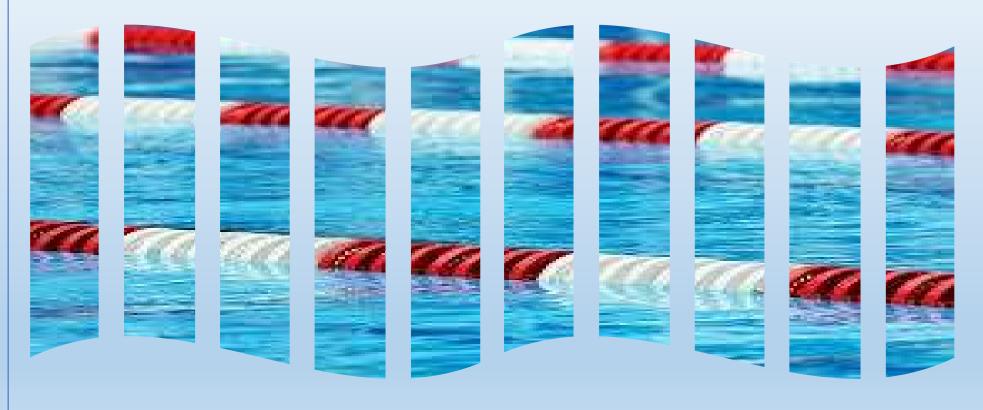
### **OFFICIALS WITH CERTIFICATION ISSUES**

- Officials with a Red Triangle next to their name have certification issues.
- Officials with certification issues must correct the issues before being allowed on deck.

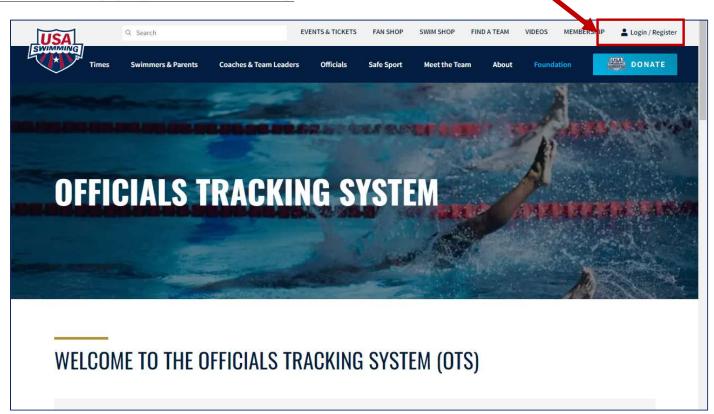


TIP: By entering in officials into OTS before the meet many of the issues can be mitigated

# After the Meet – Assigning Officials & Roles

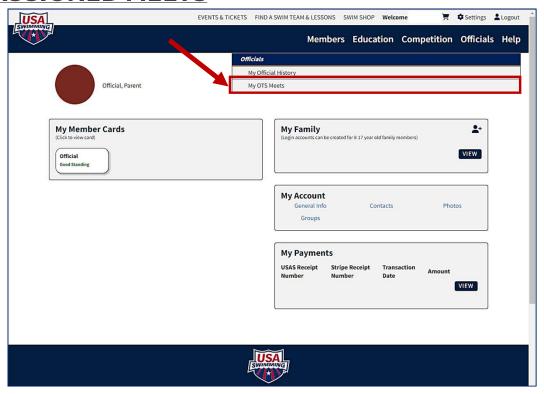


## WHERE TO FIND ASSIGNED MEETS



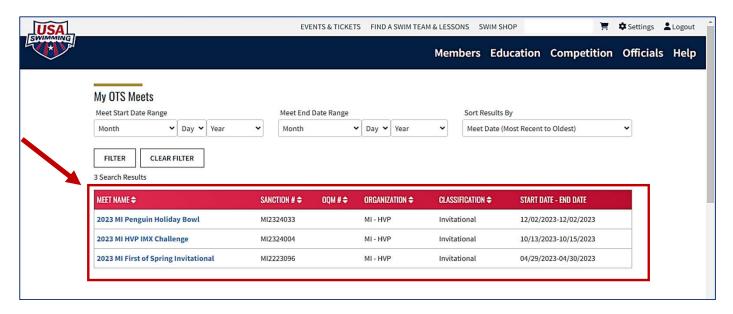
Go to USA Swimming website (<a href="https://www.usaswimming.org/">https://www.usaswimming.org/</a>) and Login

### WHERE TO FIND ASSIGNED MEETS



You will find meets to which you have been assigned as Meet Referee (for entering officials' sessions into OTS) by clicking on the **Officials tab**, then on **My OTS Meets**. When the next page opens, the meets in **BLUE** will have been assigned to you as Meet Referee.

### **ASSIGNED MEETS**

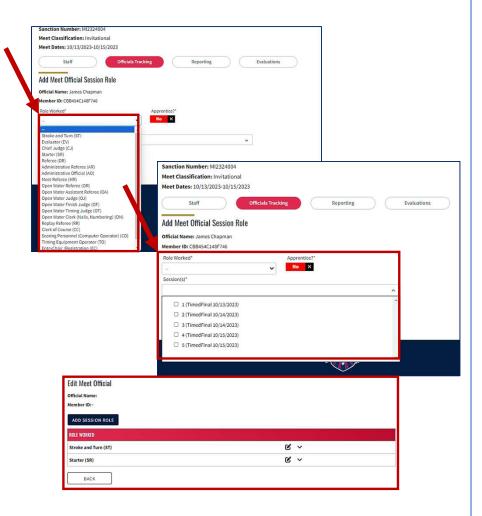


The meets in BLUE will have been assigned to you as Meet Referee.

If you do not see the meet, you can enter filter criteria by entering the appropriate information and click "Search For OTS Meet" (i.e. Host Club Code, Date)

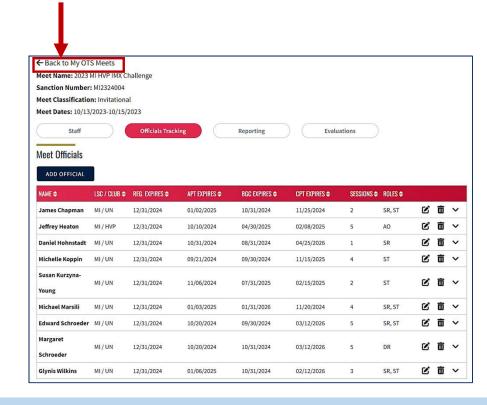
## **Finding and Assigning Officials**

- 1. If needed you can add Officials, by clicking the Add Official button.
- 2. Click the edit icon to add position(s)/sessions worked.
- 3. Select the "Add Session Role"
- 4. Select Role Worked drop down and select role officials worked.
- 5. Select "Session(s)" and select all that apply to the role worked by the officials.
- 6. Note: Officials may work in more than one role during a meet and/or session. Recommend splitting the role for example for a 4 session meet the officials worked as a S&T and a Starter. Assigned 2 sessions as a S&T and 2 sessions as a Starter.
- 7. If they are an apprentice, select the yes.
- 8. Click Save, and then Back.



## FINDING AND ASSIGNING OFFICIALS ~ Alternate Way to Search

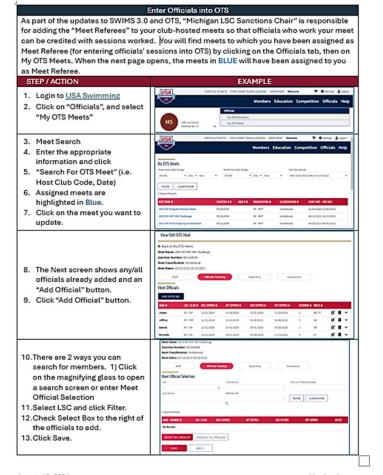
- You will be returned to the "Add Officials" screen where you can see all officials and their sessions and add/update/delete officials.
- After all officials have been added, click "Back to OTS Meet

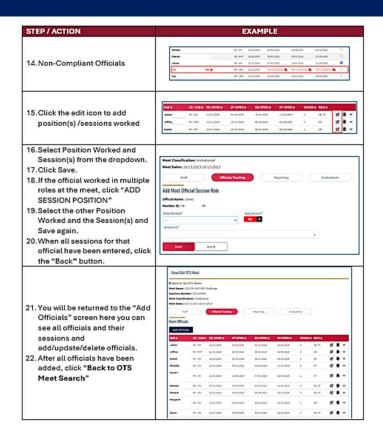


TIP: The fastest way to enter more than one official at once is by choosing Michigan LSC. This will display all officials registered with MI LSC.

- 1. Select MI Swimming under LSC.
- 2. Check the SELECT Box for all officials who have signed up for the meet.
- 3. Click SAVE

#### **RESOURCES**





August 19, 2024 Version 1 August 19, 20

August 19, 2024 Version 1

50



Thank you

# **Closing Comments & Adjournment**