



NEW  
JERSEY  
SWIMMING

## New Jersey Officials Newsletter – Fall 2020

### Volume 4 – Issue 1

Officials Chairman – Judy Sharkey

Editor – Christopher Barry

### Introduction from the Editor

Welcome back to another hopeful and eventual season of swimming in New Jersey. First, thank you for all of your volunteer work last year; the swimmers, coaches and rest of the swim community understand it does not get done without you. The return of the fall for swimming officials, means it is the time of year to renew credentials, hopefully renew friendships on the pool deck and count the days until that first chlorine induced happiness.

Hopefully all of you have been healthy and finding new ways to occupy your time during this period without meets. Until I was able to assist a meet in late September, more than six months had passed since I last was able to officiate at a meet (except for one Open Water meet in August). I am sure this has been the same most of the officiating community. However, the focus during this period has been maintaining contact with family and friends, staying healthy and finding ways to be prepared for when a period of some normalcy returns. For those interesting in additional officiating opportunities, please see the other opportunities to further assist in officiating swimming later in the newsletter.

Please remember that we are here for the swimmers and to give the swimmers the best conditions to have the best opportunity to reach their goals; whatever they may be – including having fun and enjoying their youth. As we wait for the return to full training and competition, please reach out to your fellow officials as we can still connect just not with our favorite smell of chlorine in the background. Take some time to review the various resources that USA Swimming has to keep fresh with the rules and situations that may occur so that you are prepared for the return to competition. USA Swimming recently updated their website this past summer – please familiar yourself with the changes and improvements.

As we slowly start the fall season, this Newsletter will attempt to update officials on the annual registration process (including updates to the registration process and offerings by NJ Swimming), provide some information on recent developments during this period of COVID, potential expectations as we slowly return to the pool decks and places to monitor and review for future updates. While this newsletter will not be comprehensive in covering all the goings on in the officials' community, it will be a point to assist or direct you to other matters. Prior Newsletters are now posted to reference past items as well as remember that the NJ Swimming and USA Swimming web sites provide the vast majority of information to assist with your questions but you can always reach out to a member of the NJ Official's committee for assistance as well. As this is your Newsletter, if there is something that you would like to see addressed/discussed, feel free to reach out to me or a member of the committee. Hope to see you all on deck at some point during the season.

### Registration Reminder and Process – Ed Miller

#### **Registration for 2021**

It's time to think about registering for 2021 and more detailed instructions will be received from the Officials Committee shortly. Just a few salient points to remember

:

- First, remember that you have to take a class and test every three years, so if you last took a class in the fall of 2017, you are due for one this year. **And that includes referees and starters who took a clinic in the spring of 2018.** Every year we have people who suddenly discover in December that they need a class and then it is too, late. Please note that this year there will be some virtual clinics as well.
- Second, look to register earlier rather than later; you should be registered by early December. Again, every year we have people who let this slip and then find themselves in January or February unable to work meets because they never registered. While we are not sure what meets will look like in 2021, please look to be prepared when 2021 brings back some return normalcy.
- Third, please send all your paperwork Ed Miller at once, not piecemeal or some by e-mail and the rest by snail mail. Ed is notorious for losing random pieces of paper. **And if you send a deck pass printout of your experience, make sure your name is on it.**

In order to re-certify, everyone needs to update their USA Swimming non-athlete membership registration and the Athlete Protection training which is now an annual requirement. In addition, you may need to update all or part of your non-deck certification requirements. This year, your on-deck requirements have been eased so must can proceed with renewing your membership. If you require your Background Screening to be updated prior to year-end, please do so prior to sending your required registration and renewal paperwork. All officials should have completed last year the one-time course on Concussion Protocol Training (please see below for further information). Please confirm status on your USA Swimming Deck Pass.

For those that are required to attend a clinic (and then pass the necessary tests), please be alert for information from the Officials Committee and/or posted on the New Jersey Swimming website for clinic opportunities. Please use this link to see the updated NJ Swimming Officials certification requirement and procedures and the links below for other contact information -

[https://www.teamunify.com/eznjslsc/UserFiles/File/NJ%20Swimming/NJ%20Swimming%20Officials/NJ%20Swim%20Official%20Requirements/njs-requirements-for-officials-feb-2020\\_023893.pdf](https://www.teamunify.com/eznjslsc/UserFiles/File/NJ%20Swimming/NJ%20Swimming%20Officials/NJ%20Swim%20Official%20Requirements/njs-requirements-for-officials-feb-2020_023893.pdf)

New Jersey Swimming thanks you for your interest in becoming or continuing as an official as it makes for more efficient and fairer meets as well as assisting the Meet Referee in conducting the meet. If you are aware of any individuals who may be interested in becoming an official, feel free to give them this information or have them reach out to their club's Officials Coordinator or a member of the Officials Committee.

Unless attending a clinic, once complete you can mail the copies of your cards to Ed Miller at 140 Concord Street, New Milford, NJ 07646, or e-mail them to him at [caefmilleriii@msn.com](mailto:caefmilleriii@msn.com). Don't miss out due to missing paperwork.

If you have questions or require further information, please e-mail me.

#### Links for Officials Registration information

USA Swimming Officials Website (link to Athlete Protection) - <https://www.usaswimming.org/utility/landing-pages/safe-sport/apt>

USA Swimming Officials Website (link to Background Screening) - <https://www.usaswimming.org/background-checks>

USA Swimming Officials Tracking System Web Site- <https://www.usaswimming.org/officials/popular-resources/officials-tracking-system>

NJ Swimming Officials Nametags - [https://www.teamunify.com/Links.jsp?\\_tabid=12294&team=eznjslsc](https://www.teamunify.com/Links.jsp?_tabid=12294&team=eznjslsc)

### **Some Musings from the NJS Officials' Chair – Judy Sharkey**

It has been and continues to be a very complicated and stressful few months in the world as we know it. While we did get in most of our championship meets at the end of the short course season, we did miss five meets, including JO's and Senior Championships. When this all started, we had hopes of a normal long course season, but all too soon those hopes were dashed. It now looks like our winter season will be anything but normal.

The executives of USA Swimming have been hard at work developing a strategy to help local LSCs return to normal. This will occur with different time frames depending on where you are in the country. New Jersey pools are still operating at a reduced capacity making our ability to hold meets a challenge. The country and our LSC have been looking into virtual meets to get the ball rolling. USA Swimming has come out with guidelines which need to be followed in order to get these meets sanctioned and the times recorded in SWIMS. A second tool which has been developed is Provisional Officials. This role is for people who already have a working knowledge of swimming such as coaches who have not been able to return to the pool deck and returning college swimmers who seasons have been cancelled. This position will be active until the end of the year. For more information please review the document on the NJ Swimming web site. A copy of this document can be found on the Official's page of the NJ Swimming website. As always if you have any questions please feel free to contact myself or any committee member with questions.

For those of you with National Certifications expiring 6/30/2020 have until 6/30/23 to complete recertification. Those expiring 12/31/2020 have until 12/31/23 to complete recertification. If you had a successful N3 evaluation between 3/1/17 and 12/31/17 you now have until 4/15/21 to complete your final N3 evaluation.

Also, on the horizon is the implementation of the new tech suit rule for 12 and under swimmers for USA Swimming. Since NJ has had this rule in effect for the past two years you should not see a big difference in what suits the swimmers are wearing. It might be somewhat easier to identify the suits which are legal. They will have a green check next to the Fina Logo on the back of the suits. There is also a list of compliant suits on the NJ Swimming website under officials. This is a living document and will be updated by USA Swimming on a regular basis. It will be the job of the Meet Referee to enforce this rule.

As far as training this fall. We will be allowing on line training for this year only. This training will be for recertification only. At this time, we will not be offering any classes for new certifications for Chief Judge, Starter and Referee, because of the lack of meets for apprentice sessions. We are hoping to offer classes for new officials in the spring when in person training will hopefully be allowed. You must still renew your Athlete Protection, background check and yearly USA membership. We have waved the minimum session requirements for this year.

This has been a very trying time for everyone. Remember to keep up on your rules and stay involve with the programs at your club. It will be great to see everyone on the pool deck again.

### **Other Swimming Meets Opportunities**

Another area of service for officials is the Para Swimming community. Para Swimmers compete under the same FINA guidelines with some adaptations at either separate meets or included in USA swimming meets. Those adaptations can be found in your USA Swimming rule book in Article 105. Feel free to read the entire section so that you are prepared for future possibilities. Also, of note, this fall U.S. Paralympics swimming will be running a number of virtual online clinics during October and November. These clinics are for any officials who are interested in learning more about Paralympics Swimming and/or just a refresher since it has been so long since any of us have been at a pool. The dates the clinics are scheduled are:

- October 24 – Officiating in Para Swimming (Officials – New and Experienced)
- October 25 – Pool Side Chat with National Team Coaches and Athletes. (Athletes, Coaches and Parents)
- November 8 – Intro to Para Swimming (Athletes, Coaches and Parents)
- November 22 – Coaching the Para Swimmer (Coaches, Athletes and Parents)

For those further interested in working with Para Swimmers or one of these clinics, feel free to reach out to Christopher Barry ([accebarry@verizon.net](mailto:accebarry@verizon.net)).

Another competitive event for USA Swimming is Open Water. Traditionally, this occurs during the summer months and there are limited opportunities for USA Swimming sanctioned events. However, these meets are always looking for volunteer officials to assist in the operation of the meets. The roles for Open Water swimming meets are both similar and different but the primarily goal is the safety of the swimmers during the event. If you are interested in finding our more information in advance of next summer, feel free to reach out to Christopher Barry ([Accebarry@verizon.net](mailto:Accebarry@verizon.net)) for more information.

### **MEETS AND COMPETITION DURING COVID TIMES**

#### **Considerations for Meet Referees**

\*\* Return to competition will be governed by all federal, state and local guidelines and restrictions. \*\*

With the slow return to meets this fall, please see the below information extracted from recently published information by USA Swimming for consideration for officials at meets. Please note that this may periodically be updated.

#### **SANCTIONING**

- As of October 1, 2020, LSCs are no longer restricted to the sanctioning of meets comprised only of athletes and clubs registered with the LSC. There will be no restrictions on the use of times.
- Type of meet – intra-squad, inter-squad (dual or other), virtual
- Non-sanctioned meets – other options limited only by club and venue

#### **AUTHORITY**

- Meet Referee has final authority over conduct of the meet if sanctioned. No officials needed if unsanctioned. Officials may participate to help with the educational value when requested.
- Determination of purpose for the meet is done by the host (fun, getting back in the water, baseline of recordable times...)
- Work cooperatively with the site management and assist with maintaining capacity restrictions

#### **PRE-MEET**

- Day before meet, know officials who are coming to check OTS for certifications, or ask officials to send Deck Pass screen shot.
- No officials meeting
  - Communicate positions and responsibilities electronically; report to position 10 minutes before session starts. Instruct officials to bring a mask, headset, and a writing utensil.
- Conduct coaches meeting electronically before arrival or send pertinent information the day before.

#### **SOCIAL DISTANCING AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS**

- Use minimum number of officials (DR and SR who can be S&T; S&T; AO). If more S&T are necessary, position accordingly. Decide on which side of the blocks all timers will stand so officials can be in position and still maintain safe distances.
  - Be aware of any cap on number of people allowed on deck or in venue.
- Use one Starter to keep microphone sanitized. Starter also provides accurate order of finish.
- If not on opposite sides of pool, DR and SR are 6 feet apart.

- Officials should bring minimal belongings - no clipboards, but may bring a personal water bottle. Allow cinch bags or fanny packs to be worn for holding car keys, phone, and identification.
- Any on-deck training of S&T officials can be done from one lane away to keep distance.

### TIMELINES

- Heats will move more slowly to allow swimmers and timers to move as necessary while behind blocks. Adjust interval in MM accordingly.
- Suggest swimmers in completed heat stay in pool ala flyover starts. Next heat waits behind timer chairs. Short whistles prompt timers to return to chairs and heat goes behind blocks. Long whistle when heat is ready. Heat in water exits in front of timers after start. Instruct swimmers to not ask for times.

### ADMIN

- No DQ slips. Use radios for Admin/DR to record, one or two-column heat sheets for Referee to record and turn later deliver safely to admin. Suggest using sheet protectors.
- If no AO, DR will need to check work periodically and review at end of session.
- If no electronic timing system, enter times in MM. Check order of finish.
  - How many events per page – may want to do just one per event
  - Determine how OOF information is to be requested and reported to Admin when necessary.
- Use a MM DQ report to notify coaches
- Results not available right away
- Other software that's available? Touch Pad, Meet Maestro, Swimmingly?

### TIMERS

- One per lane; watch and button preferred.
- Could officials and/or coaches be timers to keep number of individuals to a minimum?
- Always go to left side of block to maintain distancing.
- Verbally only check swimmer's name. Do not approach.
- Briefing: Send instructions to Meet Director for electronic distribution.

### WORKING WITH YOUR MEET DIRECTOR

- Flow of swimmers to and from blocks; bullpen personnel with heat sheets
- Timer recruitment and briefing done before day of meet.
- Minimal heat sheets; parents use Meet Mobile if possible or have no heat sheets.
- Will there be spectators?
- Will swimmers use locker rooms? Procedures must be clear and available day before meet.

### **Meet your Officials Committee**

Judy Sharkey, Officials Chairperson [jmsharkey@aol.com](mailto:jmsharkey@aol.com)

Dan Bibb	<a href="mailto:danielbib@aol.com">danielbib@aol.com</a>	Eric Schott	<a href="mailto:Eschott0264@aol.com">Eschott0264@aol.com</a>
Christine Jung	<a href="mailto:ChrisLeexx@aol.com">ChrisLeexx@aol.com</a>	Gary Thayer	<a href="mailto:Gght466@gmail.com">Gght466@gmail.com</a>
Ed Miller III, Certification Coordinator	<a href="mailto:caefmilleriii@msn.com">caefmilleriii@msn.com</a>	Bill Tucker	<a href="mailto:Bill.Tucker@starrcompanies.com">Bill.Tucker@starrcompanies.com</a>
Bruce Petersen	<a href="mailto:bpeter8559@mac.com">bpeter8559@mac.com</a>	Paul Welsh	<a href="mailto:paul_welsh@gbtpa.com">paul_welsh@gbtpa.com</a>

### **USA Swimming National Championship Schedule – Fall and Winter 2020-21**

While the summer national schedule was canceled given the current events, USA Swimming has recently altered the look of the remainder of the 2020 calendar. There is a Virtual Leaderboard for the fall for all sanctioned competitions and the US Winter 18 and under Championships will be contested locally so that teams can focus their efforts returning to training and competition with reduced potential travel concerns. The approval of these event sanctions will be subject to local health guidelines and directives. They are hopeful and look forward to providing further details in the future. Below is the current national schedule when hopefully a return to something more “normal” returns in the new year.

Host	Dates	Meet	Applications	Location	Course
USA	11/12-14	USA Swimming Toyota US Open Championships	Closed	Nine Various Locations.	LCM
USA	12/1-13	USA Swimming Winter 18 and Under Championships	None	Regional and Local – TBA	LCM
USA	1/13-16	USA TYR Pro Series #1	Pending	Knoxville, Tn.	LCM
USA	3/3-6	USA TYR Pro Series #2	Pending	San Antonio, Tx.	LCM
USA	4/8-11	USA TYR Pro Series #3	Pending	Mission Viejo, Ca.	LCM
USA	5/12-15	USA TYR Pro Series #4	Pending	Indianapolis, In.	LCM

**Look forward to hopefully seeing everyone on deck this season**