



## **New Jersey Officials Newsletter – Spring 2022**

### **Volume 5 – Issue 3**

Officials Chairman – Judy Sharkey

Editor – Christopher Barry

### **Introduction from the Editor**

With the start of the summer long course season, we change from short course yards to long course meters. This means more walking for the stroke officials, changes to the backstroke flag position as well as more observation time of swimmers' strokes during races.

As we start the Long Course season, this is the time for officials to seek advancement in their certification to Chief Judge, Starter and Referee. The Officials Committee will be running four clinics in May regarding this opportunity. Please review the NJS Guidelines posted on the official's page and providing that you meet the requirements, please consider in "stretching" yourself and further advancing your understanding of the roles on-deck. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to a member of the Officials Committee or the new Officials Mentoring Committee (see later in the Newsletter) to discuss and further understanding the process. Recently, I was provided the opportunity to be the Meet Referee for the EZ SC Sectionals – South. I want to thank those NJ Officials that traveled to Christiansburg to assist me in this operation as this presented an opportunity to stretch myself.

Again, thank you for all of your volunteer work during this challenging time as you graciously assisted clubs to provide opportunities for their swimmers. The swimmers and coaches understood that it could not have happened without your involvement. As our numbers have declined from the pre-Covid levels of approximately 500+ to around 400, please look to assist in recruiting for the Fall when new Stroke and Turn clinics will be offered to further expand our numbers.

This Newsletter attempts to keep officials updated on the annual registration process (including updates to the registration process and offerings by NJ Swimming) and provide some information on recent developments and/or potential expectations. In this issue, please see the information that the New Swimming Officials Committee is working on to assist with further development of officials within the LSC. 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 as well as reaching 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.

### **Letter from your Officials' Chairperson – Judy Sharkey**

The clinics which will be offered for the Spring have been up on web site and are included later in the Newsletter. They include CJ, Starter and Referee. Please contact the instructor for further instructions.

The NJ LSC will be hosting an OQM for all officials the weekend of June 24 – 26. We will offer evaluations for N2 in all positions and for N3 stroke and turn, Chief Judge and Starter. Anyone interested in applying for an evaluation should fill out the form on the NJ Swimming web site (link also include later in Newsletter) before June 15th.

The number of officials has decreased by about 20% since before Covid. Any team wishing to add officials to their ranks should contact a member of the officials committee about possible clinics for stroke and turn in the Fall.

The LSC officials were well represented at the recent World International Team Trials in Greensboro NC. We were lucky enough to have 7 of our own officials work the meet. Congrats to those who were selected.

### **Meet your Officials Committee**

<b>Judy Sharkey, Officials Chairperson</b> <a href="mailto:jmsharkey@aol.com">jmsharkey@aol.com</a>	Bruce Petersen <a href="mailto:bpeter8559@mac.com">bpeter8559@mac.com</a>
Christopher Barry <a href="mailto:accebarry@verizon.net">accebarry@verizon.net</a>	Eric Schott <a href="mailto:Eschott0264@aol.com">Eschott0264@aol.com</a>
Sameer Desai (Athlete)	Gary Thayer <a href="mailto:Gght466@gmail.com">Gght466@gmail.com</a>
Christine Jung <a href="mailto:ChrisLeexx@aol.com">ChrisLeexx@aol.com</a>	TJ Walsh (Athlete)
Ed Miller III, Certification Coordinator <a href="mailto:caefmilleriii@msn.com">caefmilleriii@msn.com</a>	Paul Welsh <a href="mailto:paul_welsh@gbtpa.com">paul_welsh@gbtpa.com</a>

### **NJS Officials Mentoring Committee**

Recently announced was the formation Officials Mentoring Committee. The purpose of this committee is to assist both new and seasoned officials to refine their skills at all levels, especially Chief Judge, Starter and Referee. The committee will be involved with officials as their being their apprenticeship in any official capacity. Specifically, each apprentice Chief Judge, Starter and Referee will be teamed with a member of the committee and assist during the process towards certification and will be present at their first apprentice session. In addition, the members will be available throughout the year as individuals to reach out to questions that arise at meets and to provide feedback. Please see the below members of the committee:

Christopher Barry	<a href="mailto:Accebarry@verizon.net">Accebarry@verizon.net</a>
Valerie Gibson	<a href="mailto:Vhgswimming@msn.com">Vhgswimming@msn.com</a>
Louis Hu	<a href="mailto:Louishu@yahoo.com">Louishu@yahoo.com</a>
Alka Rinkus	<a href="mailto:Alkarinkus@verizon.net">Alkarinkus@verizon.net</a>
Raymond Wong	<a href="mailto:0928wong@gmail.com">0928wong@gmail.com</a>

With the above information, the New Jersey Officials Committee, is pleased to announce the following certification clinics to be offered in May. Please reach out to the instructor to confirm attendance and the requirements for certification advancement have been completed.

### **UPCOMING SCHEDULED CLINICS**

Referee	May 17, 2022	7:00pm (Christopher Barry)	Berkeley Aquatic Club	<a href="mailto:Accebarry@verizon.net">Accebarry@verizon.net</a>
Starter	May 11, 2022	7:00om (Ed Miller)	Ridgewood YMCA	<a href="mailto:caefmilleriii@msn.com">caefmilleriii@msn.com</a>
Starter	May 25, 2022	7:00pm (Val Gibson)	Virtual Clinic	<a href="mailto:Vhgswimming@msn.com">Vhgswimming@msn.com</a>
Chief Judge	May 31, 2022	7:00pm (Bruce Peterson)	Virtual Clinic	<a href="mailto:bpeter8559@mac.com">bpeter8559@mac.com</a>

### **OQM (Officials Qualifying Meet) Coming to New Jersey**

As noted in the last Newsletter, an OQM (Officials Qualifying Meet), is a meets that allow officials to gain a higher level of knowledge through mentoring and evaluation while becoming familiar with national deck protocols providing increase consistency across LSCs. In June (24-26), at the EEX Jeffrey S Mace Summer Sizzle held at Rutgers University, the New Jersey Officials Committee will be providing such opportunity to officials from both within New Jersey and other area LSCs. This is an opportunity for New Jersey officials to either begin or continue their National Certification. With attendance of a National Evaluator, the meet will offer opportunities to obtain or re-certify at the N2 or N3 National level (except N3 Deck Referee) in all positions except Administrative Referee. Officials who are interested in obtaining an evaluation for an N2 or N3 will need to work at least 4 sessions with 3 sessions being evaluated by a national evaluator at the meet. Please see use the following link to submit sign-up and request an evaluation (<https://forms.gle/oZDSqqHiga6XuCgU9>).

New Jersey Swimming will be looking to continue to provide opportunities allowing our NJ officials the opportunity to advance to N2 or N3 without needing to travel out of state while providing these educational and mentoring opportunities. This will be a great chance for those that would like to gain additional knowledge with travel restrictions while increasing the service we provide to the NJ swimming community.

### Other New Jersey Officiating Updates

Further to the above, the NJS Officials Committee will be implementing a two-tiered approach for Meet Referees. This will make sure that sufficient training and mentoring is provided to Deck Referees as they begin and continue operating as the Meet Referee for NJS LSC sanctioned and approved meets. Those at Level I will be allowed to operate meets without Preliminaries and Finals as well as reduced duration. Those at Level II will be allowed to operate all meets. Please see the information posted on the NJS website as this looks to be implemented in the Fall 2022.

In addition, in Fall 2022, USA Swimming will be discontinuing the current OTS application with a revision to be implemented by the end of 2023. There will be an interim solution without some of the LSC-based functionality. Therefore, please keep an accurate track of your sessions both prior to and after September 2022 and look for further updates from New Jersey Swimming.

Lastly, as we approach the summer long course season, please reference the attached link on Lead/Lag from USA Swimming as well as USA Swimming Stroke videos for ways to re-fresh your understanding.

LeadLag - [www.teamunify.com/czoslsc/UserFiles/File/Lead\\_Lag%20Method%20of%20Stroke%20Judging%5b1%5d.pdf](http://www.teamunify.com/czoslsc/UserFiles/File/Lead_Lag%20Method%20of%20Stroke%20Judging%5b1%5d.pdf)  
Stroke Videos - [www.usaswimming.org/officials/how-to-become-an-official](http://www.usaswimming.org/officials/how-to-become-an-official)

### Open Water Swimming

As we begin the summer season, another competitive event for USA Swimming is Open Water. With competition primarily limited to the summer in the northeast, opportunities are limited for USA Swimming sanctioned events. However, these meets are always looking for volunteer USA officials to assist in the operation of the meets. The roles for Open Water swimming meets are both similar and different but the primary goal is the safety of the swimmers during the event. As New Jersey looks to expand opportunities, we will be partnering with Metro and Mid-Atlantic Swimming to promote opportunities to New Jersey swimmers and officials. There are three known opportunities at this time (two noted below in June) and the Metro LSC Open Water Championship in September in Rye, NY. If you are interested in finding out more information, feel free to reach out to Christopher Barry ([Accebarry@verizon.net](mailto:Accebarry@verizon.net)) for more information as we approach the summer season as USA Swimming will be looking to have regional clinics via zoom.

### NJ Swimming Meet Schedule (May 2022 through August 2022)

May			
14-15	BAC Splash and Dash	BAC COE	LCM
14-15	CAT Cougar Distance Challenge	Montclair State University	SCY
15	OCY IM Extreme	Ocean County YMCA	SCY
21-22	MAY Spring into Summer	Rutgers University	LCM
21-22	RSA Meters Mania	Rutherford Community Aquatic Center	SCM
27-29	BAC Memorial Day	BAC COE	LCM
28-29	SCAR Memorial Day	Rutgers University	LCM
June			
4	SCAR Heat Madness	Rutgers University	LCM
5	MAY Bring the Heat	Rutgers University	LCM
11, 18, 25	BAC Spring Invitational	BAC COE	LCM
11-12	XCEL Meet of Excellence	Princeton University	LCM
11-12	HACY Summer Solstice	Rutgers University	LCM
11-12	GMNY Summer Shorts	Camp Zehnder	SCM
12	Middle Atlantic Open Water Championship	Beasley Point Sea Doo Beach	OW
18-19	SCAR Summer Blast	Rutgers University	SCY
24-26	EEX Jeffrey S Mace Summer Sizzle	Rutgers University	LCM
July			
2-3	SCAR Summer Luau	Rutgers University	LCM
9	SAY July Distance Jubilee	SAY BH Community Pool	LCM
9-10	BAC Summer Championship	BAC COE	LCM
15-17	NJS Silver Championships – North	Rutgers University	LCM
15-17	NJS Silver Championships – South	Princeton University	LCM
7/28-8/1	NJS Junior Olympics	Rutgers University	LCM

**Please continue to check the Meet Central Page of the New Jersey Swimming website for meet updates.**

## USA Swimming National Championship Schedule – Spring 2021 through Summer 2022

With the start of the 2021-2022 swimming season, USA Swimming has published meets with a plan to return to a more regular schedule. Below is the current national schedule after completing many successful meets this past summer. The approval of these event sanctions will be subject to local health guidelines and directives.

Host	Dates	Meet	Applications	Location	Course
EZ	5/12-15, 2022	Eastern Zone - LC Speedo Sectionals	Pending	Richmond, VA	LCM
USA	6/1-4, 2022	2022 TYR Pro Series #4	Pending	Mission Viejo, CA	LCM
EZ	6/25	Eastern Zone – Open Water Championships	Pending	Middlebury, CT	OW
USA	7/26-30, 2022	2022 Phillips 66 National Championships	Pending	Irvine, CA	LCM
USA	7/27-30, 2022	USA Futures Championships	Pending	Multiple Sites - 5	LCM
USA	8/1-5, 2022	2022 Speedo Junior National Championships	Pending	Irvine, CA	LCM
EZ	8/3-6, 2022	Eastern Zone LC Age Group Championships	Pending	Pending	LCM
EZ	8/4-7, 2022	Eastern Zone LC Senior Championships	Pending	Pending	LCM



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