



New Jersey Officials Newsletter – Fall 2021

Volume 5 – Issue 1

Officials Chairman – Judy Sharkey

Editor – Christopher Barry

Introduction from the Editor

We completed the short course season by assisting the teams conduct meets in smaller numbers but gave swimmers the opportunity to race. Unfortunately, most of the meets were either single team events and/or virtual dual meets. As we approached the end of the traditional SC season, things seem to be moving forward on a positive note but the long course season was more of the same. As we enter the start of the 2021-22 swimming season, things are hopefully progressing to the point that with this start of the fall SC season, meets that resemble what we came to enjoy in the past.

First, 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. Our numbers have declined over the past year and there have not been opportunities to train new officials. As we start to ramp back up, hopefully additional swimming officials will look to renew credentials and training opportunities are slowly resuming. This will allow the ability to provide further support to the swim community as we progress to a hopefully full schedule of SC Championship meets in February and March. In addition, we will be able to renew friendships on the pool deck and enjoy the days of that chlorine induced happiness.

Second, hopefully all of you have been healthy and finding ways to remain fresh and current with the swimming rules. With meets less frequent, coverage less than optimum and the duration of sessions reduced, staying fresh and conditioned for more traditional meets has been challenging. While it may take some time for sessions to return to the three plus hours (not including warm-up) with constant activity, you have been hopefully able to occupy your time during this period without constant meets. As we progress back published schedule of meet and for those interesting in additional officiating opportunities, please see the other opportunities to further assist in officiating swimming later in the newsletter.

As we journey into this new swimming season, while the last was mostly non-existent for most, 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. With that, please look to make sure that you are current with the rules and the adjustments that we have had to make while on deck. As we slowly return to full training and competition, please reach out to your fellow officials to connect without the smell of chlorine in the background to catch up and find out about opportunities that are developing. Last weekend, I was able to help out at a meet on Sunday where we had an abundance of officials to fully staff the deck for a six-lane pool (6-8 ST, 2 SR, 2 DR and 3-4 CJs) while another meet had challenges. One goal for this season will be to look to increase the awareness in the official community of where officials are needed so that we can adequately staff meets equally across the LSC.

Lasty, 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 and continues to add content – 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, 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 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.

Meet your Officials Committee

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Registration Reminder and Process for 2022 – Ed Miller

It's time to renew your USA-S membership and your official's credentials for 2022. Please note that there is one significant change for this year. You can now pay your dues electronically if you wish. (See instructions below).

To register for 2022, please read this memorandum carefully in its entirety and take the following requisite steps. If you plan to pay your dues by check please follow the instructions below. This option is only available to renewing only officials for this year. It is not available for new officials or for officials taking a clinic and test this year.

If you have a new address, telephone number, e-mail address or club affiliation, please highlight it in yellow on the application form. That makes it easy to spot and the changes will get processed more expeditiously.

Make your check payable to NJ Swimming. The fee is \$85 this year. However, if you had a background screening or updated screening last fall (2020), you can deduct that fee from your 2022 membership fee. If last year was your original screening, then you can deduct \$38, making the fee \$47. If your screening last year was an updated screening, then you can deduct \$18, making the fee \$67.

If you are going to take a deduction for the background screening, please enclose a copy of the invoice received last year or a copy of your USA-S official's card showing the BGC expiration date.

If you choose to pay electronically, go to the NJ Swimming website (www.njswim.org) and click on Forms Central. Scroll down the page to Officials and select Pay on Line. Then enter the required data and follow the payment instructions. When you have registered, print out a copy of the receipt and include it with the other documents required below. Including the receipt will greatly speed up the processing for your new cards.) Please be aware that electronic payment does not update your credentials; that only happens when you receive your updated NJS Official's card.

To pay by check, follow the above instructions but select Pay by Check. Print out and complete the membership application. Attach your check and send it to your trainer or Ed Miller, as appropriate.

For all, please print out your report from OTS or make a copy of your meet record card/sheet showing your sessions worked during 2021 and enclose it with the other documents. In view of the cancellation of many Spring and Summer meets due to the pandemic, the Officials' Committee has agreed to relax the session requirements for renewal again for this year. If you worked at least half of the required sessions (e.g., three sessions for a stroke & turn judge), that will be accepted as meeting the minimum sessions requirement for renewal. If you are still short, you may be able to meet the requirement by working some sessions this fall.

If this is your year to take a clinic and test, give your application and check, or your online payment receipt, and your meet record documents to your trainer. Once you pass the test, he/she will send that paperwork to me, along with the clinic registration form. This then completes the process to renew your certification. You can tell if you are due for a clinic by looking at the letter I sent you last year; in the lower right quadrant you'll see your level and when you need to take a clinic; or you can check on your Deck Pass Dashboard (at www.usaswimming.org/officials) for the date of your last class, unless it was a YMCA class, as they are currently not reflected in Deck Pass.

If you need an updated background check, please do so before submitting your renewal paperwork. That makes it much easier for the NJS Office to complete your USA-S registration and get your new USA-S membership card to you more quickly.

As with the background check, if you need to complete the athlete protection course, do so before submitting your paperwork as well.

For both the background check and the Athlete Protection courses, go to the USA-S web page (www.usaswimming.org/officials), scroll down the page and click on the icon for either the BGC or the APT. You do not have to submit completion certificates for the BGC or APT, as the results are automatically entered into your file. All officials are now required to take a free, on-line concussion protocol class. This is a one-time requirement; if you took a course last year, you do not have to do it again. If you need to take a course, you can take either the CDC course or the NFHS course. (If you are an NJ high school official, you have already taken the NFHS course; you don't have to do so again.) You must attach your certificate of completion of the course to the NJS membership application form. Again, go to the USA-S Web page (www.usaswimming.org/officials), scroll down the page to the concussion training section and click on the CDC or NFHS icon to take the course.

Please wait until you have all the necessary paperwork together to send your materials to me. Also, please do not e-mail some of the paperwork and mail the rest. I am notorious for losing pieces of paper when you send them to me randomly, so I return incomplete applications to you to prevent their loss. Last year I had to return over fifty applications, slowing down the process of getting you your credentials considerably.

Send your completed paperwork to me, Ed Miller, at 140 Concord Street, New Milford, NJ 07646.

Do not send your paperwork to the NJS office. That slows down the process as they have to then send the paperwork to me, and during the crunch time, they rightly work on the athletes first, so your paperwork can sit for some time.

Finally, please try to get your paperwork to me in November or early December so we have time to process it and get you your new credentials before the start of the New Year.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thanks for your cooperation.

UPCOMING SCHEDULED CLINICS

Re-certification-Starter and Referees Bridgewater Branch of Somerset Valley YMCA 11/10 7:00pm (Judy Sharkey)

Please continue to check the Officials Page of the New Jersey Swimming website for future clinics.

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. This past fall and winter the U.S. Paralympics swimming ran a number of virtual online clinics during October and November and again in January. These clinics were 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. Please see the below opportunities in April and look for additional opportunities in the future.

U.S. Paralympics Swimming - VIRTUAL COACHES CLINIC - Coaching the Para-Swimmer, Sunday, November 14, 2021, 8pm EST

Registration link Signup Genius - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0948ABA929A2FA7-virtual8>

U.S. Paralympics Swimming - FOUNDATIONS VIRTUAL CLINIC - AN INTRODUCTION TO PARA SWIMMING, November 14, 2021 6:30pm EST

Registration link Signup Genius - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0948ABA929A2FA7-foundations3>

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).

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 primary goal is the safety of the swimmers during the event. If you are interested in finding out more information in advance of next summer, feel free to reach out to Christopher Barry (Accebarry@verizon.net) for more information as we enter the summer season.

Officials celebrating Anniversaries

Further to those that have advanced their certification, the following officials this year will be celebrating completing 5, 10 or 20+ years of service as officials for USA/NJ Swimming during the past year. Hopefully we have captured everyone – please advise if anyone was missed and will make update in next letter.

5 Years of Service

Lynn Alexy
Simon Chen
Michelle Denlea
Christina DiVenti
Dawn Dellaratta-Duffy
Brian Furry
Albert Hendrawan
Jakub Jakubaszek
James Jourdan
Daniel Keenan
Laurie Kennedy
Brian Klohn
Neeraj Kushnoor

Alain Ledon
Han-Yang Lo
Kim MacAvoy-Sorothen
Yury Myts
Allison Nash
Jigar Patel
Steve Petri
Kimi Regula
Tom Sperzel
Greg Spicka
Eric Tanalski
Nadine Vasilakis
Subashini Vedala
Jen Wright

Ken Yanovsky
10 Years of Service
Sue Cao
Joe Lawton
Bob Piasecki
Jackie Prekop
15 Years of Service
Christopher Barry
Michael Chow
20+ Years of Service
Dan Bibb
Valerie Gibson
Chris Jung
Paul O'Connor

NJ Swimming Meet Schedule (November 2021 through February 2022)

November

13-14	CAT Smash the Pumpkin (J. Butler)	NJIT Wellness and Events Pool	None
19-21	PPST Fall Rally	Witherspoon School	None
19-21	PAA Thanksgiving Classic	Peddie School	None
20-21	BAC Treasure Island	BAC COE	None
20-21	BB Thankful Swim	Raritan Valley CC	None
20	SCAR NJW Andy O'Grady Memorial	Rutgers University	None
28	SCAR NJW Fast Times	Lyndhurst HS	None

December

3-5	SCAR ESC Winter Sprinter	Newark Academy	None
4-5	BAC Holiday Splash	BAC COE	None
4-5	LIFE Life Time December Dasher	LifeTime Athletic Princeton	None
4	MB Paul Criscuolo Invitational	Neptune Aquatics Center	None
10-12	PPST Ugly Sweater Meet	Witherspoon School	Prelim/Finals
12	BB Snowflake	Rutgers University	None
17-19	OCY Winter Classic Invitational	Ocean County YMCA	Prelim/Finals
18-19	HAC Highlander Classic	NJIT Wellness and Events Pool	None

January

13-16	BAC Jim Wood Memorial LC Invitational	BAC COE	Prelim/Finals (Closed)
23	HAC Winter Classic	NJIT Wellness and Events Pool	None
29-30	BAC Pro Bowl Invitational	BAC COE	None

February

11	BAC Salmon Run	BAC COE	None
12-13	BAC February Splash	BAC COE	None
12-13	BB Will you BB Mine	Raritan Valley CC	None
12	MB February Sprints	Neptune Aquatics Center	None

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

USA Swimming National Championship Schedule – Winter 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
USA	12/1-4, 2021	2021 Toyota US Open	Closed	Greensboro, NC	LCM
USA	12/8-11, 2021	2021 Speedo Winter Junior Nationals – East	Closed	Greensboro, NC	SCY
USA	12/8-11, 2021	2021 Speedo Winter Junior Nationals – West	Closed	Austin, TX	SCY
USA	1/12-15, 2022	2022 TYR Pro Series #1	Closed	Knoxville, TN	LCM
USA	3/2-5, 2022	2022 TYR Pro Series #2	Open	Des Moines, IA	LCM
EZ	3/24-27, 2022	Eastern Zone - LC Speedo Sectionals	Pending	Buffalo, NY	LCM
EZ	3/24-27, 2022	Eastern Zone - SC Speedo Sectionals	Pending	Christiansburg, VA	SCY
EZ	3/24-27, 2022	Eastern Zone - SC Speedo Sectionals	Pending	Ithaca, NY	SCY
EZ	3/30-4/2, 2022	Eastern Zone – SC Age Group Championships	Pending	Webster, NY	SCY
USA	3/30-4/3, 2022	2022 TYR Pro Series #3	Pending	San Antonio, TX	LCM
USA	4/1-3, 2022	2022 Open Water National Championships	Pending	Fort Myers Beach, FL	
USA	4/26-30, 2022	2022 Phillips 66 International Team Trials	Pending	Greensboro, NC	LCM
USA	4/28-5/1, 2022	2022 18 and Under Spring Cup	Pending	Multiple Sites – 4	LCM
EZ	5/12-15, 2022	Eastern Zone - LC Speedo Sectionals	Pending	Richmond, VA	LCM
EZ	6/26	Eastern Zone – Open Water Championships	Pending	Middlebury, CT	
USA	6/29-7/2, 2022	2022 TYR Pro Series #4	Pending	Mission Viejo, CA	LCM
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 - 4	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	Buffalo, NY	LCM

Look forward to hopefully seeing everyone on deck this season