



New Jersey Officials Newsletter – Winter 2022

Volume 5 – Issue 2

Officials Chairman – Judy Sharkey

Editor – Christopher Barry

Introduction from the Editor

We have made it half way through the SC season with providing increased opportunities to the swimmers of New Jersey. These have been more competitive in nature with multi-team meets. New Jersey is working to provide a championship meet schedule since the season was disrupted in March 2020. This will require the increased support of the NJ Swimming Officials' community as we have multiple events across both USA Swimming and YMCA Swimming. Such schedule will start in mid-February, so if you have not renewed your credentials, please consider and return to the deck in support of the swimmers in New Jersey as we look to provide a fair and competitive environment while also re-acquainting with many of your officials' friends.

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. While our numbers have declined, we have since an increase since the start of the SC season with opportunities to train new officials.

As we continue the journey towards the SC Championship season with a recent increase in Covid activity, please keep safe and follow the protocols of the Meet Hosts as we look to keep swimmers safe and provide them opportunities. 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.

Please remember to 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 SC Championship season. USA Swimming recently updated their website and continues to add content – please familiar yourself with the changes and improvements.

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 regarding Officials Qualifying Meets (OQM) prepared by Raymond Wong as the committee looks to provide further opportunities to the NJ Officials. 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

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

Officials advancing to Starter, Chief Judge and Referee

Congratulations to the following officials who have completed their apprentice training and have stepped up to greater responsibilities by advancing in their certification to a Starter, Chief Judge or Referee.

New Starters

Sean Brennan	PAA	Jonathan Glacken	BAC	Danning Hu	LHY	Melissa Thompson	SVY
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New Chief Judges

Sandra Lalli	GMNY	Robert Masella	CAT	David Rushforth	BAC		
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New Referees

Daniel Keenan	OCY	Nagi Yassa	MCSC				
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Please note the new list of Final Evaluators now include those on the Officials' Committee and the following individuals – Val Gibson, Louis Hu, Ann Leaver, Bach Lequang and Ray Wong.

Letter from your Officials' Chairperson – Judy Sharkey

Hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season. The first half of the short course season has gone rather well with a few interruptions. We will still see some interruptions during the championship season whether it is no spectators or limited number of swimmers. Please follow all the guidelines as set forth by the venue you are visiting and please stay safe. As we approach championship season, I hope everyone will be able to assist our Meet Referees and attend at least one or two of our championship meets. If you haven't registered for 2022, please consider doing so as soon as possible.

During championship meet we inevitably see some disabled swimmers. Please review Article 105 of the rule book concerning disabled swimmers. Remember we judge the swimmer the same as you would any other swimmer except for the modifications given that swimmer for their disability. The swimmer is responsible for notifying the Referee, prior to the competition of any needed modification.

We will be offering clinics in the Spring. These include Stroke and Turn, Chief Judges, Starter and Referee. Please keep an eye on the NJ Swimming website for the dates and times of these clinics.

Registration Reminder and Process for 2022 – Ed Miller

It's not too late 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.

To still register for 2022, please read this summary and reference the information on the Becoming an Official link on the NJ Swimming Officials' Page website.

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 was your year to take a clinic and test, please see below for additional opportunities provided and follow the instructions of your clinic instructor.

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.

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. Send your completed paperwork to 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.

UPCOMING SCHEDULED LAST CHANCE CLINICS

Re-certification- Stroke and Turn Virtual Clinic 2/25 7:00pm (Ed Miller/Eric Schott)

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

What is an OQM (Officials Qualifying Meet) – by Raymond Wong

An OQM (Officials Qualifying Meet), are meets that primarily 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. Through evaluation and certification, recognizing those officials who have demonstrated their knowledge of swim officiating at each level and position the ability to serve on the national decks. N2 and N3 national certifications are usually offered at these meets. Officials looking to work at any national meets 2 stars and up, you will need to obtain at least an N2 or even N3 certifications (depend on meet level). 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. Once an application is submitted with an approved for advancement evaluation, officials can work on national deck that required N2 or N3 requirements. Such certification may also require a combination of several things including the evaluation, local participation at meets, continuing education, and the training and mentoring of other officials.

New Jersey Swimming is currently looking into providing a few OQM meets within the state each year. This will give some of 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. National Evaluators could be brought in to further assist with mentoring. 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.

The last OQM offered in New Jersey was the 2019 LC Summer Eastern Sectionals. Stay tuned, as more information to come on which meet will be our next OQM.

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. However, the general rule that if a body part is absent or cannot be used, it is not judged; if it is used during the stroke or kick, it should be judged in accordance with the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations. Judgments should be made based on the actual rule —not on the swimmer's technique. Please read the entire section so that you are prepared for future possibilities. U.S. Paralympics swimming is continuing to run virtual online clinics with the next opportunity in February. 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. Please see the below and look for additional opportunities in the future.

U.S. Paralympics Swimming - VIRTUAL COACHES CLINIC - Coaching the Para-Swimmer, Sunday, February 27, 2022, 8pm EST
Registration link Signup Genius - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0948ABA929A2FA7-virtual9>

U.S. Paralympics Swimming - FOUNDATIONS VIRTUAL CLINIC - AN INTRODUCTION TO PARA SWIMMING, February 27, 2022
6:30pm EST

Registration link Signup Genius - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0948ABA929A2FA7-foundations4>

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) for more information.

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 USA 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. New Jersey will be looking to expand opportunities by partnering with Metro and Mid-Atlantic Swimming as we look to build out opportunities. If you are interested in finding our more information, feel free to reach out to Christopher Barry (Accebarry@verizon.net) for more information as we approach the summer season.

NJ Swimming Meet Schedule (January 2022 through June 2022)

February

5	MB February Sprints	Neptune Aquatic Center	None
5	BAC-CAT-SCAR Mini Meet	BAC COE	10U Only
5-6	LIFE Kiss my Splash	Lifetime Aquatic - Princeton	None
11-13	SCAR NJS Junior/Senior States	Rutgers University	Custon
12-13	BB Will you BB Mine	Raritan Valley CC	None
19-20	CAT NJS 12U Championships – Region A	NJIT, Newark	Silver/Bronze
19-20	Lifetime NJS 8U Championships	Raritan Valley CC	None
25	BAC Salmon Run	BAC COE	None
26-27	SCAR NJS 12U Championships – Region B	Newark Academy	Silver/Bronze
26-27	BAC NJS Championships – Region C	BAC COE	Silver/Bronze
26-27	PPST NJS Championships – Region D	Princeton Middle School	Silver/Bronze

March

5	CSH Tri-State Para Swimming Meet	Rutgers University	Para
11-13	BAC 130 NJS Championships	BAC COE	Silver/Gold
11-13	SCAR 130 NJS Championships	Rutgers University	Silver/Gold
14	BAC Monday Mayhem	BAC COE	None (LCM)
18-20	SCAR NJS Junior Olympics	Rutgers University	Gold
19-20	CAT NJS Senior Championship	NJIT, Newark	Gold

Summer LC Season

June 11-12	SCAR Summer Blast	Newark Academy	None (SCY)
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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
USA	3/2-5, 2022	2022 TYR Pro Series #2	Closed	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 - 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	Buffalo, NY	LCM

Look forward to hopefully seeing everyone on deck this season