

Fall Conference Official's Chair Report

Officials Numbers:

At the start of the 2025-2026 Short Course Season, effective on September 27, 2025 USA Swimming's Officials Tracking System (OTS) indicates that we currently have 212 Apprentice and Certified Officials. Of those 184 are eligible and certified to officiate at Meets. The differential includes 14 apprentice officials who are yet to be fully certified and the remaining balance are officials who have expired Background Checks or Athlete Protection Training.

As for the various positions the following is a summary of the official numbers for various positions:

Position	Certified	Certified & Eligible
Stroke & Turn	176	164
Starter	75	72
Referee	41	40
Administrative Official	79	77

Iowa Swimming has 69 Officials (38%) who have achieved at least one N2 or N3 National Certification. That percentage places Iowa Swimming as one of the top LSCs for nationally certified officials in all of USA Swimming.

Background Check Reimbursement

Effective September 1, 2025, Iowa Swimming will reimburse certified officials for their background check expense. Once you complete your background check, the official will need to complete a form and submit the form with a receipt for the background check payment. Upon verification that the background check has been completed, Iowa Swimming will send a reimbursement check. Those officials whose BGC expired in September or will expire in October were emailed the form and directions. The goal is to get the form to officials a month before their BGC expiration date. The process is new and may evolve, but it is our goal to make this relatively simple.

Officials Shirts

Also included in this year's budget was a line item to provide all current and new officials with one Iowa Swimming Officials Shirt. Details on how this will be achieved are still in development and more information will be forthcoming.

Officials Qualifying Meets

We will again be trying to offer multiple OQM opportunities for officials to be evaluated for national certification. The first OQM Meet this season will be at the Midwest Challenge on October 31st through November 2nd. The meet will offer N2 and N3 evaluations for all positions. The sign up is currently available on the Iowa Swimming Officials Meet Sign Up page. We plan to have national evaluators at both the Short Course and Long Course Championships in 2026. The tentative National Evaluators will be Jim Sheehan who is a past USA Swimming President of Board of Directors for the Short Course Senior Championships and Lisa Vetterlein who was one of the Starters at the Paris Olympics.

Recertification & Membership Registration

It is that time of the year again when we need update your membership with USA Swimming for the 2026 calendar year. You also need to check your LSC Certification status in OTS. If your positions show an expiration date of 12/31/2025, you will need to complete one or two clinics through USA Swimming University to recertify. Guidance is attached.