

October 5th, 2025 Fall Conference Meeting minutes

In attendance: Bill Brown (chair), Robert Fry (Vice Chair), Kirstin Oppel (Secretary, Andrea and Bobby Kelley, Jim Wittenbel, Kaitlyn Vos, Kelli Jacobs, Mike and Susan Repko, Phil and Kerry Barnes, Ryan Judas. Athletes excused as they were in the athlete's meeting.

Bill covered his [report](#).

Highlights include the number of officials of which 69 (38%) have at least one N2 or N3 National Certification which is the highest percent of any LSC in the Central Zone.

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

Upcoming OQMs include Midwest Challenge, SC and LC Champs. Jim Sheehan will be our evaluator at SC Champs and Lisa Vetterlein will be our evaluator at LC Champs.

USA-S has changed the requirements for national evaluation. People being evaluated need to be evaluated over 3 OQM sessions but the fourth required session does NOT have to be an OQM session.

Background Checks - Iowa Swimming is reimbursing officials for these now.

Official's shirts - Bill will get a bid on these shirts from Splash Multisport and Elsmore and then come up with a process to provide all Iowa officials with a shirt.

Robert Fry attended the USA-S Annual Convention in Colorado Springs last month. The official's track focused on becoming an N2 national evaluator.

Phil Barnes (Central Zone Officials' Chair) talked about the 9 Central Zone hosted meets in the upcoming year; 6 Sectional meets, 2 Zone meets, and 1 Open Water Zone meet. The [Central Zone](#) website is updated with dates and locations. A change for 2027 will be that the 14 and under Zones meets will be 4 full days and will be at 3 sites.

Mike Repko and Andrea Kelley gave an update on OW. USA-S will be creating an online clinic for certification of OW Judge and Referee. USA-S will still host the national clinic every other year in conjunction with OW Nationals. Iowa will host its first OW meet in June.