

IASI Officials Chair Report

January 5th, 2024

We added 56 new officials (as of January 4th) compared to the same time last year with 42 officials not renewing/no activity during the past 12 months. So a net gain of 14 officials. Kirstin Oppel has been organizing regular online clinics with a Starter Clinic already conducted this year, Stroke&Turn and Admin Official clinics scheduled for next week, and a Deck Referee clinic for the week after. Trainers are also conducting ad-hoc clinics to accommodate those volunteers who are unable to make the scheduled clinics.

The USA Swimming Board of Directors has not passed the new Officials Certification Requirements, which was supposed to be in place by January 1st, 2024, per the House of Delegates' vote. We are continuing to conduct our clinics and certifications in accordance with our procedures but do not expect much change when the Board finally approves the requirements. Phil Barnes and Hannah Cousins (who is now a member of the USA Swimming National Officials Committee) are part of the working group.

The Officials Committee has a working group for Officials Recruitment and Retention. The group's proposals will be reviewed later this month at the next Officials Committee meeting. The requested 2024 budget for officials has been passed to the Senior Vice-Chair – with requested increases for evaluations and officials' development. We are planning for the Short Course Champs in Des Moines to be an Officials Qualifying Meet with an evaluator being brought in from South Carolina. The LSC currently has 59 N2/N3 officials, of which 4 are N3-level national evaluators.

Plans for the coming year include a refresh of the training materials in response to the national requirements once approved by the USA Swimming Board of Directors and implementing processes for increased recruitment and retention of officials.