

Officials Chair Report – 01/22/2025

USA Swimming is changing Swim University. You must now log in as a non-athlete member to take the courses and exams for free. The tests have been popular with other swimming organizations and USA Swimming will require others to pay for the exam. Apprentices must register as an “apprentice” before taking the courses and exams for free. If they pay for the exam, USA Swimming will NOT refund or credit them.

The Open Water Clinic at Nationals is only held in even numbered years. The next clinic and opportunity for an LSC to send a new official to the clinic will be in 2026.

USA Swimming’s Officials Excellence Award is given every two months to honor an outstanding LSC official for their contributions to local swimming. The award is sponsored by Swimming World magazine and Hasty Awards. Nominations for outstanding officials in our LSC must be submitted by the LSC Officials Chair to USA Swimming. If you wish to nominate someone, please provide me with the nominee’s name, years officiating and a brief (250 words or less) statement on why the nominee is deserving of the award. The nomination should also include a photo and short biography. The information needs to be submitted before April 1st. In the past 25 years, the award has been awarded to one Iowa Official; Bryan Lawler in 2005. If you think there is someone in Iowa LSC who is deserving of this recognition, please let me know.

It appears that new Officials in some LSCs have been applying for N2 and N3 certifications without having an evaluation or enough experience. We appear to do a good job of educating our Officials, but was asked to re-iterate this to the LSC’s Officials.

Iowa Officials – January 12, 2025

187 Officials Certified and Registered for 2025
3 Officials Registered for 2025, but expired Certifications
11 Officials with Registration and Certification expired on 12/31/2024
5 Apprentice Officials Registered for 2025
3 Apprentice Officials with 60-day Free Period Expired
7 Apprentice Officials in their 60-day Free Period

The Short Course Championship will be an OQM and N2, N3 initial and final evaluations will be available for Stroke & Turn, Chief Judge, Starter, and Deck Referee. We will also be able to offer N2 AO and AR. The sign-up for the Meet is active on the Iowa Swim Officials Sign-Up website. Please encourage those who are Officiating this Meet to consider being evaluated. Iowa appears to lead the Central Zone in the percentage of Officials who have a National Certification. This is a great opportunity for continuing education and demonstrates our LSC’s commitment to having quality Officiating at our Meets.

Applications for the Central Zone Sectional Meets are currently active and if you are able to help Officiate at one of these Meets, the hosts and Meet Referees will be appreciative.

Applications for the summer Long Course National Meets is expect to open soon. (Rumor has it that they will be posted on the USA Swimming website on January 23, 2025). If you are interested in applying for Futures, Junior or the Pro Series Championships, please be aware that some of these Meets are expected to fill up soon.