

Utah Swimming Officials Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 1st, 2025, at 7:30pm

IN ATTENDANCE: Julie Floyd (chair), Izabel G., Erik Harris, Carri Oviatt, Theresa Werner; guest Pierre Guzman (Safe Sport Chair)

EXCUSED: Barry Hayden, Connie Christensen, Lori Onsae, Adelaide G., Tiffanie P.

March 2025 minutes approved and meeting called to order by the committee chair.

Utah Swimming Officials Committee Membership (10 members):

Chair: Julie Floyd	Team Liaison: Lori Onsae
Vice Chair: Carri Oviatt	Training: Connie Christensen
Advancement: Erik Harris	Athlete Rep: Adelaide G
Communication: Theresa Werner	Athlete Rep: Izabel G.
Mentoring and Retention: Barry Hayden	Athlete Rep: Tiffanie P.
Open Water: Julie Floyd	

Officials Certifications and Advancements

- Officials' certifications and advancements were discussed:
 - We had a few new stroke and turn certifications in the month of March and one AO certification.
- Utah Officials List posted on Utah Swimming website will be updated later this month after the new certifications and advancements are added (last updated online March 2025).
- Having issues with referees and/or on deck trainers not filling out the training log properly, either not filling it out or checking all the boxes when all tasks were not done or observed. Also had trainees not using the correct form (specific for Utah LSC).
 - Julie will send out instructional letter to all referees about the process.
 - Discussed sending an email to all new trainees with a welcome, explaining the process, and including checklist and links to our official's website (Julie gets notification every time someone does an official's training course online).

New Committee Business

- Safe Sport Chair Pierre Guzman was invited to address a few issues that came up at the last committee meeting.
 - We would like a Safe Sport table set up at the Championship Meets with information and swag for the swimmers.
 - We discussed that some LSC require their meet marshals to be background checked and done APT training. That is not a USA Swimming requirement. We thought it would limit the volunteer pool to do that role at meets if we required that. Proposed doing a brief orientation to safe sport practices for meet marshals at championship meets or having an instructional card for them to read when they check in for their job at the meet.
 - Also discussed having anyone that complains to Julie about meet conduct to document that in an email to her and cc safe sport chair so we have it documented in writing.

- Julie sent the updated policy on reimbursement criteria for unattached officials to McKay to update online (this was approved by the UTSI board at the January board meeting).
- Several LSCs have a paid Entry Chair for championship meets. Many have their paid executive secretary handle all the LSC Championship entries. We discussed possibility of having a permanent entry chair and Julie will discuss with the general chair and bring up for discussion at board meeting.
- We also discussed two issues that have come up in the last month regarding tattoos and adhesives worn during meets and minimum number of officials needed to run a sanctioned meet. Julie has emailed some contacts at the national level for clarification.

Championship Meets

- Shared drive for all championship meets sanctions for reference for future championship meets teams was created.
 - Championship committee needs to set meet committees for both LC meets so those teams can get the sanctions completed. We would grant access to the drive for the team writing the sanction.
- Senior LC State, July 10-12, 2025 [this will be an OQM, Julie has evaluators scheduled].
 - Meet Referee is Trent Weight.
 - Admin is Theresa Werner.
 - Meet Director is Mo Schiffman.
- UTAGS LC State, July 17-19, 2025.
 - Meet Referee is TBD.
 - Admin is Carri Oviatt.
 - Meet Director is TBD.
- Utah Beehive Finale, July 25-26, 2025.

National Certifications and Opportunities

- Our plan is to have all four of our champs meets be OQMs with at least one being with outside national evaluators.
 - Barry (mentoring and retention) had some trainings to get more interest in national certification and advancement at UTAGS and will do the same at LC championship meets.
- Travel Reimbursement. Policy 4.2 on officials' reimbursements for high level meets was previously reviewed by the committee. We have discussed adding some criteria for who should be considered for funding (those seeking national certification, those working the full meet, those attending certain meet for the first time). Plan to have set amounts for high level meets depending on how many sessions were worked.
 - Julie was at a meet in Idaho and was asking about Inland Empire Swimming's travel reimbursement for their officials who officiate at higher level meets and travel reimbursement for visiting officials. Julie liked their explanation of their policies and asked them to email her their policies. Once she reviews them, Julie will come up with a comprehensive policy proposal and email it to the Committee and will discuss it at the next Officials Committee meeting.

Officials Training and Clinics

- All certifications are online on USA Swimming now:
 - USA Swimming Referee training and test launched today April 1, 2025.
 - USA Swimming AO training and test have been online as of October 1, 2024.

- USA Swimming Starter training and test also has been online as of October 1, 2024.
- All new officials need to take the new Foundations Course as well that is online.
- CJ training and certification information is posted on our website.
- Information for junior stroke and turn officials is on the website; they use the same training document we have posted for stroke and turn officials.
- Reminder that anyone wanting to advance to Referee must become a certified AO prior to starting Referee training.

Theresa has set up upcoming meetings as a recurring Zoom meeting (closed meeting on the 1st Tuesday of the month).

Next meeting will be Tuesday May 6th, 2025, at 7:30pm via zoom.

Old Business

Certifications and Advancements

- All apprentice officials should email Officials Chair after completion as we do not get an automatic notification from USA Swimming and we will track on our officials' list online.
- With R9, USA Swimming put out certification requirements for CJ as some LSCs do certify their CJs; Utah has not done this in the past.
 - Discussed at September 2024 meeting and you must be LSC certified CJ to go for national certification, so we will now certify this position in Utah (but it's optional).

High School Swimming

- HS Observations now only need backstroke to be observed (IM, Medley Relay, 100 Back). But we have discussed that for the 2023-2024 HS season we will continue to observe all events except for freestyle.
- Connie has updated the database instructions with new things noted this year. For example, we need to get each USA Swimmers full ID# entered.

Mentoring

- Goals: to get more of our senior officials trained as mentors and utilize our mentors and officials to help recruit more officials for Utah Swimming and more Utah officials working national meet decks to gain experience [ongoing action item, Barry is now helping with this].
- Julie would like to develop a formal mentoring program for Utah Officials. Julie is also a national evaluator [ongoing action item].
- Mike sent out email (Jan 2022) regarding club mentors.
- Will have all senior officials make note of any interesting situations that arise at meets that we can utilize in our training clinics for existing referees, starters, and AOs.

Retention

- Officials Committee will pay for registration and background check for officials who are unaffiliated with a club, with the promise that they will work at least one meet per season (short course and long course).
- Clubs are supposed to have certified officials in a 1:20 ratio officials to swimmers. We need to get a list of ratios of swimmers to officials for each team so we can see which teams we need to help get more officials.

Officials Training and Clinics

- Continue to have set months for officials' trainings, and plan to do them at least quarterly; will continue to do them virtually to allow those from across the state to attend.
 - Planned months of offering training clinics: August/September, October/November, January, and April/May.
- New R-9 National Officials training and certification went into effect 02/01/2024.
 - Erik Harris has a new email for certifications: certifier@utahswimming.org.
 - Website has the updated the training logs and requirements.
- LSC CJ Certification: To get national certification for CJ, you now need to be an LSC certified CJ, which we currently don't have in Utah. We can make the CJ certification

optional (not required) for any stroke and turn official who has met the minimum requirements.

- USA Swimming does have a certification process for CJ including 16 sessions as S&T, attend clinic or briefing, read CJ materials, and complete four training sessions as CJ.
- We are hosting a CJ clinic at Swimposium at the end of this month.
- Junior Stroke and Turn Officials: this national training recently went live.
 - Requirements: member of USA swimming, attending online clinic and pass the test for stroke and turn, complete 4 training sessions; they cannot officiate any sessions with 13 and over swimmers.
- Carri will send out email update to AO's that as the AO of record they are responsible for sending the final meet database to Utah Swimming (registration@utahswimming.org) at the conclusion of the meet. This is not to be left for meet director, coach, or facility personnel to edit the database. (done October 2024).
- We hosted our last in person CJ, Starter, AO, and Referee Clinics at Swimposium in September 2024.
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National Certifications and Opportunities

- Requests from officials for travel reimbursement to high level championships meets.
 - *4.2 Policy Championship Travel Reimbursement: UTSI certified officials intending on working sectional meets, the Western Zones Meets, and higher-level meets, may apply to the Officials Chair for consideration to receive supplementary funding to help defray some of the incurred expenses. Preference will be given to those who have not previously officiated at this level and may be adjusted according to funding available and numbers applying for reimbursement. Officials must work **at least 4** sessions at the meet for reimbursement consideration. Submission of receipt(s) showing incurred expenses, which have not been reimbursed or covered through another means, are required.*

Open Water Steering Committee

- UTSI Board agreed to start Open Water Steering Committee (Trent is working with Julie on this).
 - Discussion on having Utah doing an open water certification and the committee was in favor of this.
 - This does not include NCAA events.