

Streamline

Maryland Swimming Officials Newsletter



Congratulations to the MDSI Officials who worked at the 2023 Philips 66 National Championships

- Jamie Cahn - Meet Referee
- Peter LaGow - Deck Referee
- Satoshi Katsumoto - Technical Official

A Note from the Officials Chair: Doug Karr

Hello MD Swimming Officials!

Hope everyone is having a great summer.

Congratulations to our 21 new stroke and turn officials and 13 new administrative officials! We are so excited to have you on deck. Congratulations to our new starters, chief judges, and referees. Thank you to all the clinic instructors, mentors, and evaluators for helping us grow professionally. It's wonderful to have such amazing talent across the LSC

Congratulations to our Maryland Officials on the national and international decks. Please congratulate both Peter LaGow and Jamie Cahn who now serve on the referees list of World Aquatics (formerly FINA) and will serve as Meet Referees for this year's fastest national meets.

Jamie just served as the Meet Referee for this summer's Phillip 66 National Championships in Indianapolis. Peter will serve as Meet Referee for this December's US Open in Greensboro NC. Jamie will also be the USA Technical Official for the World Championships this summer in Fukuoka, Japan.

In addition, Rich McMillen, who was a long time Maryland official (now with Potomac Valley) will serve as Meet Referee for Junior Nationals West this winter.

In this issue you will see important information updates from the administrative and rules perspective. Also, our new portal for MD Swimming Officials clothing is live. New name badges will be coming out in September.

Thank you for making this Long Course Season such an amazing success!

Doug

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Doug Karr

Officials Chair

Maryland Swimming

Our goal is to provide a safe, competitive, and fair environment for all levels of swimmers through impartial observation and application of the rules. To include all persons interested in MDSI Officiating

Certification and administration: Tom DeBoissiere

Folks,

Thank you for your efforts in supplying the necessary information needed to validate your certification requests. It is more onerous with OTS still not at full strength. I appreciate the effort.

OTS is getting better. As of now, I am able to look up your sessions for this year in OTS. The upshoot of that is the apprentice session forms are not needed anymore, but it probably a good idea for you to keep maintaining them just in case. Also, that was where I was tracking your clinic information, so I may have to ask you about your clinic particulars without the apprentice sheet.

Still not in OTS

- Clinic information. I was using the apprentice sheet to help track, so try to remember to provide that information or I may hit you up with an email

- Testing information. Testing has moved online to the USA Swimming University (approx 2 weeks ago). It's maintaining records, but I can't access them, so when certifying, please email in a screenshot. NOTE: The screenshot is only available after you take the test. The next day after your test, USA Swimming University provides a certificate that you took the test, but no score. You need to take the screenshot just after you complete the test – this is currently the only way Doug and I have of getting and validating your scores. Thanks

Reminder: When you have completed all requirements for advancement, please remember to fill out the Position Review Request form found at the MDSI website. That is the cue to review all your credentials. Advancement requirements are found in the Officials section at the MDSI website. Position requests with missing requirements will trigger an email chain and a delay until all credentials get produced.

OTS functionality is getting better but, quite honestly, not where we would like it to be considered fully functional for recertification purposes. Contingencies and alternatives are currently under evaluation. Please stay tuned. By way of reminder, if you have obtained a new certification during the season, you are exempt from recertifying for that season – the effort you put in to obtaining a new credential is work enough for the year as far as Maryland Swimming is concerned.

As always, please reach out if you have questions or comments.

Training: Michael Cleary and Doug

From Curtis Myers
National Officials Chair LSC OC Liaison

Here is the latest update regarding our education series for the summer via Zoom. **HOT AUGUST NIGHTS**

- Tuesday [August 8th](#) 8pm EST, Meet Referee 101. **TARGET:** New LSC Meet Refs
- Thursday [August 10th](#) 8pm EST, Yes to the Ref . . . Now What? **TARGET:** New LSC Meet Refs
- Thursday [August 10th](#) 8pm EST, "World's Colliding: MR's & National Evaluators: Who's in Charge Around Here?" **TARGET: Experienced MR's & N3 Evaluators)**
- Thursday [August 17th](#) 8pm EST, First Whistle **TARGET:** New LSC Meet Ref's
- Thursday [August 24th](#) 8pm EST, Swim Meets and the Management of Risks **TARGET:** All Meet Ref's

Contact Doug or Michael if you wish to participate

Jamie Cahn, Rules and Regulations Chair

Both Peter LaGow and Jamie Cahn now serve on the referees list of World Aquatics (formerly FINA) and will serve as Meet Referees for this years fastest national meets.

Jamie will serve as the Meet Referee for this summer's Phillip 66 National Championships in Indianapolis

Peter will serve as Meet Referee for this December's US Open in Greensboro NC. Jamie will also be the USA Technical Official for the World Championships this summer in Fukuoka, Japan.

In addition, Rich McMillen, who was a long time Maryland official until he defected to Potomac Valley will serve as Meet Referee for Junior Nationals West this winter.

FINA (now World Aquatics (AQUA), as of the FINA Extraordinary Congress in Melbourne, AUS on December 12, 2022) approved amendments to the rules of competition via video conference during the FINA Technical Congress on October 3rd – 5th, 2022. These changes were effective on January 1, 2023.

Explanation of Change #1

FINA approved a change which alters the requirements for judging the arm motion in breaststroke.

1. There is no longer a requirement for the arms to move in the same horizontal plane during the breaststroke.
2. The arms must still move in a simultaneous fashion.

Explanation of Change #2

FINA approved a change which alters the requirements for judging the kick in breaststroke.

1. There is no longer a requirement for the legs to move in the same horizontal plane during the breaststroke.
2. The legs must still move in a simultaneous fashion.

The complete text of the changes are as follows:

Change #1

This change is located in article 101.2.2 Stroke, paragraph 2. The rule now reads:

All movements of the arms shall be simultaneous without alternating movement.

Previously, that same paragraph read:

All movements of the arms shall be simultaneous and in the same horizontal plane without alternating movement.

(Bold language was removed.)

Change #2

This change is located in article 101.2.3 Kick, paragraph 1. The rule now reads:

After the start and after each turn, at any time prior to the first breaststroke kick, a single butterfly (dolphin) kick is permitted, following which, all movements of the legs shall be simultaneous without alternating movement.

Previously, that same paragraph read:

After the start and after each turn, at any time prior to the first breaststroke kick, a single butterfly (dolphin) kick is permitted, following which, all movements of the legs shall be simultaneous and in the same horizontal plane without alternating movement.

(Bold language was removed.)

Additional FINA/USA-S Rule Changes

3 - Backstroke Ledge - FINA (World Aquatics) and USA Swimming have improved the wording of language requiring that at least one toe from each foot be in contact with the actual wall of the pool, when using the ledge at the start.

4 - Freestyle portion of the Individual Medley or Medley Relay - the “Lochte rule” was written into the FINA rule book as previously it had only been an interpretation in their rules. The athlete is required to come to a position “at or past vertical toward the breast” prior to any kicking or arm stroking motion on the freestyle leg of medley events. The athlete may push off the wall “past vertical toward the back” but must at least make it to 90 degrees (perpendicular to the surface of the water) before any arm or leg propulsion.

Interpretation Updates:

5 - False Start - The interpretation of what movement constitutes a False Start has been slightly refined, and while the rule is unchanged, it is better understood that a minimum criteria for committing a false start is forward progress “down the pool” before the start signal has been given. Thus twitching legs, repositioning feet, etc. are not considered to be a false start, when they occur in the interval between when an athlete has become stationary and when the field is released by the Starter. Point of Emphasis: An athlete shall not be disqualified for motion after the “Take your mark” invitation, unless such motion has the effect of propelling the athlete down the pool.

6 - Use of Technology - no rule change here, simply the note that nothing in the rules prohibits the use of a device that stores data for later retrieval or a device that transmits data in real-time. The only prohibition is on receiving data in real-time. So during a 1000 Free, a coach could receive data from the athlete’s Fitbit on the athlete’s stroke rate, and tell an assistant operating a lap counter to move the counter board in a particular way to indicate to increase or decrease the stroke rate. However, the coach is not permitted to transmit a signal to a device attached to the swimmer’s body that provides this feedback. Point of Emphasis: An athlete shall not be disqualified for wearing a device similar in form to a wristwatch, unless that athlete is clearly observed receiving visual, audible, and/or haptic feedback from the device.

7 - Starter’s Protocol - The use of “Take Your Marks” is now preferred over “Take Your Mark” to conform to international protocol. Either is acceptable but consistency for starters across all types of meets is helpful. Point of. Emphasis: None

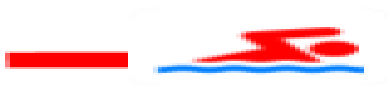


CONGRATULATIONS to... (From 12/19/202 until 7/23/2023)

Some statistics: since 7/2022 until 7/23/2023

- 19 new Administrative officials
- 12 new Chief Judge certifications
- 3 new Deck Referee/Administrative Referee certifications
- 8 new Meet Referee certifications
- 16 new Starters certifications
- 36 new Stroke and Turn certifications

36 new Stroke and Turn certifications



Officials in Action:



Maryland Officials in Action at Buffalo Sectionals



Official's Briefing at the Retriever's Classic



Dry Side at Retriever's Classic

Photos by Sondra Hunt Photography or John T Daly Photography



Upcoming meets:

[Maryland Swimming - Calendar \(teamunify.com\)](https://teamunify.com/calendar)



Need some new officiating clothes?

Get your order: Portal is now [Open](#)

Please note the Official Standard Uniform. The Link is found under the Official Link on the Maryland Swimming Webpage.

Standard Maryland Swimming Official Uniform:

Shirts: White Polo Style short or long sleeves tucked into pants, shorts or skirts.

Pants: Navy Blue (no jeans) Full-length Pants, Bermuda shorts/skorts or skirts which should be 1 inch and no more than 3 inches above the knee.

Outer Garments: White/Navy Blue Sweaters, Sweat Shirts or Collared Jackets. No hoods. Protective Rain Gear is allowed for Outdoor events.

Headwear: For Outdoor venues Baseball Caps, Visonor or other Sun protection hats. Blue or white is preferred but not required and may be stylish straw hats. Hats and caps are not to be worn at indoor venues.

Shoes: Athletic or walking (closed toe and heel) shoes with rubber soles are the preferred footwear on deck for comfort and safety. White shall be the predominant color, but trims or brand logos of a contrasting color are acceptable. Footwear defined as sandals or flip-flops is unacceptable.

Prelim/Final Events:

Prelims: Shorts/Skirts may be worn

Finals: Long pants for both men and women

Unacceptable Length as described by MDSI uniform standard:



Acceptable Length as described by MDSI uniform standard





Officials Committee:

Doug Karr, Officials Chair
Jamie Cahn, Rules and Regulations Chair
Tom Matysek, Newsletter
Dave Ose, OTS Administrator -Meet Entry
Sophia Carliss – Athlete Representative
Greer Verheyen – Past Chair

Tom DeBoissiere, Credentialing & Administrative Chair
Michael Cleary, Wet Side Ombudsman & Training
Bob Johnson, Dry Side Ombudsman & YMCA Liaison
Jerilyn Dietch – Member at Large
Cheryl Linscott – Coaches Representative

