

These minutes will be officially approved by the Metropolitan Swimming Officials' Committee during the February 5, 2025, meeting.

Metropolitan Swimming Officials' Committee Minutes

November 13, 2024 / Virtual

CALL TO ORDER

Jennifer Bancroft, Interim Chair, called the November 13, 2024, Officials' Committee Meeting to order at 7:05 PM with the following members in attendance:

PRESENT

Jennifer Bancroft, Dom Boccio, Allen Wone, Andrew Kass, Ann Fosteris, Ava St. Thomas, Darryl Strabuk, Ron Sommer, Wilhelmina Dwyer

ABSENT

Tyler Gallub, Ryan Wagner

The consent agenda was presented with the following items and approved unanimously without discussion.

A-Agenda, August 3, 2024 minutes & September 25, 2024, minutes

B-Change of date for December Working Session

C-Officials' Committee Meeting 2025 dates

Official Chair

Ms. Bancroft reported that, based on discussions held during the Officials Track at the September 2024 USA Swimming Annual Business Meeting and the November 2024 Mega LSC Summit, Sections 418.1, 418.2, 418.3, and 418.6 of the Metropolitan Swimming Policies and Procedures, Officials Committee, are no longer in compliance with USA Swimming's Officials Certification Standards.

MOTION: *To discuss the proposed amendments to the Metropolitan Swimming Policies and Procedures, Officials Committee Sections. Seconded* **APPROVED**

Discussion followed. Ms. Bancroft noted that the Policies & Procedures (P&P) had been established before USA Swimming's Officials Certification Standards were introduced, and that it contained outdated titles, duplications, and typographical errors. To align the P&P with the current Officials Certification Standards, Ms. Bancroft reviewed suggested amendments for the committee's consideration, with the intent of presenting these to the Board of Directors for approval. Mr. Wone requested clarification regarding the eligibility of referees, previously grandfathered without an AO certification, to certify Administrative Officials. Having no further discussion, Mr. Boccio motioned.

MOTION: *To recommend the P&P changes to the Metro Board of Directors for approval at their next board meeting, doing business on behalf of the House of Delegates. Seconded.* **APPROVED**



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Ms Bancroft reviewed the agenda for the 11/18 Metro Referee meeting. Several Committee members commented on issues/glitches in OTS reporting and made suggestions for additional topics to the agenda.

Ms Bancroft complimented Ms St. Thomas on her roll-out of Metro's "How to Become a Metro Official" and discussed additional training sessions that Ms St. Thomas was working on to roll out to maintain officials knowledge within the LSC.

Admin Vice Chair

Mr. Boccio expressed appreciation to Ms. Bancroft for her efforts in researching and revising the Policies and Procedures.

Advancement Coordinator

Position Vacant

Athlete Representatives

Ms Dwyer discussed interest in becoming a junior official within the LSC. Ms St. Thomas and Ms Bancroft will schedule a future meeting to discuss the process.

Communication Coordinator

Ms. Bancroft stated that she had nothing to communicate at this time.

Education Coordinator

Ms. St. Thomas reported that 15 people attended the "How to Become a Metro Official" session on October 30, and 13 of these attendees have enrolled as apprentice officials. Ms. Bancroft noted that USA Swimming in Colorado expressed interest in using the live registration demonstration from this training. Mr. Wone and Ms. St. Thomas plan to re-record this segment over the weekend for future use. Additionally, Ms. St. Thomas provided an update on a mentoring clinic for LSC officials, which she is developing and will present to the committee for review and approval.

HV North Coordinator

Mr. Sommer shared a report he is developing to streamline the OTS Meet Participation Report. He will share the report with the Committee when it is completed.

HV South Coordinator

Mr. Kass shared that he is seeing officials with CPT expiration dates, gave an update on the number of apprentice officials and officials seeking advancement in Hudson Valley South. Mr. Kass has been working within the area as Meet Referee for several meets and heavily recruiting for new officials.



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Manhattan Coordinator

Ms. Fosteris raised additional issues that she had experienced with in OTS and mentioned referees who had not received Zoom links for the 11/18 meeting. Ms Fosteris has successfully on-boarded two Stroke and Turn apprentices for the Flushing Flyers, a club who has been without officials since 2018.

Ms. Bancroft commended the Committee Members for their outstanding efforts in recruiting new officials for Metro and expressed gratitude for their dedication and hard work.

Nassau Coordinator

Mr. Strabuk expressed concern regarding the attrition of experienced officials within the LSC, particularly those with over five years of experience who are transitioning to high school/college officiating roles, relocating, or stepping away as their children are no longer swimming. It was suggested that this topic be discussed further at the December working session.

Suffolk Coordinator

Mr. Wone noted that the LSC has had a robust meet schedule and highlighted the need to consider how the overlap of high school and LSC meets on the same weekends is impacting deck staffing. He also observed that the decks are filled with a substantial number of apprentices, which is a positive sign for the health of the LSC.

Unfinished Business

No unfinished business was presented.

New Business

Ms Bancroft reminded all the date change to December 10, for the next working meeting. Mr. Strabuk mentioned he would be traveling. Ms Bancroft asked Mr. Strabuk to follow up with her regarding his travel.

ADJOURN

Mr. Boccio made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded. **APPROVED**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27pm.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Jennifer Bancroft
Communication Coordinator

