

Metropolitan Swimming Officials' Committee Minutes October 8, 2025 / Virtual

CALL TO ORDER

Jennifer Bancroft, Chair, called the January 14, 2026, Officials' Committee Meeting to order at 8:03 pm with the following members in attendance:

PRESENT

Jennifer Bancroft, Allen Wone, Andrew Kass, Ashley Chan, Ava St. Thomas, Darryl Stabuk, Ron Sommer, Wilhelmina Dwyer

ABSENT

Dom Boccio-excused, Tyler Gallub, Ryan Wagner

Approval of Agenda and Prior Minutes **MOTION:** *Mr. Sommer made a motion to approve the agenda and the minutes from October 9th, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Wone. APPROVED.*

Consent Agenda

- a. Proposals
 - i. [2026 Committee Meeting Dates](#)
 - ii. [LSC Chief Judge Certification](#)
 - iii. [Apprentice Official Membership](#)

Items a.i., a.ii., and a.iii. were pulled.

Item a.i.: 2026 Officials' Committee Meeting Schedule Discussion focused on moving meetings from Wednesdays to Thursdays to avoid conflicts with LSC meetings and on potential school vacation conflicts in April. No conflicts were identified.

MOTION: *Mr. Wone made a motion to approve the 2026 Officials' Committee meeting schedule. Seconded by Mr. Sommer. APPROVED.*

Item a.ii.: Chief Judge Certification Discussion centered on the effective date and outdated references to "test years." The committee agreed to revise the language to reference the recertification year and to set the effective date as September 1, 2026, to allow adequate time for clinics and grandfathering provisions.

MOTION: *Mr. Sommer made a motion to amend the proposal language to reflect an effective date of September 1, 2026, and reference the 2026 recertification year. Seconded by Mr. Wone. APPROVED.*



MOTION: *Mr. Sommer made a motion to approve the Chief Judge proposal as amended. Seconded by Mr. Kass. APPROVED.*

Item a.iii.: Apprentice Official Membership, a minor grammatical correction was identified and addressed. No substantive discussion followed.

MOTION: *Mr. Wone made a motion to approve the Apprentice Official Membership proposal. Seconded. APPROVED.*

Official Chair

Ms. Bancroft reported that Senior Metropolitan Championships planning is underway, with strong official sign-ups, including officials from neighboring LSCs. National evaluators Phil and Kerry Barnes will attend.

She congratulated newly advanced referees Anthony Green and Tara Dwyer and noted increased interest in referee advancement.

Ms. Bancroft summarized recent clarification from the LSC Officials Chair call regarding the backstroke toe position rule, emphasizing that swimmers cannot be disqualified unless there has been an attempt to set toes correctly. She stressed the importance of consistent stroke briefings at every session.

Ms. Bancroft welcomed Ashley Chan to the committee and highlighted the growing number of new Stroke & Turn officials, urging regional coordinators to reinforce the importance of stroke briefings to be held at every LSC meet.

Ms. Bancroft also shared updates regarding junior officials, including expanded eligibility to officiate all age-group meets (with restrictions) and encouraged broader communication of this change by the regional coordinators.

Admin Vice Chair

Absent-excused

Athlete Representatives

Ms. Dwyer shared that she has found her experience as a Junior Official to be highly enjoyable and more fulfilling than she initially expected. She expressed hope that more athletes her age will consider becoming Junior Officials, noting it as a positive and rewarding way to remain involved in the sport.



Ms. Bancroft commended Ms. Dwyer for her performance as a Junior Official at a recent meet, highlighting her strong understanding of officiating responsibilities and her effective contributions on deck. Ms. Bancroft noted that several individuals expressed interest in becoming Junior Officials after observing Ms. Dwyer and Jaden Shaw officiating, underscoring the value of peer visibility and role modeling.

Ms. Bancroft stated that she will introduce Ms. Dwyer to the Board Athlete Representative to explore opportunities to promote the Junior Officials program through social media and outreach initiatives.

Ms. Bancroft also shared an update from the LSC Officials Chair call, noting that Trish Martin (North Carolina Swimming) assumed the role of National Officials Chair effective January 1 following the conclusion of Dana Covington's term. Ms. Martin confirmed that junior officials are now permitted to train and work as administrative officials (AO), provided they are accompanied at all times by a certified administrative official over the age of 18. Additionally, junior officials are no longer restricted to officiating only 12 & under meets and may officiate at any age group meet, provided they are not competing in the session they are officiating.

Communication Coordinator

A referee meeting will be scheduled at a future date to communicate all the new changes to the LSC referees.

Education Coordinator

Ms. St. Thomas reported on Chief Judge informational sessions, which will be held quarterly. She also provided updates on the First-Year Experience mentorship program and encouraged mentors to bring mentees onto championship decks for exposure.

She noted plans to recognize newly certified officials in a stand-alone communication and will coordinate with the communication coordinator to distribute this recognition.

HV North Coordinator

Mr. Sommer thanked officials for covering meets during his recovery and discussed ongoing challenges with volunteer recruitment.

HV South Coordinator

Mr. Kass reported consistent apprentice participation at meets and noted concerns regarding meet announcement language accuracy.



New York City Coordinator

Ms. Bancroft welcomed Mr. Chan to the committee and noted that he was appointed Manhattan Coordinator by the General Chair following the resignation of Ms. Fosteris in November.

Mr. Chan expressed appreciation for the appointment and indicated that his initial focus will be on getting to know the area, attending meets, and supporting recruitment efforts. He has already begun connecting with Ms. Fosteris to gain background on the region, and an introductory email will be distributed to clubs to support a smooth transition.

A brief discussion followed regarding historical Metro policies related to officiating requirements for hosted meets. Committee members clarified that while Metro has not had a requirement tied to club size, there was previously a policy requiring a minimum number of officials to host a meet. That policy was suspended before COVID and has not been reinstated. Similar proposals at the House of Delegates level were noted to have met resistance from clubs.

Nassau Coordinator

Mr. Stabuk reported staffing challenges in Nassau County due to multiple concurrent events, including the Martin Luther King meet, other club meets, and high school commitments, resulting in a shortage of officials and the need for cross-region assistance.

He noted ongoing recruitment difficulties and cited the increased use of block party–style meets as a limiting factor, as these formats often do not include certified officials on deck and reduce opportunities to recruit parents of younger athletes.

Mr. Stabuk emphasized concerns about long-term sustainability, observing that many current officials are senior members whose athletes are aging out. He stressed the importance of intentionally developing officials through the Starter-to-Referee pipeline to ensure adequate succession over the coming years.

Ms. Bancroft acknowledged these concerns and noted that recruitment and pipeline development will remain a focus at upcoming championship meets and future committee discussions.

Suffolk Coordinator

Mr. Wone reported assisting at the Farmingdale meet, where several individuals expressed interest in becoming officials. Outreach is underway, and new registrations from Farmingdale are anticipated.

He noted that his club is preparing for expected attrition, including the loss of two Starters this year, and is actively developing replacements through the Stroke & Turn pipeline.



These minutes will be officially approved by the Metropolitan Swimming Officials' Committee during the April 9, 2026, meeting.

Mr. Wone identified advancement beyond Starter as an ongoing challenge, citing reluctance among some officials to take on the computer-based responsibilities associated with the Administrative Official (AO) role and further advancement toward Referee.

Ms. Bancroft noted that the Officials' Training Standards (R9) are currently under national review and encouraged the committee to document these challenges for discussion at an upcoming working session and potential submission to the National Officials Committee.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the committee.

New Business

Ms. Bancroft introduced a new electronic stroke and turn evaluation form and requested that committee members beta test the form at upcoming meets. Feedback will be used to refine the process before broader rollout.

Ms. Bancroft reported that there is no national process for reclaiming expired LSC certifications under the current Officials' Training Standards. The committee agreed that a transparent, standardized policy must be developed.

MOTION: *Mr. Kass made a motion to schedule a working session to develop a policy for reclaiming lapsed certifications. Seconded by Mr. Wone. APPROVED.*

A working session was scheduled for Thursday, January 22, at 8:00pm.

ADJOURN

Mr. Stabuk made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Sommer. APPROVED.. **APPROVED**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Jennifer Bancroft
Officials Chair

