



New Jersey Officials Newsletter – Summer 2024

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Officials Chairman – Judy Sharkey

Editor – Christopher Barry

Introduction from the Editor

With the end of the summer long course season, we will be moving back to short course yards from long course meters. Also, it is time for all officials to renew their certification for 2025. The calendar is already taking shape for the 2024-5 SC season, so stay tuned for your weekly officiating opportunity emails and to the NJS website for updates. Those officials that did not receive such emails should reach out to Mentoring Advisory Group to be added. Meet Referees, should provide session information, if available, by the mid-day each Monday for inclusion in the weekly email.

Hopefully everyone had a wonderful summer and enjoyed watching both the US Olympic Team trials in June (inside a football stadium) and the Olympic swimming at the end of July and into early August. As we start the new short course season, we will have changes to the new official certification process as well as the re-certification process with the implementation of new legislation from USA Swimming (R-9). Therefore, all clinics for Stroke and Turn, Starter and Administrative Official will be web based and online through the USA Swimming University. The Officials Committee will continue to support training for Chief Judge and Referee certification until those courses are available. Please see the information included in this Newsletter as well as information posted in the Officials Page of the New Jersey Swimming website for information regarding the process. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to a member of the Officials Committee or the new Officials Mentoring Advisory Group to discuss and further understand the process.

As a reminder, this Newsletter attempts to keep officials updated on information from USA Swimming including updates to the registration process and offerings by NJ Swimming while providing some information on recent developments and/or potential expectations. In this issue, the focus is on the annual certification process and advancement opportunities as well as providing the preliminary swim calendar for the 2024-25 SC season. While this newsletter does not comprehensively cover all the goings on in the officials' community, it is a point to assist or direct you to other resources. You can always reach out to a member of the NJ Officials Committee or Mentoring Advisory Group for assistance as well. As this is your Newsletter, if there is something that you would like to see addressed/discussed, feel free to reach out to me or a member of the committee. Hope to see you all on deck at some point during the season and look for further updates in early Fall.

Meet your Officials Committee

Judy Sharkey, Officials Chairperson jmsharkey@aol.com	Eric Schott Eschott0264@aol.com
Christopher Barry accebarry@verizon.net	Gary Thayer Ggth466@gmail.com
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Meet your Mentoring Advisory Group

Christopher Barry - accebarry@verizon.net	Bach Lequang - blequang@gmail.com
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Raymond Wong - officials@bbswim.org	Gretchen Van de Walle njhikers@gmail.com

Open Water Swimming

With the completion of the LC pool season, the summer's remaining event brings another competitive event for USA Swimming - Open Water. The Metro and New Jersey LSCs will be holding their joint Open Water championships at Glen Island Park in New York on Sunday, September 22. The roles for Open Water swimming meets are both similar and different while the primary goal is the safety of the swimmers during the event. New Jersey is also offering an Open Water clinic for swimmers on August 25th at Darlington Park in Mahwah, NJ. Look for applications on the New Jersey website or through your swimmer's team. If you are interested in finding out more information, feel free to reach out to Christopher Barry (Accebarry@verizon.net) for more information.

Registration Updates for all New Jersey Swimming Officials – Initial Certification or Recertification

In conjunction with the new USA Swimming standard requirements, the below outlines the certification process for new officials within the New Jersey LSC (Local Swimming Committee) as well as USA Swimming. We want to provide the best officials possible at all meets so that the swimmers will have the best opportunity to succeed in the pool. We also want to be sure that we provide a comprehensive training program so that our officials will be able to succeed at the tasks to which they are assigned.

In addition, we want a recognized process whereby officials can "move up" in position from stroke and turn judge, to chief judge, to starter and referee. It is important that our officials are prepared to deal with the situations that arise during a meet and enjoy the meet as much as the swimmers, parents and coaches.

The following sections set forth the specifications for each certification level. Each level has participation requirements, which involve working at meets sanctioned or approved by New Jersey Swimming or USA Swimming. Once the apprentice process has been completed, the Evaluation Form(s) should be sent to the NJ Swimming Official Advancement Group (Christopher Barry - accebarry@verizon.net, Louis Hu - Louishu@yahoo.com, Gretchen Van de Walle - njhikers@gmail.com and Raymond Wong - officials@bbswim.org) for final approval or for an "action plan" to complete certification. In the event it is believed that an official has not shown the necessary competency in the position after completion of the required training and apprentice sessions, the LSC OC, or designee, shall provide the official with a written action plan of the steps needed to successfully obtain certification. Written notice shall be provided to the official within two (2) weeks of the last apprentice session (or submission of the appropriate documents to the Certifier), and a copy shall be provided to the LSC OC. An apprentice may always request additional training. Please note that the online courses for Administrative Officials clinic and the Starter Officials clinic are expected to be available October 1. The Stroke and Turn and Foundations of Officiating clinics are already available.

Prospective Stroke & Turn Judge

To become a stroke & turn judge, a candidate must:

- Successfully take and complete the USA Swimming online Foundations of Officiating and Stroke and Turn clinic (<https://university.usaswimming.org/landing>)
- Become a member of USA Swimming as an Official.
- Take the USA Swimming Athlete Protection Course (<https://www.usaswimming.org/resource-center/athlete-protection-training>)
- Take the NFHS or CDC Concussion Course (<https://www.usaswimming.org/officials/concussion-protocol-training>)
- Complete the USA Background Screening (<https://www.usaswimming.org/safe-sport/complete-a-background-check>)
- Be at least 18 years old

For YMCA prospective officials that wish to be USA Swimming certified, they must complete all of the above except they can attend a YMCA Stroke and Turn clinic rather than the online USA Swimming Stroke and Turn clinic.

Upon successful completion of the above, the apprentice should print out the NJ Swimming Stroke and Turn Evaluation Form and will be required to participate in a total of four (4) USA-S meet sessions in at least 2 Swimming sanctioned or approved meets. ***These meet sessions must be completed within 12 months of clinic attendance.***

This participation will involve working with a certified stroke & turn judge or higher-level official. The apprentice may not make calls or disqualifications but will accompany the experienced official during the meet as a training session. Each apprentice session must be observed, and an evaluation form must be completed for each session by each observer. The referee should sign

Prospective Starter

To become a Starter, a candidate must:

- Take the USA Swimming online Foundations of Officiating (<https://university.usaswimming.org/landing>) and the USA Swimming Starter Officials Clinic (<https://university.usaswimming.org/landing>)
- Be certified as a Stroke and Turn official for a minimum of three months; worked at least four sessions at a minimum of two meets since Stroke and Turn certification.
- Be at least 18 years old

Upon successful completion of the above, the apprentice should print out the NJ Swimming Starter Evaluation Form and will be required to participate in: a total of four

(4) USA-S meet sessions in at least 2 Swimming sanctioned or approved meets with at least two trainers.

These meet sessions must be completed within 12 months of clinic attendance.

This participation will involve working with a certified Starter or Referee. Each apprentice session must be observed, and an evaluation form must be completed for each session by each observer. The referee should sign the apprentice evaluation form for each complete session at which the apprentice worked.

Upon completion of the apprentice sessions, the apprentice should send a photocopy of the evaluation form to the NJ Official Certifiers.

Prospective Administrative Official

To become a administrative official, a candidate must:

- Take the USA Swimming online Foundations of Officiating (<https://university.usaswimming.org/landing>) and the USA Swimming Administrative Officials Clinic (<https://university.usaswimming.org/landing>)
- Become a member of USA Swimming as an Official.
- Take the USA Swimming Athlete Protection Course (<https://www.usaswimming.org/resource-center/athlete-protection-training>)
- Take the NFHS or CDC Concussion Course (<https://www.usaswimming.org/officials/concussion-protocol-training>)
- Complete the USA Background Screening (<https://www.usaswimming.org/safe-sport/complete-a-background-check>)
- Be at least 18 years old

Upon successful completion of the above, the apprentice should print out the NJ Swimming Administrative Official Evaluation Form and will be required to participate in a total of four (4) USA-S meet sessions in at least 2 Swimming sanctioned or approved meets. ***These meet sessions must be completed within 12 months of clinic attendance.***

This participation will involve working with a certified administrative official or Referee. The apprentice will assist with the operation of the “dry-side” of officiating learning the roles and tasks while accompanied by the experienced official during the meet as a training session. Each apprentice session must be observed, and an evaluation form must be completed for each session by each observer. The referee should sign the apprentice evaluation form for each complete session at which the apprentice worked.

Upon completion of the apprentice sessions, the apprentice should send a photocopy of the evaluation form to the NJ Official Certifiers.

Prospective Referee

To become a Referee, a candidate must:

- Attend a NJ Swimming Referee clinic
- Be certified as a Stroke and Turn Official, Administrative Official and Starter
- Pass USA Swimming Referee Certification test with a score of 80% or better (<https://university.usaswimming.org/landing>)
- Be at least 19 years old

Upon successful completion of the above, the apprentice should print out the NJ Swimming Referee Evaluation Form and will be required to participate in: a total of four (4) USA-S meet sessions in at least 2 Swimming

sanctioned or approved meets with at least two trainers. ***These meet sessions must be completed within 12 months of clinic attendance.***

This participation will involve working with a certified Referee. Each apprentice session must be observed, and an evaluation form must be completed for each session by each observer. The referee should sign the apprentice evaluation form for each complete session at which the apprentice worked.

Upon completion of the apprentice sessions, the apprentice should send a photocopy of the evaluation form to the NJ Official Certifiers.

Prospective Chief Judges

Certified Stroke & Turn officials may apply for the CJ's Training Clinic upon satisfying the following prerequisites:

- Must be certified as a stroke and turn official and worked a total of at least 16 sessions at sanctioned or approved meets at a stroke and turn judge.
- Attend a USA-S New Jersey CJ training clinic (classroom and applicable on-deck training)
- Have read the USA Swimming CJ Professional documents.

Upon successful completion of the above, the apprentice should print out the NJ Swimming Chief Judge Evaluation Form and will be required to participate in and be evaluated by a Lead CJ or Referee in a total of four (4) USA-S meet sessions in at least 2 Swimming

sanctioned or approved meets. As part of the above evaluations, be evaluated on successfully giving a stroke briefing for at least one of the sessions. ***These meet sessions must be completed within 12 months of clinic attendance.***

Each apprentice session must be observed, and an observation form must be completed for each session by the observer. The referee should sign the apprentice card for each complete session at which the apprentice worked.

Upon completion of the apprentice sessions, the apprentice should send a photocopy of the evaluation form to the NJ Official Certifiers. While officials are encouraged to further their training and education to better serve the athletes, it is not necessary to be a certified Chief Judge to serve in that capacity at any meet.

Annual Registration Renewal for Returning Officials:

- Submit your annual registration via your USA Swimming Account online. Use the RENEW MEMBERSHIPS button on your dashboard to renew your membership. This will include updating any information and submitting payment for your annual registration dues. NOTE: If your club bulk renews non-athlete members, your club will have to renew your membership.
- USA Swimming Athlete Protection Training (annual renewal) - Athlete protection training is a free, online course. It must be updated annually. You can learn more about Athlete Protection Training and log in to complete the course here: <https://www.usaswimming.org/resource-center/athlete-protection-training>
- Background Check (biannual renewal) - Even if you have undergone a background check for your work or other volunteer activities, you must complete the USA Swimming Background Screening. The cost for most initial background checks is \$38. Renewals are \$19. You can complete the background check here: <https://www.usaswimming.org/safe-sport/complete-a-background-check>
- If you last took your clinic in the fall of 2021, then you will need to take the successfully take and complete the USA Swimming online Foundations of Officiating and your highest certified position officials clinic at <https://university.usaswimming.org/landing>.
- Once those are completed, please send email to njsofficials.advancement@gmail.com and provided you have meet the below requirements your certifications will be renewed for 2025.

Stroke and Turn - Worked a minimum of eight (8) Qualified Recertification Sessions, within a three (3) year period, at a minimum of two (2) different meets in Stroke & Turn or higher capacity.

Starter - Worked eight (8) Qualified Recertification Sessions, within a three (3) year period, as Starter.

Administrative Official - Worked at least eight (8) Qualified Recertification Sessions, within a three (3) year period, as an AO, or in a role identified under 102.14.1A-D.

Referee - Worked sixteen (16) Qualified Recertification Sessions, within a three (3) year period, with at least eight (8) Qualified Recertification Sessions in any Referee position.

Chief Judge - Work sixteen (16) Qualified Recertification Sessions within a three (3) year period, with at least eight (8) as a CJ or Referee.

Existing YMCA Certified Official becoming USA Swimming Certified Official

For a YMCA Certified Official seeking USA Swimming Official's Certification, they must complete the following steps:

1. Contact local USA Swimming Officials Chair and communicate desire to be certified in the LSC (Local Swim Committee) in your current certified position. (Stroke/Turn Judge, Starter, etc.)
2. Request a list of requirements necessary to validate your experience and abilities, proof of current certification and recommendations from other officials who are familiar with your abilities and experience.
3. Must serve on deck with a trainer in the capacity in which you are experienced for half of the number of sessions/meets necessary to satisfy USAS LSC certification requirements.
4. Register with USA Swimming as a non-athlete (Official). Registration is on an annual basis.

The LSC Officials' Chair shall satisfy themselves that the Official requesting USAS certification by credentials and experience is currently certified by the YMCA officials' program and meets the requirements for certification that would be met by any other USA Swimming Official transferring from any other LSC.

In addition, since the start of this Fall 2023, your meet sessions have been all updated within USA Swimming OTS. This will be the sole place to track all official sessions and officials will no longer need to have the white "dance card" signed at the end of each session. During the renewal process (as well as those seeking advancement), the NJS Officials Advancement Group will review such information to update certifications. If information has not been updated, please reach out to the Meet Referee to have such information updated. With the release of SWIMS 3.0, all officials need to register themselves each season (see Registration Updates above).

New Jersey Swimming Official Page Links:

NJS Officials Page - <https://www.njswim.org/page/unofficials>

Registration Info - <https://www.njswim.org/page/system/res/208256>

Apprentice Evaluation Forms - <https://www.njswim.org/page/unofficials/becoming-an-official>

Updates from the NJS Officials Mentoring Advisory and NJS Officials Advancement Groups

With changes implemented by USA Swimming with the R-9 legislation, the Mentoring Advisory Group is updating its role and objectives but will continue to focus providing knowledge, guidance and mentoring to the New Jersey officials who are advancing or seeking additional information.

Currently, we have 6 members in the mentoring committee (Alka Rinkus, Christopher Barry, Louis Hu, Bach Lequang, Gretchen Van de Walle and Ray Wong). The primary role of the mentoring committee is to help set a foundation for any candidates looking to advance within NJS to Chief Judge, Starter and/or Deck Referee, by mentoring the candidate through the process till completion and beyond. With that said, mentors will be available to each apprentice candidate as a primary point of contact and assistance through the training process. In addition, the NJS Officials Advancement Group consisting of Christopher Barry, Louis Hu, Gretchen Van de Walle and Ray Wong), will be responsible for officials becoming certified at such advancement position or re-certified at their current level. Officials seeking advancement should send an email to njsofficials.advancement@gmail.com. While not required, apprentice candidates are recommended to have one of these four evaluate their final apprentice session.

As noted above, with the implementation of R-9 by USA in February 2024 and the expansion this upcoming fall, all Stroke and Turn, Starter and Administrative Official clinics will be online within the USA Swimming University. All new officials will also need to take the Foundations of Officiating clinic as well. As the new pre-requisites for becoming a Referee include being certified as an Administrative Official, New Jersey will look to offer a new Referee clinic towards the end of 2024/early 2025 for those interest after completing their Administrative Official training in the fall. USA Swimming is expecting to add the Referee clinic to its online offerings in the Spring of 2025. As there are no current plans for a USA Swimming Chief Judge clinic online, we will be seeking to offer a clinic in both the fall and spring for those interesting in expanding their knowledge but this is no longer a requirement to become a Referee.

ALL officials are encouraged to ask for mentoring while on deck from either a member of the Mentoring Advisory Group or from other seasoned NJS officials. The responsibilities of mentoring members are to work with all officials who want to enhance their skills and to set a standard across the LSC for both work on a local and national level. If you'd like guidance on becoming a better official, even if you never plan to work on a National Deck, please reach out! Where demand exists, the group is open to offering further educational opportunities for existing certified officials in all roles.

Mentoring Advisory Group members are in constant communication, meeting and speaking to each other on a regular basis. All members will have access to evaluations that other members evaluated to ensure consistency. Mentoring begins before an official seeks advancement and does not stop after candidates advance to the next level; it is an ongoing process that we look to provide to all NJS officials. An official's primary mentor should always be a resource, but you can always see mentoring from other members or more experienced officials. We all learn something new each time we are on deck, even members of the Mentoring Advisory Group!

Further, in the fall we will be hosting multiple Annual Referee Meetings on October 16 at 6:30pm (GSCY – Bridgewater) and November 7 at 630 pm (Madison YMCA) which will meet the requirements for a Referee re-certification clinic as well as include information for Referees who seek to perform the role of Meet Referee. Effective with the changes of R-9 earlier this year, there is currently no longer a requirement for such training but the group will look to offer education opportunities to increase the knowledge and assist those Referees looking to expand their role. Below are some items that we will look to cover in the meetings.

1. What does a Meet Referee do? Pre-Meet, During Meet and Post Meet.
2. How does a Meet Referee accomplish those tasks?
3. What is the point of a meet announcement from an official's viewpoint?
4. "Dry-side" aspects to consider.

We are looking to offer another date for the Annual Referee Meeting which will be provided when confirmed.

We the mentoring advisory group members looking forward to another great season / year of swimming and can't wait to see you all on deck soon.

Current NJ Swimming Meet Schedule (October 2024 through March 2025)

September-November

Sept. 21	2024 College Showcase	Neptune Aquatic Center	SCY
Oct. 4	JAC Fall Invitational	Jersey Aquatic Center	SCY
Oct. 5	STAC Purple Orange	Raritan Valley CC	SCY
Oct. 19	MB Cure Kids Cancer	Neptune Aquatic Center	SCY
Oct. 19	PPST Piranha Pentathlon	Princeton Middle School	SCY
Oct. 19-20	BB Go for the Gold	Raritan Valley CC	SCY
Oct. 25-26	RSA Smashing Pumpkins	Jersey Aquatic Center	SCY
Nov. 1	JAC Distance Challenge	Jersey Aquatic Center	SCY
Nov. 2-3	STAC Great Gobbled	Raritan Valley CC	SCY
Nov. 9-10	BB Thankful	Raritan Valley CC	SCY
Nov. 15-17	PPST Fall Rally	Princeton Middle School	SCY
Nov. 15-17	SCAR Autumn Blast	Newark Academy	SCY
Nov. 16-17	JAC Fall Festival	Jersey Aquatic Center	SCY

December-January

Dec. 6-8	RSA Silver Bells Mid-Season Classic	Jersey Aquatic Center	SCY
Dec. 7	STAC Here Comes Santa Claus	Raritan Valley CC	SCY
Dec. 7-8	SCAR Winter Blast	Rutgers University	SCY
Dec. 7-8	BB Snowflake	Rutgers University	SCY
Dec. 14	MB Paul Criscuolo Trial/Finals Invite	Neptune Aquatic Center	SCY
Jan. 4	PPST Distance Meet	Princeton Middle School	SCY
Jan. 4	PPST Snowball Mini Meet	Princeton Middle School	SCY
Jan. 10	JAC 8 & Under Winterfest	Jersey Aquatic Center	SCY
Jan. 10-12	SCAR TYR LCM Invite	Rutgers University	LCM
Jan. 18-19	STAC IM Tough	Raritan Valley CC	SCY
Jan. 25	MB Cudas January Trial/Finals	Neptune Aquatic Center	SCY
Jan. 25-26	JAC 13 & Under Junior States (Prelim/Final)	Jersey Aquatic Center	SCY
Jan. 25-26	CBGC Agathe Marten Memorial	Clifton Boys & Girls Club	SCY

February-March

Feb. 15-16	JAC 14 & Over Senior States	Jersey Aquatic Club	SCY
Feb. 15-16	BB Will you BB Mine	Raritan Valley CC	SCY
Feb. 15-16	NJS SCAR 12 & Under Silver/Bronze Championships	Newark Academy	SCY
Feb. 22-23	NJS PPST 12 & Under Silver/Bronze Championships	Princeton Middle School	SCY
Feb. 28-Mar 1	NJS MB 13 & Over Bronze Championships	Neptune Aquatic Center	SCY
Mar. 7-9	NJS SCAR 13 & Over Silver Championships	Rutgers University	SCY
Mar. 8-9	JAC 12 & Under Platinum Championships	Jersey Aquatic Club	SCY
Mar. 15	STAC Final Finale	Raritan Valley CC	SCY

USA/EZ Swimming National Championship Schedule –October 2024 through Summer 2025

Host	Dates	Meet	Applications	Location	Course
USA	3/5-8, 2025	TYR Pro Series #1	Pending	Westmont, IL	LCM
EZ	3/27-30, 2025	EZ SC North Sectional	Pending	Ithaca College, NY	SCY
EZ	3/27-30, 2025	EZ SC South Sectional	Pending	Christiansburg, VA	SCY
EZ	3/27-30, 2025	EZ LC Super Sectional	Pending	Erie CC, Buffalo, NY	LCM
USA	4/2-5, 2025	TYR Pro Series #2	Pending	Sacramento, CA.	LCM
EZ	4/2-5, 2025	EZ SC Age Group Championships	Pending	Webster Aquatic, NY	SCY
USA	TBD	USA Open Water Nationals (Jr. and Sr.)	Pending	TBD	OW
USA	4/30-5/3, 2025	TYR Pro Series #3	Pending	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	LCM
EZ	5/15-18, 2025	EZ - LC Speedo Sectionals	Pending	Richmond, VA	LCM
USA	6/3-7, 2025	USA National Championships	Pending	TBD	LCM
EZ	6/20-21 2025	EZ - Open Water Championships	Pending	Mamora, NJ-Beasley Point	OW
USA	7/23-26, 2025	USA Futures Championships	Pending	Multiple Sites – 5 sites	LCM
USA	7/30-8/3, 2025	USA Junior Nationals	Pending	Irvine, CA	LCM
USA	8/5-8, 2025	USA TYP Pro Championships	Pending	Irvine, CA	LCM
EZ	8/6-9, 2024	EZ LC Age Group Championships	Pending	Richmond, VA	LCM
EZ	8/7-10, 2024	EZ LC Senior Championships	Pending	Buffalo, NY	LCM

Look forward to hopefully seeing everyone on deck this season