



New Jersey Officials Newsletter – Fall 2022

Volume 6 – Issue 1

Officials Chairman – Judy Sharkey

Editor – Christopher Barry

Introduction from the Editor

With the start of the fall short course season, we move from long course meter to short course yards. This means returning inside to where many more swim meets can be held. This also means that in order to support the swimmers, many more officials will be needed at each session/meet. The calendar is already taking shape for the 2022-23 SC season, so stay tuned to the NJS website for updates.

As we start the short course season, this is the time for officials to renew their annual registration and perhaps also their certification as Administrative Official, Stroke and Turn, Chief Judge, Starter or Referee. The Officials Committee will be running clinics this fall to meet those needs as well as to expand our numbers. Please review the NJS Guidelines posted on the officials' page as well as your NJS LSC certifications to determine your potential need for a re-certification clinic as well as to assist in recruiting new officials. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to a member of the Officials Committee or the new Officials Mentoring Committee to discuss and further understand the process.

Again, as we start the new SC season, thank you for all of your volunteer work during this past challenging time as you graciously assisted clubs to provide opportunities for their swimmers. The swimmers and coaches understood that it could not have happened without your involvement. Our numbers have declined from the pre-Covid levels and are currently 400; please look to assist in recruiting this Fall with the new Stroke and Turn clinics so that we can further expand our numbers!

This Newsletter attempts to keep officials updated on the annual registration process (including updates to the registration process and offerings by NJ Swimming) and provide some information on recent developments and/or potential expectations. In this issue, please see the information on the new Registration process, a reflection from the Mentoring Committee on the process this past summer and roles for the future as well as the meet calendar and other related items. 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 Committee 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.

Meet your Officials Committee

Judy Sharkey, Officials Chairperson jmsharkey@aol.com	Eric Schott Eschott0264@aol.com
Christopher Barry accebarry@verizon.net	Gary Thayer Gght466@gmail.com
Sameer Desai (Athlete)	Gretchen Van de Walle njhikers@gmail.com
Ed Miller III, Certification Coordinator caefmilleriii@msn.com	TJ Walsh (Athlete)
Bruce Petersen bpeter8559@mac.com	Paul Welsh paul_welsh@gbtpa.com

Meet your Mentoring Committee

Christopher Barry - accebarry@verizon.net	Valerie Gibson - Vhgswimming@msn.com
Louis Hu - Louishu@yahoo.com	Alka Rinkus - Alkarinkus@verizon.net
Raymond Wong - officials@bbswim.org	

2023 New Jersey Swimming Officials Registration

It's time to renew your USA-S membership and your official's credentials for 2023. Please note that there are many significant changes for this year as noted above.

After you have completed the above including the electronic payment and are registered, print out a copy of the receipt and include it with the other documents required below. Including the receipt will greatly speed up the processing for your new cards.) Please be aware that electronic payment does not update your credentials; that only happens when you receive your updated NJS Official's card.

- For all, please print out your report from OTS or make a copy of your meet record card/sheet showing your sessions worked during 2022 and enclose it with the other documents.
- If this is your year to take a clinic and test, please provide all completed information to your trainer. Once you pass the test, he/she will send that paperwork to me, along with the clinic registration form. This then completes the process to renew your certification.
 - o You can tell if you are due for a clinic by looking at the letter you received from Ed Miller, NJ Officials Registration Chair, last year.
 - o In the lower right quadrant, you'll see your level and when you need to take a clinic; or you can check on your USA Swimming App (at www.usaswimming.org/officials) for the date of your last class, unless it was a YMCA class, as they are currently not reflected in Deck Pass.
- If you need an updated background check, please do so before submitting your renewal paperwork. That makes it much easier for the NJS Office to complete your USA-S registration and get your new USA-S membership card to you more quickly.
- If you need to complete the athlete protection course, do so before submitting your paperwork as well.
- For both the background check and the Athlete Protection courses, please see the above information in New System Tips and Tricks. You do not have to submit completion certificates for the BGC or APT, as the results are automatically entered into your file.
- All officials are now required to take a free, on-line concussion protocol class. This is a one-time requirement; if you took a course last year, you do not have to do it again. If you need to take a course, you can take either the CDC course or the NFHS course. (If you are an NJ high school official, you have already taken the NFHS course; you don't have to do so again). You must submit your certificate of completion of the course to the NJ Swimming Office via the link on the Forms Central section of the NJ Swimming website. Please also see above in New System Tips and Tricks for further assistance.

Please wait until you have **ALL** the necessary paperwork together to send your materials to Ed Miller, at 140 Concord Street, New Milford, NJ 07646. Do not send your paperwork to the NJS office. That slows down the process as they have to then send the paperwork to Ed, and during the crunch time, they rightly work on the athletes first, so your paperwork can sit for some time. Feel free to reach out directly to Ed Miller or any other member of the Officials Committee if you need further assistance.

REMAINING UPCOMING SCHEDULED CLINICS

<u>Clinic</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time Instructor)</u>	<u>Location</u>	
S/T-USA	Nov. 16, 2022	7:00 pm (Christopher Barry)	Montclair State	Accebarry@verizon.net
S/T-USA	Nov. 17, 2022	7:00 pm (Paul Welsh)	Lifetime Fitness	paul_welsh@gbtpa.com

Registration Tips for 2023 and New SWIMS 3.0 Tips and Tricks (from USA Swimming)

Official Registration Tips for 2023

To register or renew registration for 2023, a link must be sent to the official. If you are associated with a club, the club must send the link. If you are unattached, the link must come from the LSC office. You must also have already created a USA Swimming account. However, do not start the process signed into the account. Start with the link. Officials cannot use the same link that was sent for registering an athlete. When opened, the link will show the specific club and LSC in which you are registering. The next window will allow registration of the official or another non-athlete member. Continuing the process requires signing into your USA account. DO NOT try to do the process in reverse. Complete the information on each page, which is similar to the old paper registration. Once complete, proceed to checkout and pay for the registration. Once the registration is submitted and payment has cleared the new registration date will appear on the membership card.

New System Tips and Tricks

Creating your new account –

You need a link to the new system, which will be used to start your new account

- If you are attached to a club, you MUST get the link from the club
- If you are unattached, the link MUST come from your LSC office
- You cannot use a link that was sent for an athlete
- “How To” videos and articles are located at the bottom of the Login page

APT –

- EDUCATION tab in your new account (top navy bar). NOT the LEARN platform
- “My Courses” tab, NOT the “All Courses” tab
- Correct APT Course doesn't show up until SIXTY (60) days before expiration
- If you take the base course and need one of the refreshers it will NOT renew your APT. You must wait until 60 days before expiration to renew.
- There has been a delay getting APT results linked to the individual record. This is NOT due to the new system, but an issue with the platform housing APT training.

Background check - from the new system:

- Education
- Course Catalog
- All Courses - Background Check. This will take you to the site

Concussion Training for new officials

- EDUCATION tab in your new account
- Under USA Swimming Course Catalog click on the course
- This will link to either the NFHS or CDC concussion training
- Once the training is complete, send the certificate to your LSC registrar

Problems with registration or any of the above issues - your best resource is your LSC registrar.

Online testing - currently ONLY the NCAA tests are available online. All other tests are in Google Forms.

- USA Website (NOT your new account) - Officials DROPDOWN
- Online Testing
- Scroll down to find the test you wish to take. Scores must be reported to your LSC OC for tracking.

Other New Jersey Officiating Updates

NJS Officials Committee has implementing a two-tiered approach for Meet Referees. This will ensure that sufficient training and mentoring is provided to Deck Referees as they begin operating as the Meet Referee for NJS sanctioned and approved meets. Those at Level I are allowed to operate shorter meets without Preliminaries and Finals. Those at Level II are allowed to operate all meets. Please see the information posted on the NJS website as this has been implemented in the Fall 2022.

In addition, this Fall 2022, USA Swimming discontinued the current OTS application with a full revision expected to be implemented in 2023. With the release of SWIMS 3.0, all members (both swimmers and non-athlete members) need to register themselves for 2023 (see Registration Updates above). There is also a new USA Swimming App as Deck Pass and Deck Pass Plus are no longer supported. While USA Swimming continues to roll out the new functionality, NJS has created an interim solution for NJS Meet Referees so that we can continue to track sessions and certification in conjunction with the new OTS that should be released later this fall. However, please keep accurate track of your sessions both prior to and after September 2022 and look for further updates from New Jersey Swimming to make sure all is properly captured.

Update from the NJS Officials Mentoring Committee

Roles and Responsibilities - With the formation of the Mentoring Committee in the Spring of 2022, many of us were asked if they could benefit from the knowledge of the committee members or if the mentoring committee only provides guidance for officials who are advancing. Hopefully the information below can help you understand the roles and responsibilities of the mentoring committee members.

Currently, we have 5 members in the mentoring committee (Val Gibson, Alka Rinkus, Christopher Barry, Louis Hu 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 assigned to each apprentice candidate as a primary point of contact.

Currently, the requirement is to have your primary mentor attend / evaluate your first apprentice session (depending upon availability). The mentee will continue to refine their skill sets by attending additional sessions until they are ready for their final evaluation (providing each of their evaluations to the primary contact through the process). Most of the members of the Mentoring Committee are also authorized approvers for the final evaluation (Val Gibson, Christopher Barry, Louis Hu, Ray Wong) in addition to the Officials' Committee members. This will hopefully give a greater opportunity and development process to those who are looking to advance as compared to prior years.

Even though mentors are only assigned to candidates for advancement, ALL officials are encouraged to ask for mentoring while on deck from either a member of the Mentoring Committee or from other seasoned NJS officials. The responsibilities of mentoring members is 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!

Mentoring committee 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 Committee!

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

OQM (Officials Qualifying Meet)

New Jersey Swimming is continuing to work to provide opportunities allowing our NJ officials the opportunity to advance to N2 or N3 without needing to travel out of state to seek these educational and mentoring opportunities. In January (13-15), at the TYR Winter Invitational held at Rutgers University, the New Jersey Officials Committee will be providing such opportunity to officials from both within New Jersey and other area LSCs. This is an opportunity for New Jersey officials to either begin or continue their National Certification with opportunities to obtain or re-certify at various national levels in all positions. Officials who are interested in obtaining an evaluation for an N2 or N3 will need to work at least 4 sessions with 3 sessions being evaluated by a national evaluator at the meet. Look for future updates on the NJ Officials page before the end of year for those who would like to gain additional knowledge.

Open Water Swimming

With the completion of the summer season, another competitive event for USA Swimming is Open Water. USA Swimming had a great performance at the FINA World Junior Championships recently. The roles for Open Water swimming meets are both similar and different while the primarily goal is the safety of the swimmers during the event. New Jersey is looking to expand opportunities by promoting races in the Metro and Mid-Atlantic Swimming LSCs. Recently, in conjunction with Metro LSC, we held a joint LSC Championship meet at Rye Beach in September. While attendance was not fantastic for either LSC, we will continue to look to promote opportunities to New Jersey swimmers and officials (via Virtual two-part training clinics). We want to congratulate those that participated in the inaugural event –event winners in the 1K (Stephen Baytin), 3K (Sabine Ristad and Andrei Hipol) and 5K (Alexandra Somers and Akhil Pavuluri) and look forward to increasing the awareness during the next year as we look forward to the 2nd annual meet next September. If you are interested in finding our more information, feel free to reach out to Christopher Barry (Accebarry@verizon.net) for more information.

NJ Swimming Meet Schedule (October 2022 through March 2023)

November

18-20	HCY Autumn Challenge – Closed Approved	Raritan Bay YMCA	SCY
18-20	MAY Folium Fest	Madison Area YMCA	SCY
18-20	PAA Thanksgiving Classic	Peddie School	SCY
18-20	PPST Fall Rally	Princeton Middle School	SCY
19	SCAR Autumn Blast	Newark Academy	SCY
19-20	BB Thankful Meet	Raritan Valley CC	SCY
27	SCAR Fast Times at Lyndhurst High	Lyndhurst High School	SCY

December

3	MB Paul Criscuolo Invitational	Neptune Aquatic Center	SCY
3	SCAR SCY Winter Invitational	Rutgers University	SCY
4	JG Grid Iron Meet	Cranford Municipal Pool	SCY
9-11	PPST Ugly Sweater	Princeton Middle School	SCY
10-11	BB Snowflake	Rutgers University	SCY
16-18	EEX Holiday Classic XXXV	Rutgers University	SCY
16-18	OCY Winter Classic	Ocean County YMCA	SCY

January

7	PPST Snowball Mini Meet	Princeton Middle School	SCY
13-15	SCAR TYR Winter Invitational – Closed Sanctioned	Rutgers University	LCM
28	CBGC Agathe Marten Memorial	Clifton Boys & Girls Club	SCY
28	MB February Sprints	Neptune Aquatic Center	SCY

February

11-12	BB Mine	Raritan Valley CC	SCY
25-26	SCAR NJS 12U Silver/Bronze Championships	Newark Academy	SCY

March

10-12	SCAR NJS 130 Silver/Bronze Championships	Rutgers University	SCY
TBD	Championship Schedule To Be Determined		SCY

Please continue to check the Meet Central Page of the New Jersey Swimming website for meet updates.

USA Swimming National Championship Schedule – Fall 2022 through Summer 2023

With the start of the 2022-2023 swimming season, USA Swimming has published meets with a plan to return to a more regular schedule. Below is the current national schedule after completing many successful meets this past summer. The approval of these event sanctions will be subject to local health guidelines and directives.

Host	Dates	Meet	Applications	Location	Course
USA	11/30-12/3, 2022	Toyota US Open	Closed	Greensboro, NC	LCM
USA	12/7-10, 2022	Speedo Winter Junior Championship	Closed	Multiple Sites	SCY
USA	1/11-14, 2023	TYR Pro Series #1	Open	Knoxville, TN	LCM
USA	3/1-4, 2023	TYR Pro Series #2	Open	Fort Lauderdale, FL	LCM
EZ	3/23-26, 2023	EZ North SC Sectionals	Pending	Ithaca, NY	SCY
EZ	3/23-26, 2023	EZ South SC Sectionals	Pending	Christiansburg, VA	SCY
EZ	3/23-26, 2023	EZ Spring LC Sectionals	Pending	Buffalo, NY	LCM
USA	4/12-15, 2023	TYR Pro Series #3	Open	Westmont, IL	LCM
USA	4/21-23, 2023	USA Open Water Nationals	Open	Sarasota, FL	OW
USA	5/17-20, 2023	TYR Pro Series #4	Pending	Mission Viejo, CA	LCM
EZ	5/18-21, 2023	EZ - LC Speedo Sectionals	Pending	Richmond, VA	LCM
EZ	6/24 2023	EZ - Open Water Championships	Pending	Mamora, NJ (Beasley Point)	OW
USA	6/27-7/1, 2023	Phillips 66 International Team Trials	Pending	Indianapolis, IN	LCM
USA	7/26-29, 2023	USA Futures Championships	Pending	Multiple Sites – 5 sites	LCM
USA	7/26-29, 2023	TYR Pro Series #5	Pending	Irvine, CA	LCM
USA	7/31-8/4, 2023	2022 Speedo Jr. National Championships	Pending	Irvine, CA	LCM
EZ	8/2-5, 2023	EZ LC Age Group Championships	Pending	Richmond, VA	LCM
EZ	8/3-6, 2023	EZ LC Senior Championships	Pending	Buffalo, NY	LCM

Look forward to hopefully seeing everyone on deck this season