



## SIERRA NEVADA SWIMMING COMMITTEE/CHAIR/BOARD MEMBER REPORT

### HOUSE OF DELEGATES

To be submitted to Hope Gawlick (SNS Secretary) [hope@gawlick.com](mailto:hope@gawlick.com) and Alex Ongaco (SNS Executive Director) [alex.ongaco@sns swimming.org](mailto:alex.ongaco@sns swimming.org) the Sunday before HOD.

**Committee/Chair/Board Member:** Melissa Szpik Serrao, Officials Chair    **Date of HOD Meeting:** June 20, 2023

For those representatives to the HOD that do not know me, my name is Melissa Szpik Serrao, I am the Officials Chair for Sierra Nevada Swimming. Including my shadow/training years, I've been doing this job for 5 years. I am looking forward to my final year as Officials Chair, and have been grateful to have Scott Hastings working alongside me this last year to learn the fundamentals of the job.

The Officials Committee consists of Niffey Carmody, Jason Shibata, John Richardson, Thad Winzenz, Bonnie Ragland, Scott Hastings and myself. John Richardson is stepping back in his Officiating, and we'd like to thank him for his years of service to the athletes, coaches, teams and officials of SNS, and we'd like to welcome Bonnie to the committee. The most important part of what we do as Officials is to serve the athletes and coaches donating our time and money to volunteer with SNS. Thank you to everyone here for giving us the opportunity to be a part of this great team.

This LSC is holding a record 5 OQM/National level meets this year. We have 2 under our belt and are about to pull off 3 weekends straight of high level National meets. This is exciting for the athletes, teams, and the LSC, but it is very exciting for the Officials. All year we work in service to the athletes and coaches, and these OQM meets are very important opportunities for Officials to grow and learn through mentoring and earn their National Certifications. Thank you to the teams that have hosted these important meets and to the teams who are just about to.

This year we have held 5 clinics (3 stroke + turn and 2 admin) that were attended by 278 Officials. This coming year, Clinics will again be held quarterly, with the most important clinic being held September 30th, and 3 clean up clinics to follow. These clinics will all be posted to the Sierra Nevada website. A reminder to all Officials and teams who are asking, the information about how to become an Official and the steps necessary to become a starter/deck ref/admin/meet ref are all in Chapter 9 of the Policies and Procedures which is posted on the Sierra Nevada website.

It looks like the meet schedule for next year has fewer meets and more meets on the same weekend (several weekends have 3-4 meets!) From an Officiating standpoint, there will be fewer Officials since we will be stretched thin, but since this also means that the meets will be smaller since fewer teams will attend each meet, this should be ok. Also, considering that so many meets were canceled this year, I can only assume that some of those 4 meet weekends may thin out too. I recognize that this is not a good thing for the teams that fundraise from these meets, but however the teams want to schedule meets, the Officials will be there to support you.

Thank you to all of the Officials who work tirelessly to ensure that athletes have fair races and legal times, you are very appreciated.