

## Frequently Asked Questions - Officials



### 1. What is the Western Zone Age Group Championship Meet?

The Western Zone Age Group Championship is a USA swimming four-day championship swim meet for approximately 700 athletes ages 8-14 from 14 western states. Athletes compete on one of 17 “all-star” teams from their state or region. Athletes, coaches, officials, team support personnel, families of swimmers, spectators, meet volunteers, zone and national swimming leadership attend a variety of event activities.

### 2. When and where is the 2016 meet being held?

**Website:** [utahzones2016.com](http://utahzones2016.com)

**Date:** August 10-13, 2016

**Location:** Kearns Oquirrh Park Fitness Center  
5624 S. Cougar Lane Kearns, UT 84118

**Meet Motto:** Swim Your Passion

### 3. How many States / LSC's compete in the Western Zone?

There are 14 States that represent 17 LSC's (Local Swim Committees) See List below

#### **USA Swimming Western Zone LSC's**

- |                                      |                                     |                                       |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • <a href="#">Alaska</a>             | • <a href="#">Inland Empire</a>     | • <a href="#">San Diego Imperial</a>  |
| • <a href="#">Arizona</a>            | • <a href="#">Montana</a>           | • <a href="#">Sierra Nevada</a>       |
| • <a href="#">Central California</a> | • <a href="#">New Mexico</a>        | • <a href="#">Snake River</a>         |
| • <a href="#">Colorado</a>           | • <a href="#">Oregon</a>            | • <a href="#">Southern California</a> |
| • <a href="#">Hawaii</a>             | • <a href="#">Pacific Swimming</a>  | • <a href="#">Utah</a>                |
|                                      | • <a href="#">Pacific Northwest</a> | • <a href="#">Wyoming</a>             |

### 4. I've heard officials need to apply to work the meet. Why?

The application process allows for advance planning, including mapping out deck positions and shirt orders. This level meet requires a large number of officials to run effectively.

### 5. Where do I go to find out more about the meet and how to apply to officiate?

Application forms and the meet announcement, which has extensive information for officials on pages 10-11, are available at: [utahzones2016.com](http://utahzones2016.com). Questions may be directed to Team Lead Chief Judge Kristin Fox [bknfox@comcast.net](mailto:bknfox@comcast.net)

### 6. Is there an application deadline?

Yes. It is **June 15** for the assigned positions of Deck Referees, Starters & Chief Judges (FYI: Often 6 of each position are used at each session so please sign up for one (or more) of these positions if qualified) and **July 20** for stroke and turn positions and Requests for Evaluation. (NOTE: Applications greatly aide meet planners and are very much appreciated, but don't stay away just because you missed the deadline.)

### 7. How will I know if I've been accepted to officiate the meet?

Acceptances for assigned positions will be sent on or about July 1st; all others will be sent on or about July 23rd (we won't turn anyone away!). If not contacted by July 25, contact Kristin Fox [bknfox@comcast.net](mailto:bknfox@comcast.net)

### 8. Can you explain what a “National Official Qualifying Meet” is?

This meet and other “national level” meets are called: Officials Qualifying Meets, or OQM's. This means the meet is approved by USA-Swimming as an event where national level certifications can be obtained. Officials may apply to be mentored. National level evaluators are available to observe, mentor and certify. The mission of the USA-

Swimming National Certification program is as follows: To develop officials who are competent, current and consistent from the LSC level meet to the highest level in our sport through a progressive training program based on an accumulation of experience acquired by specific meet attendance, mentoring and constructive evaluation. More information is available on the [USA Swimming website](#).

**9. Do officials need to already be nationally certified to apply to work this meet?**

No, but they must be current members of USA Swimming and an LSC certified official.

**10. Do officials have to be observed by an evaluator?**

No. Evaluations are done on a voluntary basis. The application form has a section that allows officials to indicate their interest in being evaluated. Please don't let the fact that evaluations occur discourage involvement.

However we strongly encourage all officials, especially locals, to take the opportunity to get additional training and mentoring. It is rare to have an OQM in Utah and the process is extremely helpful. In the end, it is the swimmers who benefit when officials are well-trained and experienced.

**11. How many officials participated in Age Group Zones meet in Hawaii last year?**

More than 85! This included over 10 Chief Judges (5 per session), 12 starters and 12 Deck Referees and a ton of stroke and turn officials. Your help is greatly needed!

**12. Are there a minimum number of sessions officials need to work in order to participate?**

No, however a minimum of 4 sessions is required in order to be evaluated for national certification. It takes many volunteers to run a successful meet. The application form includes an area to select the session(s) that will be worked. This greatly aids planning. However, walk-on officials will also be gladly received the day of the meet. Your help is needed.

**13. Is there financial assistance to help offset travel expenses of officials who work at least 80% of the meet?**

Yes. The Western Zone has 2 programs to help officials with travel expenses. Contact your LSC Officials Chair for more information. (Links to each LSC website are available on the first page.)

- **Officials Mentoring Program (OMP):** Provides free lodging for up to 2 officials from each LSC. These officials (one to act as mentor and the other, one with strong potential) are designated by the LSC Officials Chair by June 30<sup>th</sup> to receive meet provided lodging.
- **Officials Reimbursement Fund:** Provides some reimbursement assistance to those who are not receiving funding benefit from another source, like the OMP.

**14. Are there discount hotel accommodations available for officials and if so, whom do I contact?**

Yes! We are pleased to be able to offer a large number of discount hotel rooms to all officials **up to July 10<sup>th</sup>**. For a link to the discounted lodging and more information contact either Adam Caldwell [adam@binghamsnow.com](mailto:adam@binghamsnow.com) or Kristin Fox [bknfox@comcast.net](mailto:bknfox@comcast.net)

**15. Is carpooling and/or coordinating transportation with other officials flying in for the meet an option? Yes. If interested, email flight and hotel information to Kristin Fox [bknfox@comcast.net](mailto:bknfox@comcast.net) and she will share it with other officials wanting to participate so carpooling may be coordinated.**

**16. Any other freebies for officials?**

Yes. An educational clinic is available for all officials, whether or not they work the meet: Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:30 pm in the World Record Lounge, Utah Olympic Oval: 5662 Cougar Ln, Salt Lake City, UT 84118 (Adjacent to pool. Location of meet General Meeting.) Topic: *How Rules are Made & Change (1<sup>st</sup>) & Managing the Meet (2<sup>nd</sup> half)*

