



VSI LSC Officials Committee ZOOM Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 20 January 2026 @ 7:00 PM

Attendees:

- X Geoff Alms – Southwest District Co-Chair
- x Dan Demers – Ex-Officio
- x Bill Fairfax – At-Large
- ☐ Kevin Hogan – At-Large, Training
- X Ralph Jones – At-Large, Shirts/Nametags
- X Annemarie Juhlin – North District Chair
- ☐ Genny Kimbel – Southeast District Chair
- ☐ Bob Rustin – Central District Chair
- X Michael Sizemore – Chair
- ☐ Kelly Warnagiris – At-Large
- X George Zolovick – Southwest District Co-Chair
- ☐ Cos Difazio – Coach Representative
- ☐ To Be Named – Athlete Representative (Junior)
- ☐ Max Mizuba – Athlete Representative (Sophomore)
- X Emily Fagan
- X Mary Turner

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm.

- Highlights from NOC Quarterly Officials Chair Call, 01/07/2026
 - Response to OCs' pre-submitted questions (**see attached**)
- Current stats
 - Since last meeting (10/14/2025)
 - Total: 44 (ST: 17; CJ: 2; SR: 11; DR: 4; AO: 8; TO: 3; Junior ST: 1)
 - Down from 65 in previous reporting
- Championship Meets, Short Course
 - Championship Referees list – (**see attached**)
 - SW 8 & Under meet referee – TBD
 - Bryan Wallin is AR for Senior Champs
 - Jack Neill is an evaluator at SC Senior Champs.
 - Geoff Alms will be an evaluator at SC Age Group Champs
- Swimposium – 12 September 2026 ideas
 - Presenter? – USA Swimming will pay for a presenter. We are already on the list for 2026.
 - Topics –
 - How things work between USA Swimming and World Aquatics
 - Kathleen Scandery (sp?) – programs and events former chair

- Training opportunities for officials to increase skills and knowledge.
- Best practices for being a time trial referee (Phil Barnes)
- Additional topics/final thoughts
 - CJ Sessions coming up – Matt Banks and Geoff Alms are trainers
 - Possible Radios: Midland GRMS Radios – 2 pack for less than \$100
 - Current radios have been in service for a while.
 - If we change to a new radio, we should purchase one that allows folks the opportunity to purchase their own.
- Next NOC Quarterly Officials Chair Calls:
 - Wednesday 04/08/2026 at 7:00PM
 - Wednesday 07/01/2026 at 7:00PM
- Recommended Next Quarterly VSI Officials Committee Meetings:
 - Tuesday 04/21/2026 at 7:00PM (To avoid Tax Day Eve)
 - Tuesday 07/07/2026 at 7:00PM (4th of July is the previous Saturday. Vacations?) – Meeting date will be confirmed at next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm.

Q1 2026 LSC OC Questions

Priority #	Q/Who/LSC	A/Who	Question
	Michael Sizemore, Virginia	Kevin Hogan	<p>In the early 2000s, the USA Swimming NOC issued a guidance document titled "Officials: General Guidelines for Discipline and De-Certification" that LSCs were expected to adopt. Virginia did so by incorporating the guidance as a policy in its Policy and Procedures manual. As aspects of this guidance are no longer applicable (e.g., the ability of an LSC to decertify an official), should we retire or modify the guidance?</p> <p>Response: Yes, it's time to remove it.</p>
	Gary Sanderson, Florida	Kevin Hogan I've queried Mitch Gold to see if he can provide me with any updates.	<p>Can we get a preview of the scheduled new app? What are the new features that will benefit officials. Is there going to be a certification card in this so that we can verify certifications of officials on deck.</p> <p>Response: The new app will display certs as well as LSC and National certs. Beta testing is scheduled to begin in early February for roughly 4 weeks. Probably 3-4 months before released.</p>
	Julie Floyd, Utah	Trish Martin	<p>Clarification needed on toe placement for the backstroke start</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toes have been properly placed, but immediately and/or after the TYM command, the toes take an illegal position. Does the start proceed and the Stroke and Turn can call an infraction? <p>The toes were never in the legal position, but the starter started the race anyway (the starter did not see that the ST had not cleared the swimmer for proper toes placement). Does the Stroke and Turn make the call even if due to starter error?</p> <p>Response: Once toes are properly placed, then moved to an illegal position, if the starter sees it, they should stand the heat. If the start proceeds, then the ST calls the infraction. If the toes are never in a legal position, no call by ST.</p>
	Barb Ship, Potomac Valley	Trish Martin	<p>I would like to know if there have been any changes to the sessions at which junior officials can officiate. Is it still just 12 and under sessions?</p> <p>Response: Junior Officials are no longer limited to working 12 & Under sessions. Now any session in which they are not competing may be worked. They can also now participate as an AO. They cannot be the lead AO, or AO of record, only an assistant, until age 18.</p> <p>Per Dana: She was given the go ahead that these changes are effective now.</p>

	Marc Digby, South Texas	Trish Martin	<p>Without running afoul of the LSC Officials Certification Standards, what options do we have to include some kind of “Satisfactory Performance” component in our recertification process?</p> <p>Response: See response to the next question.</p>
	Marc Digby, South Texas	Trish Martin	<p>The LSC Officials Certification Standards allow the “highest level” recertification to recertify all positions “below” it. Are there any suggestions for [the small number of officials who may, for example, only work in one position (eg, MR) and they are then recertified for positions at which they haven’t worked in years]?</p> <p>Response: If someone has gone through the motions, it will take something pretty egregious to deny recertification. If this occurs, offer mentoring.</p> <p>Reminder: Referee recertification does not grant AO certification if the official wasn’t already an AO.</p>
	Phil Grant, Pacific	Trish Martin	<p>My question is... can an apprentice official receive certification by only training at OTS Block Party Meets? Pacific Swimming has experienced an influx of OTS Block Party Meets, with partial intentions of moving their team's officials through the certification process much quicker.</p> <p>Response: Currently this is not prohibited. If we want to have it changed, we will need specific examples of the shortfalls created by this being allowed if we are going to get the policy changed.</p>
	Rob Clevenger, West Virginia	Marianne Walling	<p>I have an official who recently certified as an LSC DR. She is also certified as an N2 AO and an N2 ST. What do we need to do get her certified as an N2 AR?</p> <p>Response: Apply for a N2 AR, NOC will take care of it on the back end.</p>
	Gary Sanderson, Florida	Marianne Walling	<p>Is there a way we can get an automated email sent to officials when their certifications are set to expire and list what needs to be done for recertification.</p> <p>Response: Remember, we are on a three-year rotation. We want officials checking themselves, so nothing for certifications right now. Probably because there are higher priorities.</p>
	Multiple LSC OCs	Marianne Walling	<p>What is the need for the survey at the end of a course for submission?</p> <p>Response: The course creators are using Net promoter scores (NPS) to define improvements to their course. That’s why we have the surveys.</p>
	John Rajadas, Arizona	Trish Martin	<p>The question that is still lingering in my head has to do with how Block Party meets are handled - both sanctioning (criteria?) and times upload to SWIMS (I remember seeing that for SWIMS upload, there were some restrictions as to how the meet is staffed). We don't</p>

			<p>have many block party meets in AZ Swimming and so I never had a chance to delve into this and I have forgotten the essential features of the structure since the last time it was discussed (USA Swimming summit a couple of years ago?) in a public setting.</p> <p>Response: USA Swimming is directly sanctioning block party meets; the form requests whether the meet will have officials and minimum number, so ... answered the wrong question</p>
	Gary Sanderson, Florida	Trish Martin	<p>Why is it that Block Party meets can be run with 0 certified officials and the times will enter OTS and LSCs must accept the times for championship meets, but they do not count for USAS meets?</p> <p>Response: True. Announced in the fall (November?) to LSC leaders. Direction comes from the board of directors, important to include times. Many different opinions. Go through your leadership, have general chair raise concerns.</p>
	Debbie Schmidt, New Mexico	Taylor Rogers	<p>Is a time trial supposed to be a separate sanction number and meet or combined with the larger meet into one sanction and OME entry?</p> <p>102.1.6 TIME TRIALS – Time trial events may be held in conjunction with a sanctioned, approved, or observed competition if all information about the conduct of the time trials is included in the meet announcement as sanctioned or approved by the LSC. If time trials are held as a separate event, they shall be sanctioned, approved, or observed in compliance with Article 202.</p> <p>Response: I believe this one was skipped.</p>
	John Rajadas, Arizona	Trish Martin	<p>Another question I have has to do with the process of requesting national evaluators for OQMs. Is it via networking (whom do you know) or is there a formal way to request evaluators from USA Swimming? (Would like to have a formal place to apply)</p> <p>Response: Something we can consider. Nothing formal to offer at this point.</p> <p>Recommend contacting well in advance of need.</p>
	Debbie Schmidt, New Mexico	Marianne Walling	<p>Does the Officials Chair receive notification when an official takes an online course? If so and I am not receiving them, who do I contact to change the email.</p> <p>Response: Yes, you should be.</p>
	Debbie Schmidt, New Mexico	Marianne Walling	<p>Is there a definition of or requirements for an LSC championship meet? Does it require prelims finals?</p> <p>Response: There is no actual requirement for a championship meet to be prelims/finals.</p>

								2026	2026	2026
<u>Season</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Meet</u>	<u>Host</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>End Date</u>	<u>Referee</u>	<u>Admin Ref</u>	<u>Evaluator</u>
Short	SE	8 & Under	District Champs	757	757	Sat 02/07/2026	Sun 02/08/2026	Ward, Jeff		
Short	SW	8 & Under	District Champs	CCA	CCA	Sat 02/07/2026	Sun 02/08/2026	Munson, Sue		
Short	C	12 & Under	District Champs	NOVA	NOVA	Fri 02/13/2026	Sun 02/15/2026	West, Glenn		
Short	N	12 & Under	District Champs	PWSC	PWSC	Fri 02/13/2026	Sun 02/15/2026	Davis, ReNaye		
Short	SE	09 - 12	District Champs	CGBD	BMAC	Fri 02/13/2026	Sun 02/15/2026	Wilkins, Shana		
Short	C	13 & Over	District Champs	NOVA	NOVA	Fri 02/27/2026	Sun 03/01/2026	Fauth, Jonathan		
Short	SE	13 & Over	District Champs	TIDE	CSAC	Fri 02/27/2026	Sun 03/01/2026	Kimbel, Genny		
Short	SW	9 & Over	District Champs	LY	LIB	Fri 02/27/2026	Sun 03/01/2026	Rockwell, John		
Short	N	13 & Over	District Champs	RAYS	JRSSC	Fri 02/27/2026	Sun 03/01/2026	Crampton, Heather		
Short			Senior Champs	SRVA	CSAC	Thu 03/05/2026	Sun 03/08/2026	Banks, Matt	Wallin, Bryan	Jack Neill (PVS)
Short			Age Group Champs	SRVA	CSAC	Thu 03/12/2026	Sun 03/15/2026	Van Lenten, Anne		Alms, Geoff