



State of Officiating 2025

Officiating in the Inland Empire is strong and healthy. Please be sure to thank these tireless volunteers, many of whom place 8–12-hour days ensuring our athletes, coaches and clubs can provide qualifying meets with competent officials. Inland Empire is experiencing growth at the club and athlete level, which means we will also need to continue to recruit officials to match the growth of our sport. All our officials give their time, money and resources to ensure our athletes and coaches are provided an excellent and fair competition. Please thank our athletes.

Below are some key highlights from 2025.

The year began with long time official Teri Madil being nationally recognized for her long-time service to Inland Empire, as she was presented with the Officials Excellence Award at our Jr. Champs meet in Moses Lake.



2025 LSC Certified Officials by the Numbers:

- 122 total active officials with a minimum of Stroke and Turn Certification
- 30 officials hold CJ certification
- 47 officials hold starter certification
- 24 officials hold AO certification
- 29 officials hold Deck Referee certification

2024 National Certified (N2 or N3)

- 35 of our 122 officials hold an N2 or N3 certification
- 14 officials (Highest number in LSC history) attended a national level meet last year. National meets (1-5 star meets) are designated as Sectionals, Futures, Jr. Nationals, TYR Pro-Series, Nationals.



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IES Officials Serving in Team Lead Positions outside the LSC

- Meet Referee Sectionals - Don Hougardy
- Meet Referee Sectional – Robert Broyles
- Meet Referee Sectionals – Keith Lambert
- Meet Referee Open Water Zones – Jeff Walkly/Alex Herr
- TLCJ Sectionals – Trisha Chambers
- TLCJ Sectionals – Christena Linford
- National Evaluators – Ron Vanpool, Don Hougardy, Keith Lambert

Funding National Travel

National travel is a key element of education for our LSC. Officials gain invaluable experience learning from seasoned officials at our sports highest level meets. They are then able to bring back their collective learning and support their club level officials, provide mentoring and help grow our officiating pool.

We have requested the board and subsequently the HOD an modest increase in 2026 budget to support our officials who travel outside the LSC to officiate at 1-5 star meets. Among the 14 officials who traveled to national level meets, the total reported cost to these officials was \$32,916.00 out of pocket. The total assistance provided to those officials was \$7,237.89. The average for officials traveling to sectional meets was 17%, with some as low as 5% and as high as 27%. Our goal is to provide a more constant fund to support travel at 20%.

Open Water Zone Championship

A big thank you to Jeff Walkley and Alex Herr who served as our Meet Referee's at the Western Zone Open Water Championships this past summer. Because of their leadership, our LSC garnered zone and national recognition for putting on an outstanding open water event. A big thank you for their time and energy!

Officials Committee Work

A big thank you to our Officials Committee Members; Rick Edge, Nichole Proszek, Jeff Walkley, Ron Vanpool, Jaci Downing and Lindsey Sutton. Some key work includes:

- Upgrading and updating the LSC officials' page



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- Updating missing name tags and officials' shirts
- Work on Policy and Procedure guidelines
- Supporting Western Zone Open Water

As always, our work is ongoing, and we welcome input, question and ideas on how to achieve continuous improvement. Cheers to growth in 2026.