

Officials Committee Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2026

Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM. Those in attendance were: Daniel Diver, CKAT; Dayna Gripp, BSC; George Mathes, LSC; Jerod Delay, CCA; Luke Havens, LAN; Tracy Haling, JHSR; McCullough Frobouck (athlete) JHSR; Scarlet Jacob (athlete) BSC. Guests: Mary Ellen Tynan, James Jacob

Officials Chair Report: National Officials Chair Meeting was held on 1/7/2025. Further clarifications were discussed regarding officiating the backstroke start. Specifically, the stroke and turn judge is to ensure that one toe is in touching the backstroke pad and the toes are not curled over the pad or over the gutter, toes may be above the water surface. At the "TYM" command, ST officials are to look back down and ensure toes have not moved, if they have they may call an infraction. If toes are not placed properly at the beginning, and neither the ST or SR ask for a correction, and the swimmer is allowed to continue, there is no violation.

Also reported on was follow up on recertifications, status of the OQM application and changes to the selection procedures for assigned positions at championship meets.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Training, Mentoring, National Advancement: George Mathes reported that there were 49 new certifications in 2025, much attributed to the lower barriers for advancement. He emphasized the need to continue to officiate at all levels certified and not just the highest level.

Rules, Regulations: Jerod Delay offered further discussion of the backstroke rule

Materials: Tracy Haling reported that a different style shirt will be used this year, cutting the cost in half. With this savings it was discussed what else could be purchased for officials as SWAG.

Athletes: McCullough and Scarlett were introduced to the Junior Officials Program and encouraged to bring any officiating concerns amongst the athletes to the committee

FUN-raising: Dayna Gripp reported on the sales of the King Ropes hats and presented the idea of funding 2 \$500 awards to senior athletes at the April meeting. Dayna will create a sub-committee to design the process for selection. She also presented the new challenge coins that were designed by Aaron Weisz and discussed how they will be numbered and distributed. Sales of these will also go to the Officials Athlete Support Fund

Recruitment: Luke Havens asked for team contacts of each team and would like to begin working directly with the teams on recruiting officials

Old Business

Update on Winter Champs - Jerod reported on official sign ups and other various issues. Daniel commented he will be going to the meet in Gillette on Sunday 1/25 to get a look at the new pool. There are concerns about how admin will communicate and how paper will flow to the crows nest. Tracy asked Daniel to take video and pictures

Update on observed high school meets for boys season – Daniel reported that with turnover at the high school level there was new personell that were not familiar with applying for observed meets. He commented that observing ST judges had been identified and applications would be forthcoming

Discuss changes to current P&P to present to the Governance Committee – Daniel asked for brief discussion on this topic and expanded on his summary of reasoning he provided to the committee before hand. It was decided that a separate meeting in the future was needed to fully discuss these changes.

New Business

Continuing to update Officials Best Practice documents, Daniel emphasized the importance of continuing to keep this document updated. Dayna will break down the sections and redistribute amongst the committee for updates.

Possible training sessions before Winter Champs, Daniel commented that the experience level of chief judges with radios was minimal and a radio training session should be held. George asked that another referee roundtable be held, there will also be an upcoming Admin Q&A session.

April HOD Officials activities, ideas were discussed for Officials training. Daniel commented that he will be in touch with Dana Covington to see if she would like to attend.

Very brief open discussion was had with the meeting adjourning at 8:15PM

Summary of Action Items:

- Dayna to organize sub-committee to orchestrate selection process for awarding \$500 senior athlete award
- Luke will follow up with team contacts and work with them to identify potential new official candidates and reach out to them to offer encouragement
- Daniel will
 - Schedule future trainings before winter champs and identify presenters
 - Contact Dana Covington and discuss possible HOD trainings
 - Follow up on selection of observing USA officials for conference and high school meets. Submit applications for all meets

