Jeff Bish – Arkansas Swimming Hall of Fame

Called out of the stands to work as a timer at his son's very first swim meet began a seventeen year period of service as a USA Swimming official for Jeff Bish. He served as a certified official and meet referee for the Lasers and then Arkansas Dolphins Swim Team, and served seven years as Arkansas Officials Chair and board member for Arkansas Swimming. Jeff conducted many clinics across the state to recruit new officials on-deck and mentored them to become competent and confident officials. He in turn was mentored by a great many national, international, and Olympic experienced officials as he worked toward national level official's certifications while working many Sectional, Junior National Championship, and National Championship meets. While Officials Chair Jeff developed and conduced Arkansas' first Administrative Officials certification courses when that certification became a requirement within USA Swimming and, along with Paul Heye, served as National Evaluator for Arkansas' first Officials Qualifying Meet to help prepare Arkansas officials with their own national certification. Along the way Jeff served seven years as meet referee for Little Rock Central High School, and the Central Regional Championship and State Championship high school meets for the Arkansas Activities Association. Jeff concluded his on-deck career in 2018 by serving two years as meet referee for Missouri State University. While officiating has sometimes been tiring and at times hot and sweaty Jeff's greatest joy has been having the best seat in the house to watch his kids swim.