

New Jersey Swimming Officials' Committee
Report for the NJ Swimming Board
February 6, 2018

There is not much to report at this time, but here are a few things that might be of interest to you.

Retention of Officials

Retention of officials continues to be a challenge. Of the approx. 500 officials who were active in 2017, 140 of them have not renewed their qualifications for 2017 (approx. the same as last year). Of course there were the normal retirements and moves, but they accounted for only 20 of the lost officials. Some of these officials will still renew, but not a lot.

Also, of the approx. 125 people who took a clinic for the first time and passed the test this past Fall, 65 have not yet completed their apprenticeships, which should be done by the end of the short course season. This is normal.

So right now, we again have approx. active 500 officials on the books, including 64 Referees, 65 Starters and 41 Administrative Officials. However, many of our "active" officials work only the bare minimum number of sessions and can be seen sitting in the stands at meets where we are short of deck officials.

We will continue to look at possible initiatives to increase our numbers and participation, but this is not solely an Officials' Committee problem. We are in this with the coaches together and we have to work together to increase our numbers and participation.

Observed High School Meets

The new procedures are working well, although we did have some minor problems with high school swim leagues getting used to the new procedures. At the same time, college meets are no longer observed, as NCAA adopted USA-S stroke rules and college meet directors can now load the college results into SWIMS themselves.

Training Clinics

We will again be running at least two Starter Clinics in May, along with a Referee Clinic. Dates and locations will be announced in late March. We will also most likely run a stroke & turn clinic then for people who missed a class this past fall. Despite having run over 30 training clinics during the fall, with two last chance clinics in mid-December, we still had a number of people miss their required clinic attendance.

Open Water Swimming

We need some guidance on this area as we have been asked about training people for OW swimming. Currently, we are not set up to do so. The question is do we set up a training program ourselves, or work with the Mid Atlantic LSC to have them handle our training?

Ed Miller

NJ LSC Officials' Chair
February 6, 2018