

New Jersey Swimming Officials' Committee
Report for the NJ Swimming House of Delegates
October 6, 2018

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

Rules Changes:

Tech Suits - The USA-S House of Delegates overwhelmingly voted to ban tech suits for 12 and Unders, effective September 1, 2020, except for when swimming in certain defined national meets (including Y Nationals). The delay was to allow the swimsuit vendors time to adjust their production lines and to come up with a marking system for the suits to make it easier to determine acceptable suits. (Not unlike the current FINA marking system.) This change will affect YMCA meets as we swim under the USA-S technical rules and this is one of those rules (Rule 102.8.1.G). In the interim, LSCs who have already put bans in place, like New Jersey, can keep them, but other LSCs are encouraged not to issue similar interim bans.

Fifteen Meter Mark – Rule 103.16.2. was amended to comply with the FINA rules concerning marking the 15-meter mark, as follows: A fixed mark shall be placed on any wall or the deck adjacent to an outside lane to correctly align the 15-meter buoys for judging underwater starts/turn distances. The mark on the wall or deck will be considered the default marking for officiating purposes. Thus the deck markings will take precedence over the buoys.

Meet Safety Director – A proposal to require an independent Meet Safety Director as another required official at all meets was rejected by the House of Delegates. Meet safety remains the responsibility of the Meet Director and the Meet Referee. There were several other proposals adopted to clean up the By-laws and make other necessary administrative changes.

Officiating:

DQ Slips: It was made clear again that an error in preparing the DQ slip does not automatically result in the DQ being overturned; it is all right to correct the slip. The slip is not required by the rules and has no bearing on the DQ itself. However, if the problem with the slip concerns which heat and/or lane was disqualified, and that cannot be settled, then that may be a basis for overturning the disqualification.

Training Classes The YMCA Trainers have scheduled twenty-one training classes for this fall; eight Level I clinics, ten Level II clinics, two Admin Official clinics and a statewide referees meeting (in conjunction with NJ Swimming).

We are currently finalizing arrangements for several USA-S clinics, which will be geographically spaced so as to accommodate most candidates. Also, as noted above, we are again holding a joint USA-S /YMCA referee's meeting which will also serve as a clinic for recertifying referees.

The clinics will run through the late November, so no official or prospective official has an excuse for not attending a clinic.

For your future planning, we will again be running two Starter Clinics in the spring, along with a Referee Clinic.

National Officials Activities Judy Sharkey and I attended the USA-S convention last month and my comments on significant matters discussed there are addressed above. Four of our more senior officials attended higher level national meets this past year for which we partially paid their expenses pursuant to our reimbursement policy. Several other senior officials also attended such meets but did not request reimbursement.

Club Officials Coordinators

The YMCA has an officials' coordinator for each team whose main purposes are to pass on important information for officials and to help recruit and retain officials. This program has been in place for many years now, quite successfully, particularly when rules changes come about, when clinics are scheduled, etc. We would like to do the same with all of our USA-S clubs for the same purposes. We would ask that each coach designate someone to fill that role, even if you don't have any officials right now, and let me know who that person is and their e-mail address. We will then set up an address file to be used when we need to reach officials in the LSC.

Ed Miller
NJ LSC Officials' Chair
May 15, 2018