

**New Jersey Swimming Officials' Committee**  
**Report for the NJ Swimming House of Delegates**  
**May 11, 2019**

Again, 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 522 officials who were active in 2018, 142 of them did not renew their qualifications for 2019, similar to last year. Of course there were the normal retirements and moves, but they only accounted for a small number of the lost officials.

Also, of the 138 people who took a clinic for the first time and passed the test this past Fall, 74 have not yet completed their apprenticeships, which should have been done by the end of the short course season. This is normal; I will contact them shortly and encourage them to complete their apprenticeships this summer.

So right now, we have 518 officials on the books, including 63 Referees and 55 Starters. 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. And almost half of our Referees no longer have swimmers in the age-group program.

As I have said before, like everything else in swimming, officiating is driven by the coaches. If the coaches believe that it is important to have sufficient qualified officials on their team, and they communicate that to the parents, then the team will generate officials who will stay with the program and regularly work meets. If the coaches are lackluster towards the need for officials on their team, that message also gets through. If you look at the teams with the large numbers of officials, you'll find the coaches behind the program every time.

**Training Clinics**

We will be running three Starter Clinics in May, along with a Referee Clinic.

One Starter Clinic will be held at the Witherspoon Middle School in Princeton on May 15, 2019 by Paul Welsh. A second Starter Clinic will be held at the Ridgewood YMCA on May 22, 2019 by Ed Miller. The final Starter Clinic will be held at the Berkeley Aquatic Center for Excellence on June 10, 2019 by Bruce Petersen and Judy Sharkey.

The Referee Clinic will be held at the Ridgewood YMCA on Thursday night May 23, 2019 by Ed Miller and Eric Schott.

Interested officials should contact the relevant Clinic Trainer in advance to register, as space is limited.

Interested officials from your team need also your approval for them to attend one of these clinics. Please think carefully before approving requests from officials on year team, as these people will be in a more significant role as a starter or referee.

### **Meet Referee's Post Meet Reporting**

In the Fall, we developed a more streamlined Meet Referee report to be filed after each meet. We have received a number of such reports, and we are currently tracking down the missing ones. Based on a cursory review of the reports received to date, they confirm what we are seeing at meets; too few officials at too many sessions of major meets; too many officials not stepping up to help at meets other than their own team's hosted meets; too much reliance on "outside" Meet Referees who don't have swimmers in the meets any longer. We'll be talking more about this issue later this year.

### **Officials Newsletter**

The Summer edition of the Officials Newsletter will be issued in the next day or so, and we will post it on the website. Once again, Chris Barry has done a nice job in gathering news and information for our officials. If you have a few moments at some point in the coming weeks, you might want to want to read parts of it.

### **National Officials Activities**

I will be attending the USA-S Rules and Regulations Committee Meeting in Fort Lauderdale in early June and the USA-S Officials Chairs Meeting in Charlotte in mid-June. This is not a year for FINA rules changes, so we shouldn't have any major changes.

We are working with the USA-S Super Sectional assigned officiating team on the various meet details, including getting the meet set up as an OQM meet. Judy Sharkey is spearheading this effort on behalf of the LSC.

### **Composition of the Committee**

Mark Butler has resigned from the Committee and as an NJ official as he has moved to Pennsylvania. We thank Mark for his long and distinguished service. He will be missed.

The Committee has invited Gary Thayer to join the Committee and he has graciously accepted. We look forward to working with Gary.

Ed Miller  
NJ LSC Officials' Chair  
May 11, 2019