



**NEW
JERSEY
SWIMMING**

New Jersey Officials Newsletter – Winter 2019

Volume 2 – Issue 2

Officials Chairman – Ed Miller

Editor – Christopher Barry

Introduction from the Editor

We are now three months into the fall/winter SC season with over 30 meets completed by the end of December. In addition, there were 27 clinics offered for new and re-certifying officials. Hopefully you have all sent your renewals in and are set for the 2019 calendar year (see further below) – please also remember to check your Background Screening and Athlete Protection to make sure they are up to date. For apprentices (at all levels), you are expected to complete your apprentice sessions within six months of the clinic. Upon completion, please send Ed Miller your card and/or observations so that he can issue your full credentials.

Hopefully you all enjoyed your holidays as we begin 2019. There will be multiple meets every weekend from January until the end of the SC season on March 22-24 with the 14U NJS Junior Olympics – see schedule included later in the Newsletter. This does not include all of the YMCA meets, so everyone's help will always be welcome by the many Meet Referees.

While this newsletter will not be comprehensive in covering all the goings on in the officials' community, it will be a point to assist or direct you to other matters. Remember that the NJ Swimming and USA Swimming web sites provide the vast majority of information to assist with your questions but you can always reach out to a member of the NJ Official's committee for assistance as well. As this is your Newsletter, if there is something that you would like to see addressed/discussed, feel free to reach out to me or a member of the committee.

Jim Wood, Head Coach/Founder of Berkeley Aquatic Club

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Jim Wood, the founder and head coach of Berkeley Aquatic Club. Jim was a true leader in the sport, both here in New Jersey and at the national and international level. Among his many contributions, he was the only coach to ever be elected president of USA Swimming, served on many national and international committees and bodies and also coached several Olympians. Jim was a huge contributor and member of New Jersey Swimming for over 30 years serving as President, Treasurer, Admin Chair, Senior Chair, Senior & Junior Coach Representative, helping bring NJ Swimming to the forefront. However, despite the many achievements that mark his life and coaching career, Jim was a humble man who never looked for praise, but rather wanted to serve as a mentor to those that walked through the doors of BAC or any pool deck. He viewed swimming as merely a conduit to teaching consequential life lessons including the importance of teamwork, to excel academically and to respect others. Jim strove for excellence in everything he did and expected no less from those around him, challenging us to challenge ourselves to achieve great things. Surely, he will be missed on deck, but we should honor him by continuing to strive for greatness. Our condolences go out to his family and friends in this time of great sorrow. A Celebration of Life for Jim is being planned at the BAC facility at a future date. Information will be published as soon as it becomes available.

Meet your Officials Committee –

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Some Musings from the NJS Officials' Chair

Mark Butler

Dr. Mark Butler, a long-time member of the Officials Committee and a fixture on the deck at swim meets in the southern part of our LSC for many years, has decided to hang up his whistle. Mark is reducing his involvement in his practice and has moved to eastern Pennsylvania, making it difficult for him to attend meets. Mark was the meet referee for numerous meets, often the smaller, less prestigious meets, where he made a major contribution to the program by mentoring officials and providing a positive experience for all swimmers, no matter their level. On the Officials Committee, Mark was a voice of calm and reason, and brought a different and welcome perspective to the meetings. Personally, I truly enjoyed the times we worked together at JO's and other statewide meets. Mark will be sorely missed.

Mark, on behalf of all the swimmers, coaches and officials you helped, thank you, thank you, thank you!

We are all in this together

In this newsletter, you will notice once again that we are recognizing people moving up to starter and referee and people working at the national meets. The advancements are important to the LSC, as we need to continually build the base to provide the leaders for the future. The service at the national meets, and the advanced certifications (N2 and N3 levels) that entails, are noteworthy in bringing recognition to the many fine officials we have here in the New Jersey LSC. Our officials can stack up against those of any other LSC in the country. I can tell you that from both first-hand and second-hand knowledge!

However, and this is important for you to understand, every official in the NJ LSC, from the newest apprentice to the most senior referee, is a vital cog in our officiating base; without any of you, we couldn't do it. You make it happen, week in, week out, and you are the heart and soul of the program. The recognition is not meant to imply that those folks are somehow our "elite" officials, and they would be the first ones to tell you they are not! Whether you are an apprentice or an N3 referee, you matter to us and your work here in the LSC is every bit as important as working at national meets.

Thank you for all you do for the program!

Registration

During the most recent LSC Officials' Chairs' quarterly conference call, the National Officials' Committee Chair reminded everyone that annual registration is not automatic; officials have to renew their USA-S membership and credentials every year, even if they only have to take a clinic and test every three years.

This was a very timely message, as we are in what should be the tail end of the process, but unfortunately, we are not even close. At the end of the year, we had 515 experienced officials on our roster. As I write this note, almost 40% of them **have not yet registered for 2019, and so are not eligible to work at meets in 2019**. A small portion of those people are retiring from officiating, and we thank them for their efforts! But that still leaves a lot of lapsing memberships.

Last week I started receiving the calls and e-mails lamenting the fact that these officials had not received their red USA-S 2019 Membership Card and/or their 2019 NJS Officials Card and their team was counting on them to work meets in January. In addition, further compounding the issue and despite offering almost twenty-seven clinics, (including the YMCA clinics which can serve to fulfill your clinic requirement) more than 25 officials just discovered that they need to take a clinic to renew their credentials.

Registration is a very simple process. After attending a clinic and passing the test, if this is your year to do so, you send your 2019 USA-S membership application and check, and a copy of your meet record card or OTS printout to your clinic instructor who forwards them to me along with the clinic registration form. If you do not need a clinic, send the other materials directly to me. As long as you have completed a clinic, if required, and sent me the completed paperwork, I can then issue your new NJS Official's card and send the application and check to the NJS office for processing to USA-S.

These instructions were sent out in early October and again as a reminder in mid-November. In addition, the Fall issue of this newsletter talked about the process, which is really quite simple. So, if you are one of the folks who has not yet registered for 2019, the change in the year does not disqualify you from still being allowed to renew your registration. Just complete the necessary paperwork including the 2019 USA Swimming non-athlete membership form and proof of sessions worked and send such information to me. No one can work meets without your current 2019 credentials. To do so could put the meet results for any session worked in jeopardy.

Just a brief request, if you are sending me a printout of your experience record from Deck Pass, please include your name on it, as the Deck Pass printout normally does not have your name on it. I have a bunch of them floating around here for which I cannot tell to whom they relate. Below are the links to the USA Swimming Web Site for the Deck Pass, Background Screening and Athlete Protection information.

On a more upbeat note, we trained almost 135 new officials who are now doing their apprentice sessions, or in a number of cases have already completed them. Please welcome them and share your knowledge and experience with them.

I hope to, see you all out there working on the deck or at the table over the next three months or so.

Ed

Helpful Web Site Links

USA Swimming Officials Website (link to Athlete Protection)

<https://www.usaswimming.org/utility/landing-pages/safe-sport/apt>

USA Swimming Officials Website (link to Background Screening)

<https://www.usaswimming.org/background-checks>

USA Swimming Officials Tracking System Web Site (link to session and test history)

<https://www.usaswimming.org/utility/landing-pages/officials/officials-tracking>

For those that are looking for officials' attire or an official nametag, please see the Officials page on the NJ Swimming website.

<https://www.teamunify.com/Links.jsp?tabid=12294&team=eznjslsc>

For the APT and BCG materials, there are also quick links in the USA-S website. Click on "For You" and then on "Officials".

Updates from the LSC Officials' Chairs Quarterly Conference Call

The USA-S Officials Committee holds quarterly telephone conference calls with the LSC Officials' Chairs to discuss officiating matters. Participants include the National Officials' Committee Chair and the Rules Committee Chair. On our January 2019 call, the following two issues were discussed:

Judging the 15 Meter Rule – As you all know, there was a rule change this year to require markings on the deck for the 15 meter mark which take precedence over the floats on the lane lines. Several Officials' Chairs asked about the markings when you are working with an L-shaped pool. Clark Hammond, the Rules Committee Chair, indicated that the rule had to be enforced, and that the markings may have to be inside the diving well, making it hard to judge from the one side. He urged people to try their best to do so, giving the benefit of the doubt to the swimmer where appropriate.

Swim Suit Waivers – Clark Hammond noted that he has received a number of requests for modifications to the swim suit rule, mainly for religious reasons. He asked the LSC Officials' Chairs to remind their referees that any swimmer asking to use a non-conforming suit must be able to show the Meet Referee a letter or an e-mail from the Rules Chair specifically approving the non-conforming swimwear.

Otherwise, it has been fairly quiet on the Rules front, and probably will be until the next FINA rules meeting in 2021.

The Role of the Chief Judge

Last summer the NJ Officials committee instituted an additional training option for officials – the Chief Judge. At Holiday Classic this past December, an external Team Lead CJ and a National evaluator were invited to provide more mentoring opportunities for NJ officials and to assist in operation of the meet as an OQM, while providing ideas to assist with the operation of meets in NJ. Therefore, you may ask – “what is the role of the CJ?” The CJ is there to assist the Meet/Deck Referee in the operation of the meet, but more importantly he/she is there as a mentor to the stroke and turn officials on deck and an additional set of “eyes/ears” for the Meet/Deck Referee.

To understand what that means – here are some of the roles/duties that a Chief Judge may handle during the meet:

- As the Chief Judge's primary role is to monitor the stroke and turn officials and relay potential DQs to the Referee, their job is to watch the officials to make sure that they are in position and following the proper protocols and not to watch the swimmers themselves.
- A Chief Judge may be asked to perform the stroke briefing, assign jurisdictions and discuss meet protocols prior to the session.
- Perform a “radio” check prior to the session to make sure that communication lines are open and advise the Referee that officials are all in position prior to the start of the session or after the freestyle events.
- Make sure that all necessary “forms” including DQ slips, distance count sheets, relay take-off slips are available.
- Make sure that “counters” are available if there are distance events in the session.
- Make sure that stroke and turn officials are given the opportunity to have break(s) during the session, even if that means the CJ assumes the role for a short period, if necessary.
- Use proper radio protocol to communicate potential infractions to the Referee in a slow, clear and concise voice. Upon approval, properly complete the DQ slip for the approved infraction and have the stroke and turn official sign as Judge and then provide to the Referee for signature and Administrative Official for recording.
- Notify the swimmer and/or coach of infractions for their swims in a polite and understanding manner and report such back to the Referee.
- At the end of session, thank all officials and collect the equipment to return for the start of the next session.
- Mentor the stroke and turn officials in a constructive and positive fashion remembering that we are all volunteers.

Remember as Chief Judge you will be working as a small team within the larger team and need to cover and assist the other CJs. For those interested, express your interest to other more senior officials to work with you regarding the role and think about taking the NJ Officials Chief Judge clinic the next time it is offered in the Spring.

Random Thoughts from and to the Meet Referee

- Please do not ask if the Meet Referee needs help – the more officials on deck will make it easier on all volunteers and fairer to all swimmers. If you have no defined commitment for the meet, ask rather, is there any session that it would be more helpful.
- As Meet Referee, reach out prior to the meet to the host club to obtain assistance from host club officials and where assistance may be needed.
- Remember that the Meet Referee is looking to balance the deck and provide mentoring opportunities, when available. Therefore, he/she may not be able to accommodate all requests for position or placement.
- As a Meet Referee, remember to look to rotate those officials to different positions when they work multiple sessions in a meet (s) that you are Meet Referee.
- When arriving at the pool, look for the Meet Referee and “sign-up” sheet. Please print clearly your name, club and certification so that the Meet Referee can easily locate you in OTS for recording your sessions. If your information is entered differently in OTS, it would be helpful to include that information as well.
- Arrive early as Meet Referee to make sure you complete pre-meet (session) checklist prior to officials arriving so that you can interact with the officials and coaches while being available to answer questions – it is part of the mentoring process and remember that all officials are volunteers no matter the certification.

Remember that USA Swimming is committed to safeguard the well-being of all its members, with the welfare of its athlete members as the top priority – including providing them the best opportunity to perform.

NJ Swimming Meet Schedule (January 2019 through May 2019)

Meet Name	Meet Location	Level	
January			
4-6	SVY New Year's Splash	Raritan Valley CC	None
5-6	SCAR TYR Winterfest	Rutgers University	Silver/Gold
6	PPST Snowball Mini Meet	Witherspoon School	8 and Under
6	PPST Piranha Mile Swim Meet	Witherspoon School	None
12-13	HAC Winter Classic	NJ Institute of Technology	None
13	MDY Junior Jam	Meadowlands Area YMCA	None – 12 & Under
18-20	BAC LC Winter Invitational-Closed	Rutgers University	P/F – Meet Cuts
18-20	PTAC Winter Invitational	Princeton University	None
26-27	CBGC Winter Cup	Clifton Boys & Girls Club	None
26-27	BAC Pro Bowl Invitational	BAC COE	None
February			
1-3	NJ Swimming 120 Senior States	Rutgers	Meet Cuts
2-3	YMCA-SHY 8 and Under Championships	Raritan Valley CC	Closed YMCA Only
9	MB February Sprint Swim Meet	Neptune Aquatic	None
9	JFAC Sprint for Gold	Secaucus Swim Center	None
9	BAC February Pentathlon Meet	BAC COE	None
9-10	BB Will You BB Mine Swim Meet	Raritan Valley CC	None
9-10	YMCA-HCY Bronze Championships (North)	Raritan Bay YMCA	Closed YMCA Only
9-10	YMCA-RY Bronze Championships (South)	Witherspoon School	Closed YMCA Only
10	SCAR Heart of Gold	Lyndhurst	None
15	BAC Salmon Run Swim Meet	BAC COE	None
15-17	YMCA-LHY Silver Championships	Gloucester County Institute of Technology	Closed YMCA Only
16-17	NJS/BAC 12U S/B Champs-Reg. B	BAC COE	Silver/Bronze
16-17	NJS/SCAR 12U S/B Champs-Reg. C	Newark Academy	Silver/Bronze
22-24	YMCA-OCY 12U State Championships	Ocean County YMCA	Closed YMCA Only
23-24	NJS/PPST 12U S/B Champs-Reg. D	Witherspoon School	Silver/Bronze
23-24	NJS/SCAR 12U S/B Champs-Reg. E	Raritan Valley CC	Silver/Bronze
23-24	NJS/CAT 12U S/B Champs-Reg. A	Secaucus Swim Center	Silver/Bronze
24-25	NJS/BAC 130 Silver Champs-Reg C	BAC COE	Silver/Bronze
March			
2-3	NJS/BAC 130 S/B Champs-Reg C	BAC COE	Silver/Bronze
2-3	NJS/MB 130 S/B Champs-Reg B	Neptune Aquatic	Silver/Bronze
7-10	YMCA-RBY NJ State Championships	Franklin and Marshall College, Pa.	Closed YMCA Only
9-10	NJS/SCAR 130 S/B Champs-Reg A	Rutgers	Silver/Bronze
11	BAC Monday Mayhem	BAC COE	Meet Cuts
14-17	NJS/BAC Senior Championships	BAC COE	Meet Cuts P/F
22-24	NJS/SCAR 14U Junior Olympics	Rutgers	Meet Cuts P/F
April			
20	BAC April Plunge	BAC COE	Silver/Gold
May			
4	BAC Spring Invite	BAC COE	Silver/Gold
5	BAC Robin Hood Sprints	BAC COE	Silver/Bronze
17-19	PTAC Tiger Challenge	Princeton	Silver/Gold
18-19	MAY May Warm Up LC Meet	Rutgers	
19	OCY IMX Extreme	Ocean County YMCA	
25-26	BAC Memorial Day Invite – Closed	Rutgers	P/F - Meet Cuts

Officials advancing to Starter and Referee so far, this fall

Congratulations to the following officials who this summer and fall have stepped up to greater responsibilities and advanced in their certification to a Starter or Referee.

New Starters

Srini Chandupatla	FOBY	Ed Devine	HACY	Carla Elfeld	MEY	David Gestrich	MB
Ralph Gorthey	SCAR	Narayanan Guruswamy	BB	Jeff Kenney	RBY	Uday Kher	SVY
Brian Klohn	OCY	Sue Koss	STAC	Neeraj Kushnoor	HACY	Sandi Lalli	RBY
Han-Yang Lo	NJBL	Sooji Park	MYM	Todd Pearce	RVYM	Eric Tanalski	STAC
Mike VerHage	SCAR	Nagi Yassa	MCSC				

New Referees

Charles Banville	SVY	Carol Gitune	PAA	Sonja Hood	MYM	Janice Rein	MEY
Alka Rinkus	RBY	George Williams	SCAR				

USA Swimming National Championship and Eastern Zone Schedule – 2019

Host	Dates	Meet	Applications	Location	Course
USA	1/9-12	USA TYR Pro Series #1	Closed	Knoxville, TN	LCM
ZONE	1/25-27	USA Swimming IMX Games -Eastern Zone	N/A	University of Maryland	SCY
USA	3/6-9	USA TYR Pro Series #2	Closed	Des Moines, Iowa	LCM
ZONE	3/28-31	Eastern Sectionals – North	Open	Ithaca, NY	SCY
ZONE	3/28-31	Eastern Sectionals – South	Open	Christiansburg, Va.	SCY
ZONE	3/28-31	Eastern Super Sectionals	Open	Buffalo, NY	LCM
YMCA	4/1-5	YMCA National SC Championships	Closed	Greensboro, NC	SCY
ZONE	4/3-6	Eastern Zone SC Age Group Championships	Open	Webster, NY	SCY
USA	4/10-13	USA TYR Pro Series #3	Closed	Richmond, Va.	LCM
USA	5/3-5	USA Swimming Open Water Nationals	Open	Miami, Fl.	OW
USA	5/3-5	USA Swimming Open Water Jr. Nationals	Open	Miami, Fl.	OW
USA	5/16-19	USA TYR Pro Series #4	Open	Bloomington, Indiana	LCM
USA	6/12-15	USA TYR Pro Series #5	Open	Clovis, Ca.	LCM
ZONE	6/29	Eastern Zone Open Water Championships	Open	Middlebury, Ct.	OW
ZONE	7/18-21	Eastern Zone LC Super Sectional (OQM)	Pending	Rutgers, NJ	SCY
USA	7/31-8/4	USA Swimming Summer Nationals	Pending	Palo Alto, Ca.	LCM
ZONE	8/1-4	Eastern Zone Senior Championships	Pending	Buffalo, NY	LCM
USA	8/1-4	USA Swimming Futures Championships	Pending	Geneva, OH	LCM
USA	8/6-10	USA Swimming Summer Junior Nationals	Pending	Palo Alto, Ca.	LCM
ZONE	8/7-10	Eastern Zone LC Age Group Championships	Pending	Richmond, Va.	LCM

Officials attending Zone, Sectional and National Meets

Congratulations to the following officials who officiated at meets outside of the NJ LSC. These meets provide the opportunity to meet other officials from across the Eastern Zone and the country. They also provide an opportunity to further develop one's skills and be evaluated for USA Swimming National level certifications.

Missed from last spring and summer were Bach Lequang at SC Eastern Sectionals last Spring and Donna Thomforde at LC Eastern Zones this past Summer. This past December in attendance at Winter Nationals were Christopher Barry, Val Gibson and Jim Sheehan. While also this past December at Winter Junior Nationals - East in attendance were Louis Hu, Ann Leaver, Jae Lee, Bach Lequang, Judy Sharkey, Gretchen Van de Walle and Ray Wong.

For those interested in furthering your training please see the above schedule. Of special note, next summer within the LSC, you will have an opportunity to be evaluated for such certifications this summer during the Eastern Zone LC Super Sectional on July 18-21, 2019 at Rutgers University. This meet will have all N2 and N3 evaluations available as a National evaluator will also be in attendance with a lead CJ. More information on the program can be found on the USA Swimming web site.



Look forward to seeing everyone on deck this season.