



## **New Jersey Officials Newsletter – Spring 2019**

### **Volume 2 – Issue 3**

Officials Chairman – Ed Miller

Editor – Christopher Barry

## **Introduction from the Editor**

We have completed the 2018-19 SC season with a total of 67 meets not including the National meets, Eastern Zone Championship meets and YMCA National meets. On behalf of the swimmers, clubs and the Officials Committee, thank you for all of the work that you did this past season. For those new to the official ranks this year, thank you for becoming a member of the crew that assists in the operation of all these meets for NJ Swimmers. Hopefully you have all completed your apprentice sessions within the required six months, made new friends and sent your completed apprentice information to Ed Miller so that he can issue your full credentials.

As we move from the SC season to the LC season this summer, dust off the walking shoes, while there are fewer pools to cover there will be more walking involved. Remember that we will observe the pool using “lead/lag” coverage and will have more space to cover to return any DQ slips to their proper place. We have included in this edition of the Newsletter the piece by Joel Black, a senior USA-S referee and former Rules Committee member, on the art of working Lead/Lag on an Olympic-sized pool as a refresher. Also, included is a piece to assist Starters and Referees with some items from the updated Situations and Resolutions for Starters and Deck Referees. Lastly, it is time to start using the 2019 USA Swimming Rule Book.

As mentioned previously, the aim of the newsletter is to provide information and improve communication to the NJ Swimming Official community. While this will not be comprehensive in covering all the ongoing activities in the official community, it will be a point to assist or direct. Remember that the NJ Swimming and USA Swimming web sites provide a vast wealth of information to assist you with your questions but you can always reach out to a member of the NJ Official’s committee to assist you as well. If there is something that you would like to see addressed/discussed in this newsletter, feel free to reach out to me or a member of the committee and please send photos of you and your fellow officials at meets.

Hope to see you all on deck at some point during the summer.

## **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 March 2019 call, the following two issues were discussed:

Alternates Swimming in the Finals – As you probably already know, normally if there is a no-show in the first heat of finals (the bonus heat or consolation heat, depending on how many heats of finals are swum), the alternate is inserted. If a no show occurs in the second or third heat of finals (the consolation or championship heats), the lane is normally left empty. However, there is provision under Rule 102.5.6.B for an alternate to swim in such second or third heat under certain conditions. Some questions were raised about that situation. Clark Hammond, the Rules Committee Chair, indicated he had that question on the agenda for the June Rules Committee meeting. Stay tuned for an update after that meeting.

Watches Used as Pacing Devices – Clark Hammond noted that he has received a number of questions about swimmers wearing watches and are they prohibited under Rule 102.8.1.F as a “pacing” device. He pointed out that simply wearing a watch is not prohibited. He had not seen any watches that were capable of acting as a pacing device, but if one was noted, wearing it would be prohibited

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

## **Meet your Officials Committee –**

Ed Miller III, Chair and Certification Coordinator [caefmilleriii@msn.com](mailto:caefmilleriii@msn.com)

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## Some Musings from the NJS Officials' Chair

Why are you an official? I ask myself that question from time to time, just to be sure that I am doing it for the right reasons. I pose the question to you, because being a good official involves time and energy and commitment beyond simply timing at a meet for an hour or so. You have to know the rules, go to classes, take tests and work meets. You often you don't see and people don't recognize, the important work you are doing. All you see is the unhappy swimmer, the angry coach, the aggrieved parent, all questioning your work. Everyone's answers may differ a little, but hopefully, you have a good answer for yourself, like sharing an experience with your swimmer, giving something back to the sport, the camaraderie among officials, the satisfaction you get when you work a meet and do your job professionally and impartially, etc.

I pose this question now as we have just completed the championship season and I look at the disqualifications that we had to uphold. Most of those swimmers didn't just start doing something wrong in the championship meets; they were doing it wrong all season and were never called for it, probably because we didn't have enough officials working the deck at meets during the season to see and call these infractions when they could then be corrected. We really are part of the learning process for age group swimmers. When we signal an infraction, we are helping the swimmer and the coach, even if they don't realize it.

We have over 500 listed officials in the NJ LSC. Having just completed processing of your new credentials, I can tell you that of those 500+ officials, about 60% are truly active officials, working more than the bare minimum requirements. To those folks I say a heart-felt thank you! We couldn't have done it without you. And special thanks to those 40 or so referees, starters and stroke & turn judges who no longer have swimmers in the program, but who regularly continue to show up and work meets, many times as the Meet Referee. Without you, we would really be in trouble.

To those of you who are not as active, I urge you to try to find time in your busy schedules to work more sessions, even if it is a little inconvenient at times. We really need your help as we are woefully short of officials at many meets. In fact, the situation with shortages of officials got so bad earlier this year that one meet session was held up while the referee frantically called local officials to get someone to come help out so they would meet the minimum requirements of Rule 102.10.3 so the times would count. Obviously, those swimmers did not receive the attention from the officials that they deserved. When you sign on as an official, you take on an important role; we cannot effectively run meets without you, and the more you work, the better an official you become, thus making a better meet experience for your own swimmers and the other swimmers.

A special note for our apprentice stroke and turn officials and administrative officials. We trained 135 new officials this past season, of whom approximately half have completed their apprentice sessions and been issued their full credentials. Congratulations to those of you who did so. We need your help. To those of you who did complete the apprentice sessions, but didn't send me your card as yet, please do so now so I can issue your full credentials. (You can simply scan your card and e-mail it to me.) To those of you who have not completed your sessions, please do so over the long course season and send me your card so you will be fully certified for the fall short course season.

Once again, thank you for all you do for NJ Swimming and our swimmers. I hope to, see you all out there working on the deck or at the table over the next few months.

Ed

## Myths of Officiating – Benefits of Officiating – Some Do's and Don'ts

During a recent officials' pre-meet briefing, a senior official listed some items that are Myths about officiating. This has been a topic to help ease and educate all officials with deck protocols and procedures. From this and other similar articles that I have read, I have tried to gather some insights and will hope to expand on those thoughts to assist us all in the future over the course of some short articles.

Our appearance on deck should be professional and neat, following the uniform requirements of the host LSC (blue pants or skirt, white shirt and white shoes in NJ). Professionalism is for before, during and after the session/meet. That means you should arrive in advance of the scheduled officials' briefing (at least one hour prior to start) and neatly write your name, club and level on the sign-in sheet. Promptly attend the officials' briefing where you will find information regarding assignments and protocols for the meet by that Meet Referee along with a briefing on the rules. When on deck, your focus is not that you must have one foot forward as you observe swimmers (myth). The focus on deck is that we should be in position to observe (not inspect) the swimmers which requires us to be at the edge when watching turns/finishes (and get wet) or generally behind our last swimmer when walking stroke. While observing we should look to give each swimmer an equal observation (even those empty lanes) and any paperwork (heat sheets or DQs) should be handled while swimmers are not in your area of jurisdiction and kept out of sight

### Officials advancing to Starter and Referee

Congratulations to the following officials who this complete their apprentice training this past SC Season and fall have stepped up to greater responsibilities and advanced in their certification to a Starter or Referee.

#### New Starters

Dawn Duffy	JG	Tim Smith	SDSC	Jennie Wright	RY		
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## Registration Reminder and Process

All Stroke & Turn and Administrative Official apprenticeships should have been completed by the end of March and the paperwork sent to Ed Miller. If you have completed the requisite sessions but have not sent in the paperwork, please do so now so we can issue your full credentials in time for the LC season.

For those officials who failed to renew their credentials for 2019, you can still renew as the year is only ¼ complete. If you require your Athlete Protection or Background Screening updated - please update prior to sending your required registration and renewal paperwork. Both of these are required aspects of membership and must be completed to work on deck.

If you have not completed the sessions due to some unforeseen circumstances or need a clinic, please contact us to see if we can work out a plan for you to complete your renewal expeditiously.

You can mail the copies of your cards to Ed Miller at 140 Concord Street, New Milford, NJ 07646, or e-mail them to him at [caefmilleriii@msn.com](mailto:caefmilleriii@msn.com). Don't miss out due to missing paperwork.

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

NJ Swimming Officials Nametags - <https://www.teamunify.com/Links.jsp?tabid=12294&team=eznjslsc>

For those who need to attend a clinic (and then pass the necessary exams), you can attend one of the Starter or Referee clinics this Spring to complete that requirement. Summer clinic schedule is listed below with the Starter and Referee clinics. Officials wishing to attend one of these classes must meet all the criteria set forth on the website and they must contact the instructor in advance.

Please reach out to the clinic instructor to confirm your attendance prior to any clinic as space may be limited. In order to determine if you need a clinic, you can either look at your renewal from last year (which will include such information at the bottom of the letter) or review your account in the USA Swimming OTS system. If you last took your test between September 2015 and August 2016, you are in need of a clinic for re-certification.

New Jersey Swimming thanks you for your interest in becoming and/or continuing as an official as it makes for the more efficient and fair meets as well as assists the job of the Meet Referee. Also, included above are the links to the USA Swimming Web Site for the Background Screening and Athlete Protection information.

### Spring Starter and Referee Clinics

	<u>Clinic Type</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Contact Information</u>
May					
15	Starter	John Witherspoon School	6:30 PM	Paul Welsh	<a href="mailto:Paul_Welsh@gbtpa.com">Paul_Welsh@gbtpa.com</a>
22	Starter	Ridgewood YMCA	6:30 PM	Ed Miller	<a href="mailto:caefmilleriii@msn.com">caefmilleriii@msn.com</a>
23	Referee	Ridgewood YMCA	6:30 PM	Ed Miller	<a href="mailto:caefmilleriii@msn.com">caefmilleriii@msn.com</a>
June					
10	Starter	Berkeley Aquatic COE	6:00 PM	Bruce Petersen Judy Sharkey	<a href="mailto:bpeter8559@mac.com">bpeter8559@mac.com</a> <a href="mailto:jmsharkey@aol.com">jmsharkey@aol.com</a>

### 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 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, they will 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.

## **“LEAD/LAG” COVERAGE FOR STROKE JUDGES by Joel Black**

At swim meets conducted in a 50-meter venue we may hear the remark, “The stroke judges are using “Lead/Lag” coverage.” What is this, and how does it work?

“Lead/Lag” is a method of coordinating the actions of two stroke judges on the same side of a 50-meter pool, in an effort to obtain consistent observation of all competitors in their jurisdiction during a race. Typically, prior to a race which involves the 15-meter mark, one judge is positioned on the lane 1 side of the pool at the 15-meter mark. Let’s call him or her judge “A”. A second judge is positioned on the same side of the pool between the 15-meter mark and the start end of the pool. Let’s call him or her judge “B”. There are also two stroke judges in the same positions on the lane 8 side of the pool.

Once the race has started and the swimmers are in the water, judge “B” observes the initial elements of the swim for conformity with the rules and within the jurisdiction instructed by the referee. As the swimmers pass, judge “B” turns and follows walking slightly behind the field toward the 15-meter mark. As the swimmers approach the 15-meter mark judge “B” begins to slow his/her walk. Judge “A” is in position to observe that all swimmers have conformed to the rules of the swim concerning the mark and as they pass, turns and follows them down the course toward the turn end walking ahead (Lead) of judge “B”(Lag). As the swimmers and judges approach the turn end of the pool, judge “B” stops at the turn end 15-meter mark, while judge “A” continues the observation into the turn. Judge “A” observes all swimmers through the turn and the initial action of the second length toward the 15-meter mark. As the swimmers pass the 15-meter mark of the turn end, judge “B” falls in slightly behind the swimmers and assumes the “Lead” ahead of judge “A” who now becomes “Lag.” This type of coordinated action continues until the race is over. At the end of the race the “Lag” judge has followed the trailing swimmers up to the position of the “Lead” judge and the race finishes.

Frequently in the 200-meter races and the 400-meter Individual Medley, the swimmers will separate to a considerable extent. This separation is also noted with younger and inexperienced swimmers in the 50 and 100-meter distances. When swimmer separation occurs, the stroke judges will also separate from each other in order to maintain consistently balanced observation of the field. When this occurs, we must remember to continue scanning all lanes, even the empty ones, so that we do not narrow our focus upon only one or two swimmers. Slight modifications are also made for breaststroke events when the 15-meter mark is not a consideration (both judges continue down the pool to observe the turns), and freestyle events when judges do not walk along the side of the pool.

With experience, “Lead/Lag” becomes a comfortable method of officiating for two officials. The real “fun” begins when a television camera and dolly on a track with a three or four-person crew shares one of the sides of the pool!! Coordination of movements between all parties is imperative. However, this discussion must be saved for another time.

### **Rules Inquiries**

#### **Guidelines for officiating Swimmers with a Disability in USA Swimming**

While there are separate meets and rules for Para Swimmers, in this issue we will look at how officials can look to include and make meets more enjoyable for Swimmers with Disabilities at a USA Swimming meet. Most of us may have observed or dealt with the process of Starts for Swimmers that are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. However, there is an entire section of the rules that relate to the above (Article 105). Swimmers may have other disabilities that this section provides us with guidelines on how to work within the rules to make the experience an enjoyable event for all. Swimmers may have an intellectual disability which may require assistance with starts and/or keeping count of the number of laps swum. Some of the relevant parts of Section 105 are below that we can use to assist us in making meets more enjoyable and keep them competing and involved in the sport.

- 105.1.1 Allows the Referee to modify the rules for a swimmer with a disability
- 105.1.2 The swimmer (or the swimmer's coach) is responsible for notifying the Referee....of the requested modification. In the case of a young man with an intellectual disability, the parent can and should be able to perform this notification on behalf of the swimmer.
- 105.1 Is for Cognitively Disabled and states "No other specific rule modifications are required...." however 105.1.1 overrides this, as it is not the referee's job to provide a thorough medical diagnosis to athletes at a competition. If the athlete with a disability (or their representative) requests reasonable specific modifications during the competition, the spirit of USA-S is to do so unless it provides some unfair advantage.

Feel free to read the entire section so that you are prepared for future possibilities. For those further interested in working with Para Swimmers, feel free to reach out to Doug Griswold ([douglasg@multi-plastics.com](mailto:douglasg@multi-plastics.com)). Next opportunity is in early June.

## Situations for Starter and Referees

The USA Swimming Rules Committee recently released updated Situations for Starters and Deck Referee to follow up the Situations for Stroke and Turn officials released in March 2018. Both of these can provide valuable reference material to assist your development as an official and be used as reference material in handling some common occurrences on deck. Both of these can be found in the Situations and Resolutions section on the USA Swimming web site under Officials Training Resources.

Below are some excerpts from the Situations for Starter and Deck Referee to assist our current certified Starters and Referees as well as those that plan advance their certification and take one of the upcoming clinics.

**Situation:** In the 200-yard backstroke, the swimmers enter the water upon the Referee's first long whistle, returning to the wall on the second-long whistle. When the swimmer in lane 7 returns to the wall, she places her feet on the wall as required by the rules, and places her hands on the starting grips on top of the block, which are intended to be used for the forward start. How should the situation be handled? **Recommended Resolution:** The rule states, "Handgrips for the forward start may be installed on the sides of the starting platforms." As the rule clearly states that these handgrips are for the forward start, they may not be used for the backstroke start. The Starter should ask that the swimmer assume a legal starting position and should not allow the race to proceed until the swimmer assumes a legal starting position. In the event that the swimmer refuses to comply, the Starter may recommend to the Referee that the swimmer be disqualified for willful disobedience of the command.

**Situation:** In the 200-yard breaststroke, the Referee asks the Starter to recall the heat, on the basis of an unfair start. The Starter is inexperienced and unfamiliar with the starting system, and is unable to recall the heat. How should the situation be handled? **Recommended Resolution:** The Referee may also attempt to use her whistle and/or a recall rope, if present, to recall the heat. In the event that the swimmers do not stop, the Referee may offer all of the swimmers in the heat the opportunity to re-swim the race. For the swimmers that choose to re-swim, only the times of their re-swims will count.

**Situation:** At a novice meet, many young swimmers are competing for the first time. When the Starter gives the "Take your mark," command, many of the swimmers are wobbly. The Starter is concerned that the swimmers are not becoming "stationary." How should the situation be handled? **Recommended Resolution:** The rule states, "When all swimmers are stationary, the Starter shall give the starting signal." Stationary does not mean motionless. Young swimmers may be wobbly at the start, and whether or not they are stationary is a judgment call made by the Starter. The Starter should certainly exercise great patience when starting these novice swimmers, but, once the Starter judges that the swimmers have become as stationary as they are going to become, given the level of meet, he should give the starting signal.

**Situation:** At a championship meet, backstroke ledges are being used during the backstroke events. The Referee determines that the Turn Judge for each lane that is positioned at the start end of the pool will observe the placement of the toes of the swimmer in his/her lane to ensure that they are in a legal starting position, and will signal to the Starter once a legal starting position has been achieved. A coach complains to the Referee, claiming that the "enforcement of the correct starting position is the responsibility of the Starter." Is the coach correct? **Recommended Resolution:** The rule states, "Enforcement of the correct starting positions the responsibility of the Starter." That being said, nothing in the rules prohibits other officials from aiding the Starter in determining that a correct starting position has been achieved. This is a decision that is made at the discretion of the Referee. Please note that as officials we observe and not inspect so that if we cannot quickly observe them in an illegal position, we should give the clearance to the Starter to start the heat and not cause undue delay to other swimmers.

**Situation:** At an LSC championship, during the finals of the 200-yard freestyle, the Starter gives the "Take your mark," command, and the swimmer in lane 4 starts well before the starting signal. The race continues without recall. After the start, the Starter approaches the Referee, with the observation of a false start in lane 5. The Referee has also independently observed and confirmed the Starter's observation of a false start in lane 5. At the end of the race, the swimmer in lane 5 is notified of the disqualification. He claims that he did not false start. His coach—as well as several other coaches in the venue—claim that the false start was called on the wrong lane. A parent even has video to prove that the Starter and Referee were incorrect! How should the situation be handled? **Recommended Resolution:** The Referee should investigate the situation. If the available evidence makes it clear that the false start was called on the wrong lane, the Referee may withdraw his observation of the false start. The swimmer in lane 4 should not be charged with the false start, as a false start in lane 4 was not observed by the Starter and independently observed and confirmed by the Referee. In any case, the Referee should not view or consider the video offered by the parent, as the rule states, "Video replay footage from cameras approved in writing in advance of the competition by the Program Operations Vice Chair may be used to review stroke or turn infractions called on deck." A video provided by a parent does not meet any of these requirements.

**Situation:** In the 400-yard individual medley, the Starter gives the "Take your mark," command, and the swimmers assume their stationary starting positions. The swimmer in lane 2 starts before the starting signal, and the Starter stands the heat. The Starter approaches the Referee with an observation of a false start in lane 2, which the Referee also independently observed and confirmed. When the Referee removes the swimmer in lane 2 from the heat, the swimmer informs the Referee that he saw a flash, which caused him to start before the starting signal. The Referee did not observe a flash himself. How should the situation be handled? **Recommended Resolution:** The Referee should quickly investigate the situation, first consulting the Starter to see if he had observed a flash. If this takes more than a moment or two, the Referee should ask the Starter to step down the heat and ask the field to relax, so as to not disrupt their competitive environment. If, given the information available, the Referee determines that there was, in fact, a flash, she should allow the swimmer to swim with the heat. If she cannot confirm that there was, in fact, a flash, the swimmer should be disqualified for a false start and removed from the heat. The Referee cannot overturn the disqualification simply because the swimmer claims to have seen a flash, as it would set a precedent that could not be sustainably continued.

Situation: In the 50-yard freestyle, the swimmers in all lanes become stationary following the "Take your mark," command. The swimmer in lane 4 starts before the starting signal. The Starter recalls the heat, and upon returning to the start end, the Referee blows the long whistle, signaling for the swimmers to step up onto the blocks. The coach of one of the other swimmers in the heat approaches the Referee, claiming that the false start in lane 4 was clear to everyone and that the Starter recalled the heat intentionally. Should the swimmer in lane 4 be allowed to swim? Recommended Resolution: While a race can be recalled for an unfair start, by rule it is not recalled for a false start, as the rules direct, in the event of a false start, "If the starting signal has been given before the disqualification is declared, the race shall continue without recall." Therefore, even though the Starter recalled the race in reaction to the false start, it is considered to be an inadvertent recall, as the recall should not have taken place. The rule states, "If the recall signal is activated inadvertently, no swimmer shall be charged with a false start." The swimmer in lane 4 should not be charged with a false start and should be allowed to swim.

Situation: During the 100-yard backstroke, a swimmer chooses to utilize the backstroke ledge. While all of her toes are in contact with the ledge, none of her toes are in contact with the touchpad or end wall. Is this legal? Recommended Resolution: No, this is not legal. The rule states, "When using a backstroke ledge at the start, the toes of both feet must be in contact with the end wall or face of the touchpad." USA Swimming's interpretation of the rule requires that, in this case, "the toes of both feet" is defined as one toe of each foot.

Situation: After the start of the 200-yard breaststroke, the Referee hears a second beep come from the electronic starting system. Several of the swimmers in the heat stop swimming and look around before continuing the race, while some swimmers continue swimming. How should the situation be handled? Recommended Resolution: The Referee should ask the Starter to recall the heat. This is one of the situations where it is very beneficial for the Starter to have the microphone in a ready position with the microphone key depressed after a start, as it will allow him to readily signal a recall. In the event that the heat is not recalled, the Referee may offer all of the swimmers in the heat the option to re-swim the race. Any swimmers that choose to re-swim will have the times from the re-swims replace the times from their original swims.

Situation: In the 200-yard individual medley, the Starter gives the "Take your mark," command and gives the starting signal. The swimmer in lane 1 starts before the starting signal. Meanwhile, the swimmers in lane 7 and 8 do not start, as they could not hear the commands and starting signal due to a speaker malfunction. The Referee asks the Starter to recall the heat, on the basis of the speaker malfunction causing an unfair start. The Referee also independently observes and confirms the Starter's observation of a false start in lane 1. When the swimmers make their way back to the start end, the Referee removes the swimmer in lane 1 from the heat, as she determines the false start to be independent of the speaker malfunction. Is this correct? Recommended Resolution: A heat may be recalled if the start is considered to be unfair. It cannot be considered to be fair to some swimmers and unfair to others. If the heat is recalled, the swimmer in lane 1 should receive the benefit of the doubt and be allowed to swim with the heat.

Situation: In the 400-yard individual medley, a Starter recalls a heat because she determines that the start was unfair. The swimmers in lanes 2 and 4 stop as soon as the recall signal is activated, the swimmers in lanes 3 and 7 stop after swimming 50 yards, and the swimmers in lanes 1, 5, 6, and 8 continue swimming and do not stop. How should the situation be handled? Recommended Resolution: If the swimmers in lanes 1, 5, 6, and 8 do not respond to the recall following an effort to recall the swimmers, the Referee should allow them to continue swimming. After they have finished swimming, the Referee should gather all of the swimmers in the heat, along with their coaches, and offer all of the swimmers in the heat the opportunity to re-swim the race. For any swimmer who elects to re-swim the race, only the time from the re-swim will count.

Situation: At a local senior meet, the adjustable back plate on the lane 1 starting block malfunctions midway through the preliminaries of the 100-yard butterfly and cannot be fixed. How should the situation be handled? Recommended Resolution: If one adjustable back plate becomes inoperable, the adjustable back plates must be removed from all of the blocks to provide a fair competitive environment for the swimmers. The Referee should ask the facility personnel to remove the adjustable back plates from all of the starting blocks. The preliminaries should be continued without the adjustable back plates on the blocks. The swimmers in previous heats should not be required to re-swim without the adjustable back plate, and their times achieved should remain unchanged. If the adjustable back plate is later fixed and/or a replacement adjustable back plate is found, it should not be introduced midway through the event, but may be used for subsequent events and during finals.

Situation: In the 50-yard freestyle, the Referee notices, after the start, that the electronic timing system did not automatically start. As a result, he asks the Starter to recall the heat. Is this correct procedure? Recommended Resolution: No, this is not correct procedure. The rules provide a means for integrating and adjusting backup times, in the event of a timing system malfunction affecting an entire heat. The Referee should instruct the timing system operator to manually start the system, allowing the Administrative Official/Referee to adjust and integrate the times using the method provided in the rules.

## **Other Swimming Meets Opportunities**

Another competition event for USA Swimming is Open Water. Traditionally, this occurs during the summer months and there are limited opportunities for USA Swimming sanctioned events. However, these meets are always looking for volunteer officials to assist in the operation of the meets. The roles for Open Water swimming meets are both similar and different but the primary goal is the safety of the swimmers during the event. If you are interested in finding out more information, feel free to reach out to Ed Miller (caefmilleriii@msn.com) or Christopher Barry ([Accebarry@verizon.net](mailto:Accebarry@verizon.net)) for more information.

## NJ Swimming Meet Schedule (May 2019 through August 2019)

(All meets LCM unless noted)

Meet Name	Meet Location	Level	
May			
4	BAC Spring Invite	BAC COE	Silver/Gold
5	BAC Robin Hood Sprints	BAC COE	Silver/Bronze
11	MYM May Warm Up LC Meet	Rutgers University	Standards
17-19	PTAC Tiger Challenge	Princeton University	Standards
18	HAC Spring Sprints	Seton Hall University	SCY – Standards
19	OCY IMX Extreme	Ocean County YMCA	SCY – None
24-26	BAC Memorial Day Invite – Closed	BAC COE	P/F - Meet Cuts
25-26	SCAR Memorial Day	Rutgers University	P/F - Meet Cuts

June			
1	SCAR Heat Madness	Rutgers University	None
1	PPST Piranha Spring Splash	John Witherspoon School	None
2	MAY Bring the Heat	Rutgers University	Standards
8-9	HACY Summer Solstice	Rutgers University	Standards
8-9	XCEL Meet of Excellence	Princeton University	Standards
9	BAC Rubber Ducky	BAC COE	Silver/Bronze
14	BAC Friday Night Lights #1	BAC COE	None
15	MYM Summer Sunshine	Rutgers University	Standards
14-16	SVY LC Cup Championships – Closed	Princeton University	YMCA - Standards
15-16	EEX Miles, Middies and Mini	College of New Jersey	None
15-16	SCAR SC Summer Blast	Newark Academy	None
21	BAC Friday Night Lights #2	BAC COE	None
28	BAC Friday Night Lights #3	BAC COE	None
28-30	EEX Summer Sizzle	Rutgers University	P/F - Meet Cuts

July			
5-7	SVY LC Independence Day	Rutgers University	Standards
6-7	SCAR LC Summer Luau	Princeton University	Standards
12-14	NJS BAC LC Silver-Bronze	BAC COE	Silver/Bronze
12-14	NJS BB LC Silver-Bronze	Rutgers University	Silver/Bronze
12-14	NJS HACY LC Silver-Bronze	Princeton University	Silver/Bronze
19-21	BAC LC Summer Championships	BAC COE	Meet Cuts – P/F
25-28	NJS/SCAR LC Junior Olympics	Rutgers University	Gold – P/F

### USA Swimming and YMCA National Championship and Eastern Zone Schedule Summer 2019

Host	Dates	Meet	Applications.	Location	Course
USA	5/3-5	USA Open Water National/Jr. Nationals	Closed	Miami, Florida	OW
USA	5/16-19	USA TYR Pro Series #4	Closed	Bloomington, Indiana	LCM
USA	6/12-15	USA TYR Pro Series #5	Closed	Clovis, California	LCM
ZONE	6/29	Eastern Zone Open Water Championships	Open	Middlebury, Connecticut	OW
ZONE	7/18-21	Eastern Zone LC Super Sectional (OQM)	Open	Rutgers, New Jersey	SCY
YMCA	7/30-8/3	YMCA LC National Championships	Open	College Park, Maryland	LCM
USA	7/31-8/4	USA Swimming Summer Nationals	Closed	Palo Alto, California	LCM
ZONE	8/1-4	Eastern Zone Senior Championships	Open	Buffalo, New York	LCM
USA	8/1-4	USA Swimming Futures Championships	Open	Geneva, Ohio	LCM
USA	8/6-10	USA Swimming Summer Junior Nationals	Closed	Palo Alto, California	LCM
ZONE	8/7-10	Eastern Zone LC Age Group Championships	Open	Richmond, Virginia	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. The officials listed (and some pictured) below volunteered at one or more of the following meets – Spring SC or LC Eastern Sectionals, SC Eastern Zones, Arena Pro Series. Some officials were in assigned positions (Chief Judge, Starter or Referee) during the meet.

Karen Balasny - JFAC  
Christopher Barry - UN  
Walter Benzija - JFAC

Frank Fitzgerald – EEX  
Valerie Gibson -LHY  
Louis Hu - LHY

Alex Kolarov - BAC  
Jae Lee - SCAR  
Bach Lequang - HACY

Gregory Spicka - GMY  
Gretchen VandeWalle - LHY  
Ray Wong - BB

In addition, NJ sent 18 dual certified YMCA/USA-S officials to work at YMCA Nationals in Greensboro, NC, constituting 20% of the deck officials. Officials working were Lynn Alexy, John Bernauer, Gina Capizza, Bob Donnelly, Chuck Dougherty (formerly NJ), Ed Eckels, Val Gibson, Sonja Hood, Chris Jung, Bach Lequang, Mike McGowan, Ed Miller, Alma Rinkus, Roni Sawin, Steve Sawin, Judy Sharkey, Melissa Thompson and Bill Tucker.

Finally, thanks to the fine officials that assisted at the Tri-State Disability Swim Meet host by the Children's Hospital at Rutgers in March pictured below and to Chuck Dougherty (formerly NJ/LHY) who was in attendance at the TYR Pro Series meet in January.

For those that plan to travel to upcoming Eastern Zone or USA Swimming National Meets during the summer, hope you enjoy the experience and bring back something to apply in the LSC and picture of the NJ Official attendees. If I missed anyone in the above or you have pictures from a meet, please forward along for inclusion in the next newsletter.



**WAY TO GO NEW JERSEY OFFICIALS!!**

**HAVE A GREAT SUMMER LONG COURSE SEASON AND LOOK FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER  
IN LATE SEPTEMBER PRIOR TO THE START OF THE 2019-20 SC SEASON**