



**NEW  
JERSEY  
SWIMMING**

## **New Jersey Officials Newsletter – Dec. 2017**

### **Volume 1 – Issue 2**

Officials Chairman – Ed Miller

Editor – Christopher Barry

### **Foreword from the Editor**

We are two months into the busy fall season with 26 meets completed by the end of November. In addition, there were 29 clinics offered for new and re-certifying officials. Hopefully you have all sent your renewals in and are set for the 2018 calendar year. 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.

At some recently attended meets, it has been great to see so many officials volunteering for the benefit of others. Attending a Mini Meet and 10U Silver/Bronze without a swimmer provided me with a greater opportunity to meet with many of my fellow officials while working a session. I know that we all have busy schedules, but try to work a session or two during the remainder of the SC season without a swimmer in tow at our entry level meets and hopefully you will also find it rewarding as well (as I know many of you already do).

As mentioned previously, the aim of the Newsletter will be 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 the 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 season.

### **Information from the Officials' Committee**

The Officials Committee is pleased to announce that they will be implementing a Chief Judge Training and Certification Program. In the spring, they will be offering a program to train and certify chief judges. This program will offer another option for officials looking to pursue their officiating careers beyond the stroke & turn level. It will also become a requirement for potential new Referees. Attending the Chief Judge training session will meet the clinic requirement for re-certifying Starters and Stroke & Turn officials. Bruce Petersen is currently finalizing the draft of the training materials, which will then be reviewed and approved by the Officials Committee. Watch the website for more information early in the spring.

In addition, the Officials' Committee is in the process of updating the Apprentice Referee and Starter Observation Programs. The Committee recently approved some changes to the apprentice observation programs to try to ensure that apprentice referees and starters get the experience they need from the program. The Committee identified a number of key areas of necessary experience for each group. The Committee also voted to require that all observations cannot be solely from meets run by the candidate's home club, and that the candidate must have at least three recommendations for full certification, including one from a member of the Officials Committee or one of the other approved observers. Eric Schott is currently updating and revising the forms to facilitate the Referee process while Bruce Petersen is working on the Starter process. Again, watch the website for more information early in the spring along in conjunction with the Spring training clinics.

Lastly, here's some additional information from the USA Swimming Convention. Clerical errors on the DQ slip (e.g., infraction occurred at the turn but the DQ slip says during the swim, heat and lane are correct but the CJ wrote down the wrong name, etc.) does not automatically overturn the DQ. There is no specific requirement for a DQ slip in the rules; it is merely a means to record the information concerning an infraction. Clerical errors can and should be corrected. However, when there is doubt as to the heat and lane, or as to the nature of the DQ, and that doubt cannot be resolved, then the DQ should be overturned.

## **Being a Successful Meet Referee**

### Extracted from the USA Swimming Officials Committees

Here are the 6 Ps to being a successful Meet Referee but there are items in here that can help all of us.

1. Philosophy - Provide a safe and fair competitive venue for all in attendance • Be a leader – this is the number one ingredient to having a successful meet • Have a well thought out plan • Explain the plan in detail to your leadership team. Let them execute the plan! • Stay out of the way unless your skills are needed • Suggest and guide – don't take over! • Make it FUN – critical when you are dealing with young swimmers and parents.

2. Priorities –

- Athletes – Always your first priority. The competition is for and about them.
- Coaches - Number one support group for athletes. Unhappy coaches make for a long, tense meet.
- Everyone Else.

3. Preparation, [P]reparation, and [P]reparation

- Work with the meet director early in the process.
- Site preparation – Know the venue and its challenges and opportunities.
- Try and recruit a strong leadership team. But mix in new people or people in new positions.
- Important information for Coaches - Start times for sessions - Unusual procedures - Flyover starts? - Flighted sessions? - 50 free start end? - Swim-off procedures - Check-in procedures - Scratch procedures (and consequences) – Meet Juries - Water temperature - Why? It shows you have considered just about everything or Anything else where an athlete could have a problem.
- Officials Meeting - Outline duties and expectations for all assigned officials by position & a couple of other thoughts - Avoid being the star of the show - Be a LEADER, not a DICTATOR.

4. Practical

- Use your common sense - All solutions to problems are not in the rulebook. Apply your life's experience. Don't reinvent the wheel!
- You are not God! - Others are just as smart as you and some may have a better idea. Use your resources including other officials, coaches, etc.
- Be open and honest - No one likes surprises, coaches least of all - A meet problem affects everyone. Involve them all in critical decisions - Only set precedents that you are prepared to live with - They (your precedents) could follow you forever - Avoid unusual solutions to routine problems - With experience you'll recognize the routine problems.

5. Proactive - Think ahead – know your potential problems and have a solution ready - Weather - Emergencies - Protest - Discourage CLIQUES and anything else that destroys unity - Respect everyone in their role in a successful meet - Remember – stroke & turn judging is where the swimmer meets the water.

6. Pliant - Flexibility is a must! - Things sometimes change – you must adjust - Don't be afraid to reverse yourself where you have made an error. Everyone makes honest mistakes.

### **Patience (too important for a number!)**

Be patient when working with the athletes. Remember the competition is for them - Be patient when working with the coaches. Remember they are who the athletes look to for guidance - Be patient when working with officials. Remember they are volunteers - Be patient when working with the meet director and his/her team of volunteers.

And that's all there is to it! Except remember to Have Fun! But not so much that the quality of the meet is compromised.

## Meet Your Officials Committee

Ed Miller, Chair and Certification Coordinator

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## Officials advancing to Starter and Referee so far, this fall

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

### New Starters

Barbara Kuhn	BB	Josh Lake	MCSC	Sun-Jae (Tom) Lee	RBY	Sandi Rushevics	SVY
Ed Smith	NJRC	Long Yang	BAC				

### New Referees

Kohar Boyadjian	SKYY	Alex Kolarov	BAC	Simon Lee	BAC		
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## Updates to NJ Swimming Rules from Fall HOD

At the fall NJ Swimming HOD meeting on October 7<sup>th</sup>, NJ Swimming implemented a "Tech Suit" policy for 12 and under swimmers. Under such policy, swimmers 12 years old and younger may not compete in a "Tech Suit" in a New Jersey Swimming, Inc. sanctioned or approved meet. Age is determined by the first day of the meet. There is no "Tech Suit" restriction for swimmers age 13 & Over. A "Tech Suit" is defined as a suit that has bonded seams, Kinetic Tape, or Meshed Seams. Rule Enforcement - Swimmers who are wearing restricted suits will not be permitted to compete in said suit. However, they are able to change into an acceptable suit to swim. No extra time before their race will be given to change suits. If there is any question about a suit, it should be addressed to the Meet Referee prior to the start of the session. Coaches and Officials will be responsible for monitoring the "Tech Suit" Policy. Coaches need to educate their teams and be willing to speak up if they see a swimmer with a "Tech Suit" at a meet. Officials should have the list of restricted suits available for reference. A list of banned and acceptable suits is posted on the NJ Swimming web site - <https://www.teamunify.com/NewsShow.jsp?returnPage=/News.jsp&id=585778&team=eznjslsc>

## 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 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.

We understand that there may need to be time to be a parent but let your coaches' coach your children. If you need a break to attend to parental responsibilities, seek out the relief official or CJ and ask if that can be arranged for you to short break. Work with the other officials on the team so that everyone enjoys the same opportunities, when possible. While we are there to enforce the rules, we are also there to provide customer service in providing the opportunities for the swimmers to swim. Look for ways, within the rules to allow a swimmer to swim or help them understand why the rules exist or DQ was made. Try not to hinder their development and also be learning and developing to be better officials. Stay positive, friendly and enjoy the company of others. Exhibiting positive energy just might help a swimmer achieve their goal.

## **NJ Swimming Meet Schedule (December 2017 through March 2018)**

	Meet Name	Meet Location	Meet Referee	Level
<b>December</b>				
15-17	EEX 31 <sup>st</sup> Holiday Classic Invite	Rutgers University	Bill Tucker	P/F – Meet Cuts
16	BAC December Invitational	BAC COE	Christopher Barry	Meet Cuts
17	OCY 1000/1650 Distance Meet	Ocean County YMCA	Andrew Schober	None
<b>January</b>				
5-7	SVY New Year's Splash	Raritan Valley CC	T. Pearce/R. Sawin/S. Sawin	None
6-7	SCAR Winterfest	Rutgers	Perry Novak	None
6	BAC Blizzard Swim Meet	BAC COE	Christopher Barry/Resty Rivera	Silver/Bronze
7	PPST Snowball Mini Meet	Witherspoon School	Robin Meirs	8 and Under
7	PPST Piranha Mile Swim Meet	Witherspoon School	Robin Meirs	None
12-14	BAC LC Invitational-Closed	Rutgers University	Christopher Barry	P/F – Meet Cuts
12-14	HCY Stingray Splash	Raritan Bay Area YMCA	Bart Fellin	Closed Approved
19-21	PTAC Winter Invitational	Princeton University	Bach Lequang	None
21	SCAR Artic 12U Swim Meet	Raritan Valley CC	Dan Bibb	None
26-28	NJS/PPST 14U Junior States	Witherspoon School	Robin Meirs	P/F – Meet Cuts
27-28	CBGC Winter Cup	Clifton Boys & Girls	Ed Miller	None
27-28	BAC Pro Bowl Invitational	BAC COE	Zhongxu Lu	None
<b>February</b>				
2-3	NJ Swimming 12O Senior States	Rutgers	TBD	Meet Cuts
10	MB February Sprint Swim Meet	Neptune Aquatic	Bill Tucker	None
10	JFAC Sprint for Gold	Secaucus Swim Center	Bach Lequang/Louis Hu	None
10	BAC February Splash Swim Meet	BAC COE	Christopher Barry	None
10-11	BB Will You BB Mine Swim Meet	Raritan Valley CC	Ray Wong	None
11	SCAR Heart of Gold	Lyndhurst	Dan Bibb	None
17-18	NJS/BAC 12U S/B Champs-North 1	BAC COE	Zhongxu Lu/Resty Rivera	Sil/Bronze
17-18	NJS/SCAR 12U S/B Champs-Central 1	Newark Academy	Louis Hu/John Cuilla	Sil/Bronze
23	BAC Salmon Run Swim Meet	BAC COE	Zhongxu Lu	None
24-25	NJS/PPST 12U S/B Champs-South	Witherspoon School	Robin Meirs	Sil/Bronze
24-25	NJS/SCAR 12U S/B Champs-North 2	Raritan Valley CC	Dan Bibb	Sil/Bronze
24-25	NJS/CAT 12U S/B Champs-Central 2	Secaucus Swim Center	John Butler	Sil/Bronze
24-25	NJS/BAC 13O Silver Champs-North	BAC COE	Christopher Barry	Silver
24-25	NJS/??? 13O Silver Champs-South	Pending Bid	TBD	Pending Bid
<b>March</b>				
3-4	NJS/PAA 10U State Championships	Peddie School	Ed Fago	Gold
9-11	NJS/SCAR 14U Junior Olympics	Rutgers	John Cuilla	Gold
12	BAC Monday Mayhem	BAC COE	TBD	Meet Cuts
15-18	NJS/BAC Senior Championships	BAC COE	Christopher Barry	Meet Cuts
17-18	NJS/??? 13O Bronze Championships	Pending Bid	TBD	Pending Bid

## **Rules Questions and Answers**

As a follow-up to the change in the rules for Freestyle swim during the IM and Medley, here is a question proposed to the YMCA Officials Committee and the response from Jay Thomas, Chair, USA-S Rules and Regulation Committee.

Question - Since the rule now requires the swimmer to be on the breast except during turns, does that mean they are not permitted to stand on the bottom during freestyle portion of the stroke in the IM and Medley Relay? The two things seem contradictory; first, one is not on the breast if standing and second Rule 102.22.5 allows standing during a freestyle race; doesn't that apply to medley events or does it mean only freestyle events?

Answer - Regarding whether standing during the freestyle leg of the Individual Medley or Medley Relay is permitted, the wording "standing on the bottom during any other stroke" is important. The Individual Medley is not a stroke – it is an event. One of the strokes in that IM or Medley Relay is Freestyle – so the Freestyle rules apply – including being able to stand. In consulting the FINA Manual in SW10.5 "Standing on the bottom during freestyle events including the freestyle portion of the medley events shall not disqualify a swimmer...." So clearly standing during the freestyle in the IM or Medley Relay is permitted and we will be consistent with that. Regarding standing being not toward the breast – based on FINA's rule SW10.5 - in that it permits standing – so that would not be a violation.

### **Questions:**

During a 50-yard Freestyle event, a swimmer does their flip turn and enters the lane next to them. Shortly after the turn but prior to surfacing, the swimmer realizes their mistake and goes under the lane line to finish the event in their original lane. Is there a violation?

During a 50-yard Butterfly event, a swimmer comes to the turn and after touching with two hands simultaneous, does a flip turn and leaves the wall toward their breast. Is there a violation?

During a 50-yard Backstroke event, a swimmer at the start has their toes above the gutter which goes unnoticed by the Starter and Referee. At the start, they curl their toes above the gutter and leave the wall. Is there a violation?

During a 50-yard Breaststroke event, a swimmer after entering the water, realizes their goggles were not pulled down to cover their eyes. After completing the turn with a simultaneous two-hand touch, the swimmer stands on the bottom of the pool and fixes their goggles and then leaves from the wall toward their breast. Is there a violation?

### **Answers:**

The answers to all of the above are generally No. There are circumstances that can be added to the above to cause a violation but none of these are given the information. For example, the answer to the first scenario might be different if the swimmer interfered with the other swimmer. We need to remember to observe and follow the rules and remember that "shall" means the swimmer must execute that requirement while "may" does not pose that requirement. So, the swimmer who interferes with another swimmer, doing a flip turn prior to touch in Butterfly or Breaststroke, a swimmer in the proper starting position who then moves to an improper starting position or a swimmer who leaves from the bottom of the pool would all be violations. Something unusual during the swim does not necessarily mean that a swimmer violated a stroke rule – remember to give the benefit of doubt to the swimmer and not look for potential violations.

## **Officials Qualifying Meets**

NJ Swimming and the Officials Committee are providing an opportunity for officials to further develop their skills and be evaluated for USA Swimming National level certifications. For those attending and being evaluated for such National certifications at the EEX Holiday Classic from December 15-17, thank you for looking to expand your knowledge and hope you enjoy the experience. At this time, the Committee cannot accept any further requests for observation.

For those interested in traveling, there will be a OQM in Allegheny Mountain, which will take place at the University of Pittsburgh on December 14-17, 2017. Below is a link to our application to officiate, which includes information on how to apply for N2 or N3 evaluations. They are still accepting requests for N2 and N3 evaluations and their evaluators are Bill Rose from Sierra Nevada LSC and Scott Wilshire from Allegheny Mountain LSC. Sign up here:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSFVSP11IXj6YMQjQc34TbC3AVtI6M3btwOkILT31WktAYT7Q/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSFVSP11IXj6YMQjQc34TbC3AVtI6M3btwOkILT31WktAYT7Q/viewform?usp=sf_link)

For those that traveled to a USA Swimming National Meets in December, hope you enjoyed the experience and brought back something to apply in the LSC and picture of the NJ Official attendees. Below please find the list of remaining meets schedule for the 2017-18 season.

# **USA Swimming National Championship and Eastern Zone Schedule**

## **January 2018 to Summer 2018**

Host	Dates	Meet	Applications	Location	Course
USA	1/12-14	Arena Pro Series #1 – Austin, Texas	Closed	Austin, Texas	LCM
ZONE	1/26-28	USA Swimming IMX Games -Eastern Zone	Pending	U. of Maryland	SCY
USA	3/1-3	Arena Pro Series #2 – Atlanta, Ga.	Closed	Atlanta, Georgia	LCM
ZONE	3/22-25	Eastern Sectionals – North	Pending	Ithaca, NY	SCY
ZONE	3/22-25	Eastern Sectionals – South	Pending	Christiansburg, Va.	SCY
ZONE	3/22-25	Eastern Super Sectionals	Pending	Buffalo, NY	LCM
ZONE	3/29-31	Eastern Zone SC Age Group Championships	Pending	Webster, NY	SCY
USA	4/12-14	Arena Pro Series #3 – Mesa, Arizona	Closed	Mesa, Arizona	LCM
USA	5/4-6	Open Water National & Jr. National Champs	Open	Tempe, Arizona	OW
USA	5/17-20	Arena Pro Series #4 – Indianapolis, Indiana	1/17/2018	Indianapolis, Indiana	LCM
USA	6/14-17	Arena Pro Series #5 – Santa Clara, Ca.	2/14/2018	Santa Clara, California	LCM
USA	7/12-15	Arena Pro Series #6 – Columbus, Oh.	3/6/2018	Columbus, Ohio	LCM
USA	7/25-29	USA Swimming Summer Nationals	Pending	Irvine, California	LCM
USA	7/31-8/4	USA Swimming Summer Junior Nationals	Pending	Irvine, California	LCM
ZONE	8/2-5	Eastern Zone Senior Championships	Pending	Buffalo, NY	LCM
USA	8/2-5	USA Swimming Futures Championships-East	Pending	Richmond, Va.	LCM
ZONE	8/8-11	Eastern Zone LC Age Group Championships	Pending	Richmond, Va.	LCM

## **Registration Reminder and Process**

It is that time of the year for everyone to update their USA Swimming non-athlete membership and registration. In addition, you may need to update all or part of your non-deck certification requirements. Hopefully you all have completed your on-deck requirements and can proceed with renewing your membership. For those that still need sessions to complete their 2017 NJ requirements (either certified or apprentice), there are still nine meets in December. Please see the listing of upcoming NJ SC meets earlier in this newsletter. More detailed information on meets can be found on the NJ Swimming web site. If you require your Athlete Protection or Background Screening updated prior to year-end - 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.

For those that still are required to attend a clinic (and then pass the necessary exams), there will be two more clinics this year, both on December 14, 2017: at the Berkeley Center of Excellence in New Providence at 7 pm for stroke & turn officials; and at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood HS at 7pm for referees and starters (this will also be a YMCA Level II class). The instructors will be Bruce Petersen ([BPeter8559@mac.com](mailto:BPeter8559@mac.com)) for the clinic at BAC and Judy Sharkey ([JmSharkey@aol.com](mailto:JmSharkey@aol.com)) for the clinic at Scotch Plains-Fanwood HS. Please reach out to them to confirm your attendance prior to the 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 2014 and August 2015, you are in need of a clinic this fall.

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. Included below are the links to the USA Swimming Web Site for the Background Screening and Athlete Protection information.

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>

**LOOK FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IN LATE MARCH – EARLY APRIL IN  
PREPARATION FOR LC SEASON**