



## **Officials Chair Report**

### **Niagara LSC Fall 2017 House of Delegates Meeting**

**2017 October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

### **OTS**

1. If it isn't in the OTS, it didn't happen.
2. The new USA Swimming website seems to have just about all the bugs worked out, and there is a search field now! For many of us it was a learning curve to find things, but it is "growing on me". It is a great resource, so please use it.
3. If you are on your phone (Google or iPhone) the deck pass app it still only shows Membership Info, but if you bookmark the "DECK PASS" page of the website all your Certifications show up also.
4. As always: Referees, or Designated Sign In PLEASE, check certification cards to validate expiration date before each session of a meet. There are still occurrences of Officials being on deck with expired certifications, background checks, or APTs.
5. I have created a form fill for those referee's that cannot "create a meet" that makes life easier for everyone. If you have not received an e-mail version which can be auto filled, send me a note.
6. If you are a newer Referee and would like to take the next step to be able to enter your own meets into OTS, please reach out to Brooks Howard to schedule individual training.

### **Out and About**

The following Niagara Officials stepped, or will be stepping, outside of the home court:

Brooks Howard attended the National Officials Chairs Meeting in Houston. Very valuable guidance for observation, coaching, mentoring was learned.

Fred Leff officiated at Junior Nationals on Long Island, NY in August.

Brooks Howard officiated at the US Open and Junior Nationals on Long Island in August.

Jim Stromski, acting as General Chair, Leo Gibbons, acting as Safe Sport Chair and Brooks Howard as Officials Chair all attended the Aquatic Sports Convention in Dallas in September.

## **Official Certification and USA Membership**

There seems to always be concerns with the difference between Non-Athlete Membership and Officials Certification. Just a reminder that all the expiration dates are important and must be up to date!!

As a certified Official, you need to be aware of these so that your USA Swimming membership AND officiating certifications to make sure you do not lapse. What you need to know:

Official's Certifications expire on 12/31 of the year of your renewal.

Non-Athlete Membership's expire on 12/31 every year.

Background check (BGC) and Athlete Protection Training (APT) vary on an individual basis.

All of the dates are shown on the card that gets sent out of the OTS, and on the Deck Pass page of USA Swimming when you are logged in.

## **Our Numbers**

The number of certified Niagara LSC Officials is 292 up from 284 in May.

The average team has a 4.96 % ratio of athletes to officials (down from 5.23% ratio in May). The target and minimum level should be 5% so we are still right there. Teams should strive to achieve that level of Officials. Currently 20 teams exceed this target, and 31 teams are "below average" but have some Officials, and 17 (down from 21) of those teams not having any officials.

We currently have 49 Officials that hold National Certification(s) broken down:

27 N2 and 22 N3 Stroke and Turns

17 N2 and 2 N3 CJs

14 N2 and 4 N3 Starters

4 N2 and 4 N3 Referees

1 N2 Admin Referee

## **New Requirements for Advancing to Starter and Referee**

As of October 1, 2017, changes were made to the certification, advancement, and recertification process. The new requirements were put into place after much research and discussion. The believe is we have addressed the longer time frame it takes to become a Starter and then to Referee while maintaining the required need for experience and knowledge. The details are posted on the Officials page of the Niagara website.

## **Team App across the LSC**

The mobile app for all meets in the LSC have been vetted by the Officials Committee and we are moving forward with its use. Our plan is to ask for each area of the LSC to help maintain meet data. During the upcoming season the transition will include email communication via the google group also.

## **Discussion topics for HOD Meeting:**

Rule changes approved at Convention

Rule clarification(s)

Observation Meets

Master's Meets

Apprentice Official Track to be Discontinued??