



Officials Chair Report

Niagara LSC Fall 2018 House of Delegates Meeting

September 23rd , 2018

Our Numbers

The number of certified Niagara LSC Officials is 308, up from 298 last spring, and up from 284 in May 2017.

The average team has a 5.41% ratio of athletes to officials (down from 5.69% ratio in Spring 2018). The target and minimum level should be 5% so we are still a bit above! YES!

Teams should strive to achieve that level of Officials or more.

Currently 27 (up from 24) teams exceed this target, and 26 (same) teams are “below average” but have some Officials, and 24 (up from 18) of those teams not having any officials. We also have 6 new teams.

We currently have 48 (down from 60) Officials that hold National Certification(s) broken down:

20 (29) N2 and 25 (24) N3 Stroke and Turns

13 (17) N2 and 2 N3 CJs

12 (18) N2 and 5 N3 Starters

5 (8) N2 and 5 N3 Referees

1 N2 Admin Referee

*last spring’s in (#) if changed

That means we have gained Officials overall, but we lost some National Level folks; some due to expiring and some due to “retirement”.

Thank you ALL N2 and N3 Officials for taking the time, the effort overcoming the nerves to better your skills and make the LSC a better place to be mentored.

We have 3 major meets next spring late March, early April along with our own LSC Championship meet available to renew evaluations and do new position evaluations. We already have 3 of the best National up to N3 Mentors lined up in Barbara Chambers, Bill Rose and Jack Dowling for those meets.

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.

Open Water

Niagara has added some addition Open Water Officials, we now have 6 Open Water Referees and an additional 3 Open Water Judges. Thank you to all those that took the time to certify in these new positions!!

Please consider pursuing these positions; as we continue to host more Open Water events we will need more help! (And it may get you a few fun boat rides)

Out and About

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

Fred Leff, Matty Matuszewski, Jean LaLomia, June Mundt, Anne Marie St. Rose, Mike Burgess, Jim Stromski and Brooks Howard all worked National Level Meets in the past year. Thanks to all for supporting those meets and representing the LSC.

Sharlene Ransford attended the National We ARRE Mentors Workshop and has already put her new skills to work at LC Championships.

Mike Burgess Is attending the National Referee Workshop next month in Texas and I am sure will learn a lot to bring back to the LSC.

Leo Gibbons as Safety Chair, Brooks Howard as Officials Chair, and Jim Stromski as General Chair will be traveling to the annual convention next week. We hope to gain knowledge and offer those tidbits and ideas back to Niagara.

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.

Re-Certification

A quick reminder that all re-Certification cycles are now 3 years, including AO. That means if you should take a look at your Deck Pass, and if your certification (NOT APT, BGC or Registration) expires on 12/31/2018 you need to find a clinic and retake the required exam(s) before the end of the year. All Clinics will be posted in Team App under the "Events" Tab.

If you and/or your team wishes to host a clinic, please reach out to Brooks Howard to coordinate. The basic need is a private room with a projection system or Large Video screen and access to WIFI or direct internet connection.

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 belief 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.

Please Note: If you are a fairly new Stroke and Turn, the year of learning flies by!! Check your away from home and your Team's Referee sessions so you can check those boxes and move up to Starter!! Reach Out to Brooks Howard if you have any questions

Team App in the LSC

Overall, the Team App use is starting to be a bit more accepted and used. With anything new, there are growing pains and miscommunications. Thanks to all that are out there promoting it and offering feedback so we can make it better.

Some tips:

Events are things like Clinics, Meetings, and anything else Not a Meet

Meets can be viewed in chronological order by clicking the “all entries” at the top.

Meets that are “published” are added automatically. (no form needed)

Meets that are “closed” will not be added to Team App unless a request form (in the doc section) is received.

To RSVP just click the yes, maybe, or no button. (this CAN be changed if something changes)

If you need to tell the Meet Referee something, DO NOT do it in the comment section, open a direct chat in the chat room to that person. Those replies can be seen by EVERYONE and lead to some folks not liking the App.

We are changing the way we add meets this year based upon your feedback and the committee discussions. We are no longer sending notifications when the meet gets set up. You will now only receive a “reminder” notice on the Monday Night that is about two weeks before the first session of a meet.

Example: A 3 session meet starts on Friday October 5th, all three sessions will send sign up reminders on Monday September 24th at approximately 7:00 PM.

If you take a minute to RSVP at some point that evening, that eliminates a lot of stress on meet hosts, Meet Directors and Meet Referees.

Thank you to the Committee:

One of my goals as Chair has been to formalize the Committee and get feedback from different places and perspectives. I do not want to be making decisions in a vacuum. The Group has been a wonderful resource to me, but more importantly, the Officials in the LSC.

Thanks to: Adam, Ann, Bob, Deborah, Fred, Jerry Jim, June, Katherine, Matty, Paul, Pete, Sharlene and Taylor for everything you do!

LSC Official's Chair Election and Committee Openings

Thank you to all that voted me for an additional term as Officials Chair!! I appreciate the confidence and support.

I will continue to do the best I can to represent a very diverse area segmented LSC.

As we have been able to formalize our Committee somewhat in the past two years, there are a couple of things I would strive to attain.

I would still like to add a couple of newer Officials; a year or two at Stroke and Turn to offer that perspective.

Additionally, we NEED Athlete participation, so if you know of an athlete that can commit to a few phone call meetings during the year, please have them reach out to Brooks Howard.

Discussion topics for HOD Meeting:

Mentoring of New Officials Who is eligible?

CJ Clinic Online When and where?

Recognition of Officials Time served pins? Bells? Whistles?

National Certification Demystifying it.

Recruitment How can the Official's Committee help?

If you have a topic for discussion in addition to these, please reach out ASAP, but also know that the Meeting will be an open forum for a least a portion of the time. Please feel free to ask, make statements and share.