



Officials Chair Report

Niagara LSC Spring 2018 House of Delegates Meeting

June 10th, 2018

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:

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

Leo Gibbons as Safety Chair, Brooks Howard as Officials Chair (if reelected) and Jim Stromski as General Chair will be traveling to the annual convention this fall.

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.

Our Numbers

The number of certified Niagara LSC Officials is 298, up from 292 last fall, and up from 284 in May 2017.

The average team has a 5.69% ratio of athletes to officials (up from 4.96 % ratio last Fall). The target and minimum level should be 5% so we are a bit above! YES!

Teams should strive to achieve that level of Officials. Currently 24 (up from 20) teams exceed this target, and 26 (down from 31) teams are "below average" but have some Officials, and 18 (up one from 17) of those teams not having any officials.

We currently have 60 (up from 49) Officials that hold National Certification(s) broken down:

29 (27) N2 and 24 (22) N3 Stroke and Turns

17 N2 and 2 N3 CJs

18 (14) N2 and 5 (4) N3 Starters

8 (4) N2 and 5 (4) N3 Referees

1 N2 Admin Referee

*last fall's in (#) if changed

That means we have gained a few overall, added 4 new National Level S&T, 5 More Starters and 5 Deck referees. Thank you ALL for taking the time, the effort overcoming the nerves to better your skills and make the LSC a better place to be mentored.

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

As this is an even year, the Officials Chair Position is up for election. As I write this, I have not heard of anyone wanting to run other than Myself, as I would like to continue another two years, if you will have me!

I appreciate the opportunity to be your Chair. 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. That's another 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:

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.