



Niagara LSC N3 OQM Opportunities

April 28, 2015

Historically, the Niagara LSC has been extremely fortunate in that there are usually several N3 level Official Qualifying Meets (OQMs) held within the LSC in any given year. N3 certification in a position means that the USA Swimming Officials Committee "recognizes that an official has the experience, skills and knowledge to be considered for selection to work National Championship level meets in the position." It is in Niagara Swimming's best interests to encourage our Officials to attain such certifications and to apply that experience, skill, and knowledge at local and LSC level meets for the betterment of all.

Given that the Niagara LSC covers such a large geographical area and the requirements for an N3 evaluation require the Official's presence for multiple sessions over several days, it is impractical to expect an Official to travel daily across the LSC (i.e., Syracuse to Buffalo and vice versa) to attend an N3 OQM and also creates undue financial demand on the Official seeking to certify or recertify at the N3 level. In an effort to assist Niagara LSC Officials in obtaining N3 level officiating certifications (except for Stroke & Turn Judge), the following policy is in effect:

In a given swim year (Sept. 1st through Aug. 31st), the Officials Chair shall designate two N3 Official Qualifying Meets (OQMs) being held within the Niagara LSC as "Niagara LSC N3 OQM Opportunities". If a Niagara LSC Official wants to get an N3 Initial or N3 Final evaluation (except for the Stroke & Turn Judge position) and the distance from the Official's home to the site of the meet is greater than 50 miles, the Officials Chair shall arrange hotel accommodations for the Official(s) for each night during the designated meets. Further, the Official requesting use of this policy must:

- *Be registered with Niagara Swimming as an Official for at least one year prior to the meet and be registered with USA Swimming through Niagara Swimming as an Official during the time of the meet.*
- *Have worked a minimum of 8 sessions in at least 4 meets sanctioned by Niagara Swimming plus at least 3 sessions of a Niagara Swimming LSC Championship or Championship Qualifier meet in the twelve months prior to the meet.*
- *Work all sessions of the N3 OQM meet.*

Officials residing within 50 miles of the site any N3 OQM being held within the Niagara LSC at any time during the swim year are not eligible for this offer.

The intent of this policy is to assist Officials in areas of the Niagara LSC that do not have close access to N3 level OQMs being held in Niagara to pursue N3 certifications. If, for example, Buffalo, Rochester, and Ithaca host an N3 level OQM in a given swimming year, an Official residing within 50 miles of those cities cannot utilize this policy. Any flexibility in the application of this policy is at the sole discretion of the Officials Chair.