



A Message From the Official's Chair

Hi Everyone,

As we move into the new season and towards the end of the year, it's important to remember to look at your current validity dates for registration and certification. There are now four registration items that we need to be aware of:

- Non-athlete registration – the annual registration for USA Swimming which expires at the end of each year (unless you're a life member)
- Back-Ground Check – this is valid for 2 years and is renewed by applying through the USA Swimming website
- Athlete Protection Training – this is now valid for a year.
- Concussion Protocol Training – this is a one time event for Iowa.

Details on how to apply and renew each of these items can be found in the links available on the ISI Officials Website.

Officials LSC certifications are valid for up to two years (they are set to expire on December 31st of the year) except for apprentice "certifications" which are only valid for 12 months. The renewal requirements are typically taking (and passing) the online recertification test for the highest certified position and meeting the minimum session requirements as listed on the Iowa Officials Website. National Certifications are valid for 3 years – so they won't necessarily align with the LSC certifications. You can find the expiration dates of all your certifications and registration items on your Deck Pass on the USA Swimming website. You should be able to access your Deck Pass or have a copy of your certification card with you when you attend

meets in case you need to prove your registration and certification status. Meet Referees in Iowa are to verify these from the signups for their meets but you may be required to produce evidence if that's not completed before the start of the meet.

Every official is welcome to call-in or attend the Officials Committee meetings which we have every 2 months – (agendas for, and minutes of the meetings are available on the ISI Officials Website). We have goals for this year of providing additional resources for our Administrative Officials/Referees and updating the website to make it easier to navigate while containing as much information as possible.

Finally, I strongly encourage all of you to take advantage of the National Certification process – this helps us all improve our service to the athletes. The mentoring provided as part of the evaluation improves our knowledge and performance on deck as well as increasing consistency in observations and running of meets. There's a number of opportunities for evaluation at the end of this season that you should, if at all possible, take advantage of. Newer officials that haven't yet met the evaluation pre-requisites (either in terms of number of sessions or certification time) can request an education session if desired to gain some mentoring before going for a formal evaluation.

Thanks again for your support and efforts and I look forward to seeing you through the season.

Cheers,

Phil Barnes

Be Proactive! Register, Recertify and Test Prior to the End of the Year

As we approach the end of the year, a lot of officials will have certifications, registrations and tests (Back Ground and Athlete Protection) expiring. Please be proactive –fill out and submit [the non-athlete membership form](#), [take the required recertification online tests and the BGC, APT and newly required Concussion Protocol Training \(CPT\)](#) ahead of expiration so we can ensure there's no hiccups with your ability to be on deck to support our athletes.

Thank you!

2020 Iowa Swimming Championship Meets

Although the season is just over a month old, it's never too early to think about the forthcoming championship meets and what we, as officials, can do to better support our athletes and swimming in general. We see this as having two components – volunteering for meets (gaining experience) and looking for ways to improve our performance on deck (gaining practical knowledge). The 2020 winter season culminates with 1 National Championship meet, 1 zone National meet, 1 area 14&Under All Star Meet, two LSC Championship meets and two Silver Championship meets. Some of these meets are also Officials Qualifying Meets (OQM) where officials have the opportunity to be mentored to national certification levels.

The dates for these meets are as follows:

- January 17-19 (Inclusive)
 - 2020 Mid-West All-Stars – Elkhorn, NE
- February 14-16 (Inclusive)
 - 2020 ISI Short Course Silvers Championships (West) – Des Moines
 - 2020 ISI Short Course Silvers Championship (East) – Dubuque
- February 20-23 (Inclusive)
 - 2020 ISI Age Group Championships – Des Moines (OQM - N3 Stroke and Turn, N2 others)
- February 27-March 1 (Inclusive)
 - 2020 ISI Short Course Championships – Iowa City (OQM – N3 Stroke and Turn, N2 others)
- March 4-7 (Inclusive)
 - 2020 TYR Pro Series – Des Moines (OQM – N3 all)

- March 12-15 (Inclusive)
 - 2020 Central Zone Section 1 Spring Sectional – Pleasant Prairie, WI (OQM – N3 tbd)

Links to the applications to officiate for these meets are located on the [ISI Officials Website](#) (under the Meet Signups tab. It is important to apply early if you wish to be evaluated for an assigned position (CJ, SR, DR, AR, or AO). Links to the national certification pre-requisites and evaluation requirements can be found on the ISI Officials website under Officials Ed.

The next opportunity for N3 evaluations will be towards the end of the summer at some of the following meets:

- July 15-18 (Inclusive)
 - 2020 Central Zone Section 1 Summer Sectional – Minneapolis, MN (OQM – N3 tbd)
- July 24-25 (Inclusive)
 - 2020 ISI Long Course Silver Championships – Iowa City
- July 30-August 2 (Inclusive)
 - 2020 USA Swimming Futures Meet – West Fargo, ND (OQM – N3)
 - 2020 ISI Long Course Championships – Iowa City (OQM – N3)

We look forward to as many officials as possible supporting these championship meets. Now is the time to plan ahead for availability, what your goals are and what you need to do to prepare. Don't hesitate to contact a member of the Officials Committee if you have any questions.

Do you know the Core Values of Iowa Swimming? Find Out Below!

AO/AR Subcommittee

We have a lot of excellent AO/AR in our LSC. We have a group of about 6-8 that are so completely proficient and competent and we find ourselves relying on them for all our larger meets. We also have over a dozen that are certified, but without the experience that would make them confident enough to take the lead for Championship meets. This, along with recruiting more officials interested in taking a trip on the "Admin" path, is what we would like to address with this subcommittee.

Michelle Kathan (PSC), Chrissy Beagle (CAST), Kirstin Opel (IFLY), and myself (L4A) shared our stories about what got us interested

in learning AO/AR and the experiences we've had since taking the plunge. We found a lot of similarities in our challenges in becoming an AO/AR. We are going to take what we learned from each other's stories and reach out to the more experienced AO/AR in our LSC and see how we can help our less experienced and future AO/AR. Our goal is to find ways to recruit, educate, and retain enough people to keep us a well-rounded and highly successful LSC.

Thank you,
Jodie Stone

Officials Education

Concussion Protocol Training (CPT)

USA Swimming now requires all coaches and officials complete Concussion Protocol Training by January 1, 2020 to maintain membership.

This requirement is necessary to avoid personal liability for concussion/head strike incidents, ensuring our insurers will continue to provide liability insurance protection to USA Swimming, coaches, officials and clubs.

- Courses from the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) or the [National Federation of State High School Associations \(NFHS\)](#) satisfy this requirement.
- USA Swimming only requires the training to be completed once. However, if you attend

a meet as a coach or officiate in a state that requires annual or continuing re-certification of CPT, you must abide by those requirements.

- SAVE your certificate at the end of the course, or you may have to complete it again to get it. Send the cert to jen@iaswim.org to have your member record updated.

Athlete Protection Training (APT) -

Reminder that this [certification](#) must now be renewed annually. Meet Refs please be aware that 18+ year old athletes must have taken the training in order to compete. More information on MAAPP can be found at [Iowa Swimming](#) as well as [USA Swimming Safe Sport](#).

Section G Passed at HOD

The Officials Committee submitted two proposals regarding Sections G at the October 6 HOD meeting. The proposals, [concerning dress code](#) and [disciplinary actions](#) were passed unanimously and can be found in the ISI [minutes](#).

In short the policies states that:

- Unless the Meet Referee states otherwise, standard dress code for meets is white collared shirt over navy bottoms, white shoes.
 - The Officials Committee does have a policy to handle disputes and disciplinary actions. Those policies follow the USA guidelines. Contact the Officials Chair for such occurrences.
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Guidelines for Great Officiating Athletes with Disabilities

The mission of the Disability Swimming Committee is the full inclusion of swimmers with a disability in USA Swimming programs. They have called upon all Officials to get involved and learn how to include at swim meets.

USA Swimming services for swimmers with a disability focus on inclusion in “regular” swim clubs and “regular” swim meets. Thus you are likely to officiate swimmers with a Disability at meets.

To better serve all our athletes Iowa Officials Committee is offering these Tools and Guidelines for Great Officiating Athletes with disabilities as outlined in Article 105.

Have you heard of Article 105? Article 105 of the USA Swimming rule book provides guidelines for referees, coaches, and swimmers with respect to rule modifications and disability accommodations. [This document](#) focuses on discussion of selected case studies related to Article 105. It is suggested that you read the information about Referee and coach responsibilities before examining the case studies. The Situations and Resolutions file in the Officials section of the USA Swimming web site (<http://www.usaswimming.org>) is another good source of information

We encourage you to:

- Understand the officiating guidelines for swimmers with a disability as published in [Article 105](#) of the USA Swimming rule book, and as discussed in the [Article 105 interpretations](#) in the USA Swimming Resources and the [case studies](#) previously outlined.
- Understand the responsibilities of both the referee and coach (or the athlete with a disability).
- Ask Questions, request information and speak up about Article 105 at the officials’ clinics and meetings you attend.
- Learn More. Do More.

“Many officials enjoy working at disability-specific swimming competitions in addition to USA Swimming meets.”

--Randy Jullian, USA Swimming Staff Liaison for the Disability Swimming Committee.

- Visit [the USA Swimming Disability Swimming Landing Page](#) to learn more about Disability-Specific Competitions.

The US Paralympics swimming page also includes information for officials, including *applications to officiate at domestic meets and opportunities to attend [disability swimming officials’ certification courses](#).*

- You may contact the LSC Inclusion Chair, with your ideas and concerns related to inclusion in USA Swimming meets. She will work with the USA Swimming Disability Swimming Committee and/or collaborate with the Rules/Regulations and Officials Committees as needed to resolve concerns related to inclusion.

In an effort to develop LSC Para-time standards we are likely to see more athletes with disabilities at Short Course Silvers this year as the Technical Planning Committee has proposed there be no time standard requirement for athletes with disabilities. With these standards we hope to include, see and recognize more athletes with disabilities in Iowa Swimming and at higher level meets.

To assist you in being familiar with terms and protocol, Please print and include this [Pocket Guide Reference for Officiating Athletes with Disabilities](#) with your meet materials. A full version can be found [here](#).

Thank you!

Chrissy Beagle
Chrissy.Beagle@iaswim.org

Officials Website

Did you know we have an [Iowa Officials website](#) that's available from the [ISI website](#). The [Officials Committee](#) Members are listed on the Officials Website as well as other information to support our officials.

The Officials Committee meets via phone call every second month, on the third Wednesday of that month at 8 pm central. The call in details and agenda will be posted under the [Committee Tab](#) prior to the meeting. All are welcome to attend.

All the scheduled meets (other than intrasquads, closed, duals and triangulars) are posted to the [Meet Sign-Up Page](#) on the Officials website. These are updated as we receive information from the meet director or referee with the signup link. The meet details are also entered into OTS as they become available from the ISI office. Meet referees are responsible for sending your meet info and sign ups to the officials committee for positing. We will make sure that these are updated in OTS and on the signups page of the official's website. The assigned meet referee is responsible for verifying that officials are certified to work their meet and that the

sessions worked are entered into The officials page also contains [MAAPP](#) and [Safety Guidelines](#) in case the need for clarifications arise.

You can also find apprentice forms, certification and recertification requirements, training videos updated coaches lists and names of certified meet referees under the [Officials Ed](#) tab. [Clinics](#) for new officials can be found on the Officials Page as well as [Membership forms, background checks and Athletic protection training](#). In fact, Guidelines documents and forms for every position can also be found [here](#).

Finally, let's get down to what is MOST important. Need a new name tag or snazzy white polo? Look no further! Links to [Apparel Orders](#), [Officials Calendar](#), and electronic [Rule Book](#) are accessible from the Official's Page.

The Officials Committee encourages you to explore and familiarize yourself with the officials website and check back regularly for updates.

See something we missed or should add to the Official's page? Please let us know.

Officials are Vital Volunteers! **Thank you!**

Officiating for USA Swimming is very different than some of the other organizations that you may have volunteered for. As Iowa Swimming Officials Committee Our goal is to train and certify officials: who are fair, competent, current in rule book application and consistent in approach.

We are proud to have officials who are *capable* of providing athletes with the best, most *consistent* and *fairest* possible level of observation, who have sufficient *experience and skills* to serve as an official anywhere outside and *represent Iowa LSC* well, and who are ultimately *capable of achieving National (N2 & N3) certification* with USA Swimming. We want to help not only our athletes but our officials achieve their swimming goals.

We recognize that all officials are volunteers and we do our best to make this an enjoyable experience while providing the necessary professional, safe and fair environment for our swimmers and for you! **Thank you** to all volunteer officials that put in *countless* hours, your efforts are *sincerely* appreciated! If you have any questions or inquiries about officiating, please do not hesitate to contact the Iowa Swimming Officials Committee. **[Thank you!](#)**

New Rules and Legislations

Please take a moment to read the [Minutes](#) from the October 6th Officials Meeting in Iowa City. In it you will find lots of great updates and information about the current state and future direction of the Officials Committee of Iowa Swimming. Please familiarize yourself with the new rules and legislation from USA Swimming and within the Iowa LSC such as:

- Effective now, All 15 meter mark violations are to be judged off of side markings only. All 15m side markings must be on the pool wall.
- Glossary Updates: Open and closed meets, revision to the club affiliation rule to 120 days since last competed with that club in an open meet.
- Athletes may have up to 3 logos no more than 4 cm² in size on their goggles, caps and suits. Rule goes into effect May 1, 2020.
- Heads Up Smart Swim goggles are not allowed during competition. You will be able to identify them because a battery pack is mounted on the right hand side. More information can be found [here](#).
- Lead off swimmer may only obtain a split time in a legal relay. Legal Relay is defined as consisting of 4 people in correct age groups who all show up and all swim the prescribed length legally and in correct order. Rule goes into effect May 1, 2020.
- MAAPP updates affecting athletes 18 and older requires they have completed the MAAPP training before they can compete.
 - The responsibility for verifying falls on the meet host who should confirm during their recon. However, late entries happen and the meet ref should also ensure the athlete has completed the required training.
 - As a best practice the Iowa Swimming Officials Committee is recommending that there be a MAAPP registration sign in such as used for coaches, visitors, officials, etc.
 - Anyone on deck 18+ must have read and agree to MAAPP statement.
- There is no new USA rule on Swim suit fit, however, Suits should be “decent” and follow “societal norms”.
- 12 and Under Tech suit rule goes into effect 1 September 2021.
 - These rules are found on the USA Swimming Website.
 - Suits cannot have a bonded seam or Woven Fabric.
 - 10 and Under tech suit ban is currently in effect.
- Officials may only be evaluated during prelims and finals or open time finals.
- The LSC has an Open Water Certification. Any official who has worked at Open Water Nationals or Zones will be grandfathered in. The requirements will be published shortly.



the CORE VALUES of Iowa Swimming are: Athlete Centered - Inclusive - Dedicated – Ethical



Splash Multisport offers polos, rain jackets and more for officials, embroidered with the

new ISI logo: <https://splashmulti.com/apparel/isi-swimming-officials/>
