



## ISI Officials Newsletter – June 2019

### Open Water Zones



Iowa Officials at the recent Open Water Zones meet in Pleasant Prairie, WI.

From left to right: Andrea Kelley (LMST), Kirstin Oppel (IFLY), Michael Repko (EISF), Susan Repko (EISF), Michelle Kathan (PSC).

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### MAAPP Compliance

USA Swimming recently sent communication regarding compliance with the Minor Athlete Abuse Protection Policy (MAAPP). All clubs and LSCs are required to comply with this policy by June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019, and this includes all USA Swimming officials. The policy includes specific items we must follow regarding all unrelated minor athletes, and can affect everyday things we might

not have thought about before, such as carpooling to practice and social media. Here is a link to the policy document:

<https://www.usaswimming.org/docs/default-source/safe-sportdocuments/maapp/usaswimmingmaapp.pdf>.

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### A Need for More Officials

Some of you may have read the article recently shared on Facebook from Swimming World Magazine, “Up on Deck: Inside the World of Swim Officials”, highlighting an increasing shortage of officials to work meets. Certainly, here in Iowa, our numbers are down from a few years ago. The situation has been exacerbated by the recent change in USA Swimming policy, allowing more meets to take place within a given region each weekend. Outside of the LSC championships, it has become more common to see even the bigger meets running with fewer officials than the optimum, and smaller meets are now often struggling to find enough certified officials just to run a legal, sanctioned meet.

Few parents continue with officiating once their swimmers become “swammers”, and so there is a constant need to encourage new folk to certify. While the pay and benefits may sound lousy to an outsider, we all know how rewarding it can be to help at meets. Somehow we need to spread that message to all those

non-official parents on our teams, especially the ones with younger kids who might be around for several more years. If possible, get the coaches involved. They are the ones on the team with the bully pulpit!

Officiating seems to be a job that requires balancing many conflicting demands. We want to do our job unobtrusively at meets, while advertising ourselves to gain new recruits. We need to run meets correctly per the rules and follow robust protocols, yet avoid making things too complicated for those who want to work only an occasional session. While our primary job is validation of the swims, we must disqualify swimmers who fail to follow the rules, while ensuring all swimmers get the benefit of the doubt and that competition remains fair and equitable. Amongst all that, officiating is still a job well worth doing, and worth doing well. More than in just about any other sport, we are appreciated by athletes and coaches alike for the work that we do.

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## Championship Meet Season

Championship Meet season is fast approaching. The Silver Championships will be held on July 19-21 at Mercer Park pool in Iowa City. The ISI Long Course Championships follow on July 25-28, at the U of Iowa CRWC in Iowa City. Both of these meets will need enough officials to run smoothly. The LC Championship in particular needs a lot of people to cover its 12 sessions. Please consider signing up for a few sessions at one or both of them, even if you don't have a swimmer attending. The Long Course Championships will be an Officials Qualifying Meet (OQM), offering N2 and N3 evaluations from a national evaluator. Signup links will be posted on the ISI Officials website.

Apart from the ISI Championship meets, there are also other high level championship meets taking place within and close to Iowa. Summer Sectionals will be held July 18-21 in Minneapolis. The Central Zone Age Group Championship will be August 1-4 in Fargo, ND (Meet Ref is our own Phil Barnes), and the USA Swimming Futures Championship will be August 1-4 at the Wellmark YMCA in Des Moines. These are great opportunities to gain experience working a higher level meet. Signups for these meets are posted, as applicable, to the ISI Officials, Central Zone or USA Swimming websites.

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### Section G Update

Following additional review, the update to ISI Policies and Procedures, Section G, was presented to the ISI House of Delegates a second time at the meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup>. This document covers how we as ISI Officials govern ourselves, and the update included substantial revisions to the previous version. We are pleased to report that, with a few friendly amendments from the floor, the update was mostly approved by HoD, and the updated document is now posted to the ISI website. The officials' community should not see any big changes as a result of this, as the new document largely reflects how things are already being run.

### Winter Nationals

Signups for USA Swimming Winter Nationals were recently posted to the USA Swimming website. The US Open is December 4-8 in Atlanta, GA. Junior Nationals are December 10-14, in Atlanta (East) and Federal Way,

WA (West). N3 certification is needed to work on a National deck.

### Reminders!

The new USA Swimming rule regarding marking of the 15m marks went into effect on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. Don't forget that this mark is now the one to use for judging the 15m mark – we no longer use the buoys.

### Meet Signups and New Officials Clinics

Meet Referees, don't forget to provide Curtis Witt with a signup link for your meet to be posted to the website! Signup links to officiate meets and for new officials' clinics are being regularly added to the ISI Officials website:

<https://www.teamunify.com/Home.jsp?tabid=0&team=iaso>.

Check links to Meet Sign-Ups and Events/Clinics, respectively, both on the home page.



Splash Multisport offers polos, rain jackets and more for officials, embroidered with the new ISI logo:

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