

New England Swimming Officials Committee
January 11, 2021, 5:00 PM
Via Zoom
Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Betsy Russell (Chair), Jerry Carter, Ken Galica, Patrick Hunter, Jess Workman

Committee Members Absent: Samantha Brabeck, Caroline Cavalier

Staff Members Present: Carol Healey (Office Manager), Moriah Tyrell (Registrar)

1. Confusion Over Certification/Registration

- With start of new year, many questions to staff as well as Officials Committee regarding USA Swimming membership requirements and New England Swimming certification requirements
 - Lack of understanding of difference between membership in good standing vs. having a current officiating certification
 - Office receiving questions about certification; Officials Committee receiving questions about membership
 - Volunteers explain that information for each official is not located centrally and there are multiple webpages involved in process. Process to review status of both membership and certification requirements is extremely cumbersome for both individual officials as well as the OC members with full access to OTS.
- Potential Solutions/Action Items
 - Moriah to generate report from SWIMS specifying membership requirement expiration dates for all officials and share with Officials Committee to aid in answering questions
 - Patrick and Moriah to draft a graphic summarizing membership and certification requirements, clearly separating membership requirements from certification requirements
 - Clearly cover these requirements—and the difference between membership and certification—in documentation and clinics

2. Website

- Discussion of officials' website—is it best to maintain separate website or migrate content to LSC website?
 - Initially attempted to migrate when LSC transitioned to new website platform, but issues with links, so maintained existing site to preserve accessibility of content
 - Transitioning officials' content to pages/subpages on LSC website would aid in showing how officiating program fits into the bigger picture of the LSC and allow officials to find all LSC info on one website
- Action Items
 - Jerry and Patrick to work with Carol to design officials' subpages of website and migrate officials' website information to LSC website

3. Officials' Registration Numbers

- Over 300 officials currently registered for 2021, down from over 500 in 2020
 - Many teams do not have access to competition at this point
 - Some officials choosing not to officiate at this time due to health/Covid concerns
- Clinic interest has been extremely high; many interested in becoming new officials, including from smaller teams/teams that do not normally host meets

4. End of Season Meets

- More details forthcoming in next 1-2 weeks

5. USA Swimming Update

- Pro Series meet applications will be on an individual-meet basis, as opposed to a consolidated application. Applications will be posted once sites and dates are confirmed.
- Officials qualifying meets will be limited to recertification evaluations only at this point
- USA Swimming Officials Committee is currently pausing the requirement that N3 final evaluations be completed within 3 years of the N3 initial evaluation

6. Other Business

- General discussion of current meets and exchange of ideas/best practices

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Hunter