

2008 Florida Swimming Officials' Chair Report

This was a Florida Swimming Officials recertification year, which included a couple of requirements in order to be recertified. Each official took the online USA Swimming rules test for their level of certification; attended a clinic during which 20 situations from Florida Swimming meets were discussed and the applicable rules applied to resolve those situations; and each official was asked to work a minimum of six sessions during the previous 12 months. There are now roughly 280 certified officials in Florida Swimming.

Three new proposals have come out of the Officials Committee this year, addressing expense reimbursement to assigned officials at championship meets; a By Law requiring a minimum number of officials on deck at each session of a meet; and proposal establishing a term limit for each member of the committee.

Matt Wilson, meet referee from SWIM Florida, is attending the National Officials Training workshop being held this weekend in Minnesota. The workshop will allow officials from across the United States to gather in a group environment and be challenged with a presentation of ideals and philosophies.

This was a very successful year for USA Swimming, marked by the fastest meet ever held on American soil – Olympic Trials. Florida Swimming played a major role in that meet by having the most officials from our LSC invited to Trials than any other LSC! Congratulations to the 7 officials invited: Bob Griffiths, John Harbison, Melissa Hellervik-Bing, Mark McCaw, Robert Thompson, Gerald Wolsfelt and Vicky Wolsfelt.

In the 12 months ending June 1, roughly 150 sanctioned meets were held throughout Florida Swimming. More than 20 officials volunteered at 50 or more sessions during that time. Those attending the most sessions in our LSC include:

Robert Thompson	77 sessions
Dick Nelson	71
Chuck Travers	70
Kay Caldwell	70
Nancy Nelson	70

Thanks to all the officials who have volunteered their time and efforts for the benefit of the swimmers and the sport of swimming in our LSC.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Hellervik-Bing
Officials' Chair