Officials News – January 2018

Happy 2018! I’ve been monitoring registration/certification/BGC/APT status and while there have been many last minute completions; many are still delinquent in finishing these requirements to work on deck in the New Year. Verify your status and complete what you need to finish to remain eligible. If your certification card is **purple**, you are good for 2018! Those with the 60 day temporary memberships need to complete **all membership requirements** during your 60 day window.

2017 was a busy year with many new officials and several retiring members. The SCS LSC is very appreciative of all your efforts to provide a level playing field for all swimmers competing in our pools. Two of our officials, Kim Crounse and Aimee McMillan, logged more than 100 sessions on USA Swimming pool decks in 2017. Many of you spent time on pool decks for USA Swimming, high school, college, YMCA, and summer league meets this year. Our sport is one of the few where the expectation is that the officials are volunteers and the needs are many. Thank you again and again for all you do. For all of you that are hanging up your whistle, your efforts did make a difference and you will be missed. You have been great mentors, officials, and friends. I wouldn’t be here without you and your encouragement and knowledge. Keep in touch!

**SHORT COURSE STATE MEET**

The state meet will be held in the aquatic complex at Westside Park in Greenville, February 16-19. Bob Griffiths has agreed to be our national evaluator for this meet. Bob is able to evaluate for all positions at N3f except for N2 for AR/AO. Meet sign-ups will be available shortly on the SCS website. Requests for evaluation will need to be submitted separately from the meet sign-up. Bob may attract officials from other LSCs for evaluations, so get your requests in quickly to assure you have the opportunity to be evaluated. Verify that you meet the requirements for the positions you wish to be evaluated.

The following information is being repeated from the November newsletter since the answers to many questions I am getting can be found here.

**REGISTRATIONS**

The **annual non-athlete membership** registrations should have been sent in to the registrar Karen Alexander by now! If you are unsure if your team is handling these registrations, get in touch with your team leadership. If you need to send in your own registration, the forms are located in the DOCUMENTS tab on the sc-swimming.org website. **You will not be issued a non-athlete membership card for 2018. You can print your officials certification card from your DECK PASS on the USA Swimming website (*not available from the mobile app*).** Your registration, BGC, and APT status are printed on the certification card.

**RENEWALS**

A reminder of the renewals for all the different requirements:

* **Non-Athlete Membership** – Annually
* **Background Check** – Every 2 years, due on the month of original issue
* **Athlete Protection Training** – Every 2 years, due by 12/31 of the expiring year
* **Officials Certification (LSC)** – Every 2 years, due by 12/31 of the expiring year
* **National Certification** – Every 3 years, due on the month of original issue (LSC certifications must be valid)

**I**f you are unsure of the status of any of your requirements, you can verify the expirations from your DECK PASS on the USA Swimming website.

**RECERTIFICATIONS**

Meeting the recertification requirements for the highest level of certification you have attained renews the LSC Officials certification. For instance, a certified starter will need to meet the session requirements for starter and take the starter recertification test. **Meet referees** need to complete the referee and administrative referee recertification tests. **You do not need to complete the lower level certification requirements.** The certification/recertification information can be found at **sc-swimming.org** in the CERTIFICATION INFORMATION under the OFFICIALS tab.

**USA SWIMMING WEBSITE (TESTING, BGC, APT)**

If you are unfamiliar with the updated USA Swimming website (usaswimming.org), the following navigation tips should help. Once you log in to the website, you can navigate to the officials page by clicking on the **FOR YOU** link on the homepage. The drop-down menu will have an **OFFICIALS** link, which you will need to select to navigate to the officials page. The Officials page contains clickable links and boxes to all the resources needed for meets, testing, and OTS.

**OTS (USA Swimming website)**

Meet Referees should be entering all session information for any USA Swimming sanctioned meet. Officials, you should verify your information regularly. You can find it on your DECK PASS or from the MY HISTORY link on the OTS page. You can add activities and other meets (high school, college, paraswim, etc.) you have worked as well. You are responsible for your information, so contact your meet referee if your sessions have not been entered.

Meet Referees; you need to add apprentices’ sessions into OTS. If they are working with the temporary red card, you need to click the button “*only show Non-member Apprentice Officials expiring on or after…*” at the bottom of the search parameters on the add officials page. I’ve recently received several apprentice forms with sessions signed off by MRs that have not been entered into OTS. If you are having issues adding officials, please add a note in the meet report with the officials’ information and send me an email.

**CLINICS**

Trainers, please try to offer clinics in the near future; I’m getting many requests and questions for clinics. Please provide clinic information to officials@sc-swimming.org and aimeemcmillan@gmail.org so the information can be posted on the sc-swimming.org website.

**NEW CERTIFICATIONS**

If you have completed your apprenticeship sessions, please **verify that your sessions have been entered into OTS and that you have completed the other requirements for certification prior to sending your apprentice form to** **officials@sc-swimming.org**. Your non-athlete registration, background check, athlete protection training, and online testing for your new certification position all must be complete and showing on your history prior to getting certified. If you know you have completed these steps but information is missing, verify that your membership is linked to your account. You can do this by logging into your USA Swimming account and select MY ACCOUNT from the top bar. Your account page will display your linked information or provide a LINK MY MEMBERSHIP button if you have not previously completed this.

Thank you for all you do!

Becky Weber