



## USMS Officials Certifications

Where we've been....  
and Where we're going!

Where  
We've  
Been...

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Dependent on other swimming organizations' officials

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Scrambling for "anyone can help on deck!"

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Minimal to poor coverage at some meets

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"USMS has its own rules??"  
"Breaststroke kick is legal in Fly??"  
"That's Backstroke??"

# USMS Officials Current Criteria (Appendix B)

## Starters and Stroke & Turn Judges

Certified by an approved body  
in that capacity

- *Uncertified officials may serve in that capacity if they have received training and are under direct supervision of a certified official*

## Referees

Certified as a referee by an  
approved body

- *Certified starters or stroke & turn judges may serve as referee if they have received training*

# History of USMS Officials

- USMS meet officials certified by other entities:
  - USA Swimming
  - YMCA
  - NFHS (high school)
  - NCAA/CSOA (college)
  - FINA
- No USMS national certification program (pre 2016)

# History of USMS Officials

## **Consequences:**

- *Inadequate numbers of officials available in different LMSCs*
- *Some LMSCs pay officials for meets, some only for championships, some not at all*
- *Distinctions between USMS and other rule books often not well-enforced*



Where  
We Are  
Going...

### Grow our Own!

- USMS members recruited to USMS officiating
- Athletes can both compete and officiate
- USMS culture and rules naturally enforced
- All teams encouraged to recruit officials
- No meets go understaffed

# National Certification Program

Launched 2016 to create a  
standardized national certification  
for officials – *GROW OUR OWN!*

## Stage One: Stroke & Turn and Starters

Rolled out June 2016

Appendix B amended to  
include USMS as a certifying  
body

Primarily a *video and  
testing-based* training – uses  
USA Swimming online  
testing and tests against  
USA Swimming rule book  
and USMS Addendum



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# National Certification Program

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**Stage  
Two:**  
Develop  
USMS-  
Certified  
Referees

Certified Referees capable of serving a variety of meets from small, one-session LSMC meets to eventual experience at USMS National Championships

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Very different training protocol: *experience, testing, and mentoring* based training

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# The Referee Program

## **Experience**

- Previous certification by USMS as a Starter & S&T
- Served a minimum of four sessions as a Starter at USMS meets
- LMSCs may define additional prerequisites based on local needs and conditions

# The Referee Program

## Testing

- Study the *USMS Referee's Self-Training Manual*
- Take three tests and achieve passing grade of 80% on each:
  - USA Swimming Referee Test
  - USA Swimming Timing Judge Test
  - USMS Supplemental Referee's Test (separate site)



# The Referee Program

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## **Mentoring**

- Review the other deck positions at a meet, including Clerk of Course, Starter, Stroke & Turn Judge, Chief Judge, Timing Judge and Meet Marshal
- Apprentice as Referee on-deck for a minimum of two sessions at USMS meets
- Join USMS and maintain membership



# MENTORING

10 GOALS

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VISION

CREATIV

LEADERSHIP

CAREER

STRATEGY

PLANNING

IDEA

ANALYZING

SUCCESS

MOTIVATION

TEAMWORK

SOLUTION

COMMUNICATION

9(x4)

# The Referee Program

## Certification Process

1. Mentoring officials provide written recommendations to LMSC Officials Chair
2. LMSC Officials Chair shall approve certifications to the USMS Officials Committee, updated credential card issued
3. Maintain certification through experience - minimum 4 sessions (2 as Referee) within certification period at USMS meets.
  - ❖ LMSC Officials Chairs encourage upward path



# Next Steps

Referee's Self Training Manual to web site

Open USMS online testing – goes live soon!

Develop tools for Officials Chairs to track officials' certifications (all positions)

Work with LMSCs to identify challenges and training needs

Athletes / Officials – Success stories!



Our Members...Our Officials!  
*Grow our own*

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