

OFFICIALS

Peer-to-Peer Teleconference – Notes

The items posted in this section are notes from conversations that are not reviewed or approved by the attendees. The information is not intended to override guidelines, policies, and procedures listed elsewhere in the LMSC Guide to Operations or elsewhere on www.usms.org or in the USMS rule book.

February 12, 2019; 8:30-9:20 pm Eastern

Facilitator: Sally Dillon (PN)

Presenter: Teri White (PN), USMS Officials Committee Chair

Attendees: Michael Moore (PM), Lisa Brown (IN), Chris Colburn (IL), Bruce Rollins (SE Zone Chair), Ed Saltzman (GA), Christopher Rieder (SF), Ann Marshfield (LE), Deb Roberts and Bob Singer (AD), Jacki Allender (OR), John King (PM), Jeff Steele (SC), Marilyn Fink (SI), Bill Luse (NC), Jerrilynn Bayless (IM), Tom Osterland (NT), Rory Grigull (FG), Frank Odell (SE), Steve Goldman (FG), Dave Burgio (KY), Natalie Taylor (PV), Marie Vellucci (NJ), Dave Baer (PN), Alina de Armas (SP), Alta Stengel (SD), Stephanie Peterson (OZ), Diana LaMar (SP), Mary Pohlmann (OZ), Judy Gillies (AZ), Mark Marshfield (LE), Ed Stranc (IL), Lawrence White, Leo Gibbons, Frank Odell, Ferdinand Natal, Omar De Armas (SP), John Bepko, Ed Matecki and others (total 45).

In order to include as many as possible in the meeting notes, Sally asked attendees to email her with their name and LMSC.

Teri – welcomed everyone to the teleconference. Numerous USMS Officials Committee members are on the call. She will focus on “what’s new” in the USMS Officials Certification, which is the role of the Referee.

Teri presented a power point presentation on the “StartMeeting” wall.

- USMS rules have not changed. Removed from the appendix is the list of “approved governing bodies”. In addition to the USMS Certification program, still approved are USA-S, YMCA, NCAA (including CSOA), and NFHS (high school).
- A photo of officials included four who are certified with USMS only. Teri emphasized that no certifying organization has been eliminated. Our officials are well qualified to be on deck.
- USMS Stroke & Turn and Starter positions began USMS Certification in 2016
- Referee position introduced in 2019 (process includes all other positions). Must have experience and take tests. Questions are truly related to USMS practices. Referees to work with LMSC Officials Chair. Process is documented here: www.usms.org - Guide to Operations > Officials > Certification (top of the page).
- Current database includes 170 S&T, 88 Starters, and 13 Referees
- We need to build our base by looking for people who attend meets and want to help. Recruit interested USMS members to become officials. Many Masters Swimmers had experience as officials when their children were growing up. Let them know that they are still needed – at USMS meets.
- We can “grandfather” existing USMS Referees; they still need to take tests.
- Officials are needed for College Club Swimming Championships in March, Spring Nationals in April, IGLA Championships in June, and Summer Nationals in August. Applications for national meets are on the event websites.
- Listing of all USMS Certified Officials will be on the USMS website soon. This will be a resource for meet directors to find officials in an LMSC or surrounding LMSC. The goal is to have the list completed within the next 30 days
- Referee self-training guide is located under the Referee section
- Test scores will be forwarded to the LMSC Officials Chair for approval

QUESTIONS – all answers by Teri White

Concern (Mary Pohlmann): USMS has Open Water Referees and Safety Certification officials. The information as to who these people are is difficult to find on the USMS website.

Response: Teri agreed and has reached out to OW and offered to add those certifications to their cards. She's not been able to coordinate this yet. Expiration dates may not be the same. Teri thanked all members of the committee who have helped get this going!

Question (Dave Burgio): Dave is certified NCAA, USA-S, and CSOA and has been asked to officiate Masters' meets. Does he need to take the USMS Referee test to do this?

Response: Teri clarified that he is already credentialed to work any Masters meet with the certifications that he already has. It is not necessary for him to have USMS credentials, but he can likely become a USMS official by being grandfathered in. He should contact the KY Officials Chair.

Question (Stephanie Peterson): I am credentialed with USA-S already; is there an advantage for getting my USMS Officials certification.

Response: Teri said that the goal is to find more officials to support meets. If Stephanie is ready to retire from USA-S and all that is involved to be certified, she can still work USMS meets with our certification program, which is less expensive to maintain. She is welcome on any Masters' pool deck with her USA-S certifications. Teri would like to see that every LMSC Officials Chair be USMS certified.

Question (Jacki Allender):

- I haven't received my USMS Rule Book yet; is there a problem?

Response: There was, but the books have been mailed

- Is it possible to have a link on the USMS website to the officials training information?

Response: Great idea

- Is it possible to include officials on the list who are certified by others, but have worked USMS Championships?

Response: Will look into this

- Can we do a video that shows Masters' rules for butterfly?

Response: We can possibly do this at the Mesa meet. Sally suggested talking with the National Office; she believes they have a videographer.

Question (Ann Marshfield): Has anyone encountered a protest for a transgender athlete at a USMS meet? How should it be handled?

Response: This needs to go to the USMS Rules Chair (Charlie Cockrell). Ann said that the swimmer has not been complaint and a protest has been leveled. The Officials at the meet are not aware of or prepared for procedures. Ann has been in touch with Charlie about the situation. Judy suggested that Charlie provide a letter that can be presented to the meet referee. Ann provided the USMS policy a couple weeks ago. The policy as written is not in the rule book; the USMS Transgender policy is a stand-alone document. This needs to be submitted to all Officials Chairs. Teri noted that this is a very infrequent issue to deal with.

Teri thanked everyone for joining the call; she appreciated the interest and support.