



## **On The Same Page**

The E-Newsletter for the USA Swimming Officials Community

January 6, 2006

**Wishing a very happy and healthy New Year to all swimming officials and their loved ones!**

### **New National Certification Program**

As you may have heard, there has been a major revision in the national official's certification program. Unlike the previous program, the new process involves a number of facets including experience, observation, evaluation as well as participation. Officials holding current National and National Championship certification will be automatically transitioned to the new certification levels over the next month or two. To read all about the new program, [click here](#) or go to the USA Swimming web site at [www.usaswimming.org](http://www.usaswimming.org). Click on Volunteers, then Officials and then click on the Certification menu item.

### **Recruitment, Retention and Reciprocity**

The Recruitment, Retention and Reciprocity (3 R's) Task Group of the USA-S Officials Committee has its own section on the Officials web site. Led byCarolynn Burt of Utah Swimming, this group's focus is on developing ways to grow the LSC officials population and smoothing the way for officials to move from one LSC to another as well as being accepted on deck throughout the country. [Click here](#) to go to the 3 R's section of the web site and see the resources the task group has assembled to help with your recruiting and retention efforts.

### **Our Kids Initiative (OKI)**

We have all seen the effects of the OKI group in helping move the swimming rules of the various swimming bodies (USA-S, NCAA, NFHS, YMCA, USMS, ASCA, NISCA and FINA) to be as close as possible to help our kids swim the best they can. A recent article by Wayne Burrow, NCAA Director of Championships and member of the OKI group, outlines the goals, benefits and success of the group's efforts. To read the article, [click here](#).

### **Web Survey**

We recently conducted a web survey and had more than 1,200 responses. We will be publishing the results and comparing it to the 2004 survey in our February issue.

### **Maxwell Excellence Award**

Our newest recipient of the Maxwell Excellence Award is Bob Ward of South Texas Swimming. Bob has been an official at every level of swimming and is a FINA Open water official. Bob has also been one of the editors of the

Situations and Resolutions. Congratulations to Bob for this award and thanks for the work great done at the local level. To learn more about the Maxwell Excellence Award, [click here](#).

### **From the Coach**

John Leonard, one of our most senior coaches and Executive Director of the American Swimming Coaches Association (ASCA), has written an article for On The Same Page about officiating a meet for the young, novice swimmer. Should eight-and-unders be disqualified for a rule infraction or not? That's the question John addresses in his very insightful article. [Click here](#) to see the article.

### **Officials Forum**

Did you know there is a facility on the USA-S site that provides a place for someone to post a comment, question or issue? There have been a number of very interesting topics discussed over the years. It is always beneficial to exchange ideas and share one's experiences with others and the forum is a good place to do just that. It also provides an opportunity to hear about situations that an official may have encountered that you have never seen before. To get to the Forums section of the USA-S site, [click here](#).

### **Situations & Resolutions**

And speaking of situations, there is set of over 180 situations and their recommended resolutions on the Officials site. They cover stroke & turn, starter, referee and discuss situations from the novice to the senior swimmer. There is also a section on judging swimmers with a disability. This is one of the many resources in the Training Resources section of the Officials web site. [Click here](#) to see the situations and all the other documents available.

**2006 Rules and Regulations handbook is now posted on the web site.** [Click here](#) to see the rulebook.

If you have any questions, suggestions or comments for the publishers of this newsletter or for the USA Swimming Officials Committee, we can be contacted via e-mail at [onthesamepage@optonline.net](mailto:onthesamepage@optonline.net).

To go to the On the Same Page web site, [click here](#).