



On The Same Page

This is the second edition of the USA Swimming Officials Committee e-newsletter titled *On the Same Page*. You are receiving this based on the e-mail address in your registration as processed through your local swimming committee (LSC). If someone you know is registered as an official but isn't receiving this newsletter, please tell that person to contact their LSC registration chair to verify the e-mail address in the registration database.

On-line Officials Test

The new testing facility is live and available for use by all LSC's and officials. Information has been sent to all LSC Officials Chairs about how the facility works and how to gain access to the site for LSC certification testing. Among the features of the test facility is the ability to start the test, save it and continue it at a later date. A copy of the test can be printed, completed off-line and then the answers can be entered at a later date to be graded. [Click here](#) to visit the Online test facility.

Best Practices

The Officials Committee is creating a best practices area of the web site where we can house those "tricks of the trade" and other good ideas that officials from around the country use to make meets better for our swimmers. The vast majority of our experiences come from local meets so it should follow that many of the best practices would come from local officials as well. Each month or two, one area will be the focus of the search for those best practices. The selection of this month's area of focus was prompted by the discussion on the Officials/Rules forum about switching the pad and button connections in a lane so we are looking for your best ideas on what equipment to check before a meet gets underway as well as suggested procedures for checking that equipment. To submit a best practice, please send an email to onthesamepage@optonline.net and include the details of your "best practice", why it is beneficial and your contact information if we have any questions.

National Championship Meets

There are two national championship meets this summer, both of them in Irvine, CA. Assignment letters have been mailed for the ConocoPhillips National meet, but if you are interested in working the Junior National Championships, the application to officiate is available on-line and can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

Referee's Training Clinic

Seventy first and second year referees from around the country traveled to Colorado Springs Memorial Day weekend to attend a training workshop. To see a list of attendees, presenters and the topics covered, [click here](#).

Officials Committee Meeting

The USA Swimming Officials committee also met over the Memorial Day weekend to work on new issues and initiatives to support officials throughout the country. If you have ideas or comments and would like to contact a specific member of the committee, the listing of committee members is on the web site and can be reached by [clicking here](#). You can also send an email to onthesamepage@optonline.net as well.

Officials/Rules Forum

This forum is one of about a dozen forums covering various topics including clubs, general discussion, coaches, swim kids, workouts and meet announcements. To go to the forums section of the USA-S web site, [click here](#).

High School Rule Changes

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) has approved a couple of rule changes within the past few months. One is a change in the breaststroke rule regarding when the head must break the surface of the water. The other involves instituting a warning in place of immediate disqualification for wearing jewelry and/or illegal attire. To see the details of the rule changes, go to the [NFHS site](#).

Cerebral Palsy World Championships

The Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association (CPISRA) is holding their World Championships this summer in Connecticut. The dates of the swimming competition are July 3-7. The association is looking for swim officials to help out with the competition. If you can spare some time to give them a hand, it will be appreciated. For more information you can click on the [CPISRA website](#) or send an email to Queenie Nichols at qnichols@twcny.rr.com

Lead/Lag Stroke Judging

It's the summer (well, almost) and that means long course swimming for most of our swimmers. That also means a long walk for stroke judges at meets. Joel Black, USA Swimming Officials Committee Co-Chair and North Carolina Swimming Officials Chair wrote an excellent article about the lead/lag method of stroke judging. [Click here](#) to read more.

If you have any questions, suggestions or comments for the publishers of this newsletter or for the USA Swimming Officials Committee, contact us via e-mail at onthesamepage@optonline.net.