

This is the inaugural USA Swimming Officials Committee newsletter titled "On the Same Page." You are receiving this as part of your USA Swimming membership benefits because you checked the "Official" box on your registration form.

The goal of this newsletter is to add another communications avenue for officials in the sport of swimming in an effort to provide the opportunity for open communication, education and training to consistently and continually improve swimming officiating. It is an extension of the Officials Committee section of the USA Swimming web site www.usaswimming.org. We intend to issue newsletters on a monthly basis as well as ad hoc messages when there is something that is felt should be communicated sooner than the next scheduled newsletter.

We hope you find the topics and information interesting and useful to you, not only as swim officials but also as fans of swimming. If you have any comments, questions or suggestions regarding any topic, please feel free to contact us at onthesamepage@optonline.net. To go to the Officials Committee section of the USA Swimming web site, click the link below.

<http://www.usaswimming.org/USASWeb/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabId=40&Alias=Rainbow&Lang=en>

=====

FINA Rule Changes Proposed

In late July, the FINA Technical Congress will meet in Montreal to review and vote on some proposed rule changes. To read more about how that process works, click the link below.

<http://www.usaswimming.org/USASWeb/Rainbow/Documents/89543f58-dcfd-42ea-a5ef-e6b7868abb9c/How%20FINA%20Makes%20Rule%20Changes%204-26-05.pdf>

Administrative Referee

You know those people sitting at a table next to the pool with paper flying all around? They are the administrative or "dry" side of a swim meet and it is a very important component of and one of the busiest jobs at a swim meet. Read about all the functions of the administrative referee and some of the hints and best practices that you may be able to make use of at your local meets. Click the link below to read more.

<http://www.usaswimming.org/USASWeb/Rainbow/Documents/eb4a4281-6254-417f-a5b4-c86aef0e504a/Admin%20Referee%20Responsibilites%20by%20Frank%20Ching%20et%20al.pdf>

2008 Olympic Trials Site

The selection process for the site of the 2008 Olympic Trials meet is down to three candidates. Will it be Minneapolis, San Antonio or Omaha? USA Swimming is going through the final stages of the evaluation process with a recommendation from the site selection committee slated for this summer and a final decision expected when the USA-S Board of Directors meet at convention in Greensboro, NC this September.

New On-Line Officials Testing

USA Swimming has developed a new on-line officials testing facility that will be housed on the USA-S website and will replace the one that is currently housed on the ASCA website. This new facility includes many of the features that were previously unavailable and should make the testing process significantly more flexible and "user-friendly." The target implementation date is May15th and more information on its capabilities and features will be coming soon.

Maxwell Award

This award was created to recognize and celebrate officials for their work on the local level. The award was instituted in 2000 and a new recipient is selected on a bi-monthly basis. To find out more about the award and how to have someone nominated in your LSC, click the link below.

<http://www.usaswimming.org/USASWeb/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabId=93&Alias=Rainbow&Lang=en>

Our Kids Initiative

The annual meeting of the Our Kids Initiative (OKI) group is scheduled for May 14th in Indianapolis, IN. This group includes representatives from USA Swimming, FINA, NISCA, NFHS, YMCA, NCAA and USMS. To find more about what this group has accomplished in developing consistency in our rules, click the link below.

<http://www.usaswimming.org/USASWeb/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabId=93&Alias=Rainbow&Lang=en>

Open Water

The National Open Water Championships will be held June 2-5 in Ft Myers, FL. The link to the event information site is

<http://www.usaswimming.org/USASWeb/ViewMiscArticle.aspx?TabId=543&Alias=Rainbow&Lang=en&mid=1000&ItemId=1482>

Zone News - Central Zone

There are three sectional meets this summer in the Central Zone. One is in Minneapolis, MN (July 21-24), another is in Bloomington, IN (July 26-30) and the third is in Oklahoma City, OK (July 20-24). The link for the application to officiate is www.centralzones.org/cz_officials_app_speedo_summer_2005.pdf

Zone News - Eastern Zone

The application to officiate for the Eastern Zone "Super Sectional" has been posted. The meet referee is Frank Ching and the meet will be held July 21-24, 2005 at St Mary's College in St Mary's City, Maryland. The link for the application to officiate is www.pvswim.org/eastzone/05sum_sect_off.pdf.

Zone News - Southern Zone

There are three sectional meets this summer in the Southern Zone. The first is at Auburn University (July 14-17), the second is in Ft Lauderdale, FL (July 20-24) and the third is at the University of Texas in Austin (July 27-30). To find an application to officiate, go to the Southern Zone web site at www.szoneswim.hypermart.net

Zone News - Western Zone

There are two sectional meets this summer in the Western Zone. The first is at Federal Way, WA (July 13-16) and the second is in Clovis, CA (July 21-24).

Just for Fun

Definition of the word ohnosecond - that minuscule fraction of time in which you realize that you've just made a BIG mistake (e.g., you've hit 'reply all')

To send any questions/comments to the USA Swimming Officials Committee, please send an e-mail to onthesamepage@optonline.net