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## Officials' Newsletter - May 2021

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# Officials' Newsletter



### Greetings From the Chair

Two years ago, a few committee members presented at the Zone Workshops on the topic of communication. The trying moments during our year-long hiatus from being with each other challenged our skills in this area, so this seems to be a good time to bring back some of the highlights from that particular presentation. To communicate effectively, information must be clear and must be accurately given by the sender to a willing receiver. Seems like an easy equation, but we have all experienced times when something goes awry and yields an unexpected reaction—Can you tell I just taught a lesson on balancing chemical equations? An honest self-evaluation of our part on this two-way street is critical. After all, trust is at stake. Virtual meetings have been helpful, but do not offer ideal conditions for creating an open atmosphere of camaraderie. Are we there yet? . . . Almost.

I would like to take this moment to thank the members of the National Officials' Committee and those of the sub-committees for the hours of work, individually and collectively on Zoom, that produced new OQM documents. Marianne Walling, Dana Covington, Lisa Olack and Jacki Allender deserve our appreciation. For fine tuning the Evaluation and Mentoring information, Dana, Trish Martin, Matt Wilson, Jamie Cahn and Marianne Walling.

Regarding the preparation for, and presentation during, the Zone Workshop meeting last Wednesday night, I am grateful for Phil Barnes, Dana and Marianne. Lastly, I appreciate the LSC Officials Chairs and committee members and their willingness to spend time on the call and the effort to forward information to all the officials in their respective LSCs. Volunteerism is alive and well!

Stay well, we need you.

Kathleen

## Announcements

- Speedo Summer Championship Applications will be posted this month
- Zone Meets -
  - Eastern Zone -
    - Age Group - Richmond, VA | August 4-8
  - Central Zone -
    - Age Group - Westmont, IL (AR, IL, MW, MN, MV, ND, OK, SD) | August 5-8
    - Age Group - Elkhart, IN (IN, IA, LE, MI, OH, OZ, WI) | August 5-8
    - Speedo Sectionals North (IA, IL, WI) - Pleasant Prairie, WI | July 8-11
    - Speedo Sectionals North (MN, ND, SD) - Minneapolis, MN | July 7-10
    - Speedo Sectionals South (AK, MV, MW, OK, OZ) - TBD | July 14-17
    - Speedo Sectionals East (IN, LE, MI, OH) - Geneva, OH | July 15-18
  - Southern Zone -
    - Age Group - Tupelo, MS | July 27-31 [Application to Officiate](#)
    - Senior - Lewisville, TX | July 27-31 [Application to Officiate](#)
  - Western Zone- TBD

## Producing the USA Swimming Online Tests - Bill Rose (SN)

The Online Test Committee, a sub-committee of the National Officials Committee, is being led by Bill Rose (SN), Senior Editors Paul Jones (MI), and Joe Woo (PC) and Category Editors to keep the USA Swimming Online Tests aligned with the current Rulebook.

The Category Editors cover the following:

- Phil Barnes (IA) - Administrative Category
- David Coleman (HI) - Referee Category
- Trey Prinz (ST) - Strokes and Master Swimming Categories
- Judy Sharkey (NJ) - YMCA Test Editor
- Wayne Shulby (NC) - Clerk of Course and Timing Judge Categories
- Mike Urbanowicz (CO) - Open Water Conduct, National and Venue Open Categories
- Lisa Vetterlein (PN) - Starter and Disability Categories

When the new Rulebook is compared to the prior years, new questions are written and sent to the Rules and Regulations Committee. Once approved, they receive a Master Question (MQ) number, and only questions that have been missed more than 25% of the time, or that have to be updated, will be reviewed. As a comparison, 179 MQ's were edited for 2020. This year, 90 MQ's were edited, most of them dealing with where renumbering took place.

Beginning April 15, the tests go offline to allow the Category Editors a chance to balance the test as it was the previous year. Duplicate questions are eliminated, and questions are combined whenever possible. Part two of the test, looking for the exact technical reference found in the Rulebook, has been eliminated and replaced by hints for each question. There are now more MQ's than ever, so no Test Taker will have an identical test.

When all the tests have been balanced, we are good to go live again. To finish the review, the Team Lead takes all of the tests to make sure they all look good for our Test Takers. Tests went live again on May 1.

Another document is compiled for the YMCA Editor so updates can be made to the questions used on their tests. The YMCA uses our questions, but they only use specific questions with no randomization.

The NCAA adopts a new Rulebook every two years. The year that the rules change, the NCAA questions are reviewed to see if any of them need to be replaced or corrected. We have been helping this organization the last six years, but they write and correct all of their own questions. The NCAA likes to have their tests ready for a September 1 start.

## **Congratulations to These Officials Who Served at Their First National Meet Recently**

*Note - We apologize for any omissions or errors.*

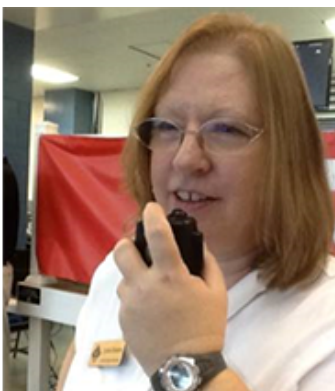
[TYR Pro Swim Series - April 2021 \(Mission Viejo\)](#)

Diana LaMar - Southern California Swimming  
 Michael Walsh - Southern California Swimming

## **Congratulations to the Wave I and Wave II Officials who will be serving in Omaha**

<b><i>Title</i></b>	<b><i>Wave I</i></b>	<b><i>Wave II</i></b>
Meet Referee	Amy Hoppenrath	Clark Hammond
Admin Referee	Lisa Olack	Jacki Allender
Asst. Admin	Traci Johnson	Peter LaGow
Asst. Admin	Mike Urbanowicz	Lisa Olack
CJ	Ellen Colket	Dana Covington
CJ	John Gigliardo	Kim Downs
CJ	Anne Lawley	Jason Johnson
CJ	Sue Talwar	Phil Lakota
CJ-TL	Mickey Smythe	Don Hougardy
DR	Lucy Duncan	Jamie Cahn
DR	Jim Holcomb	Sandy Drake
DR	Trish Martin	Kathleen Scandary
STR	Anissa Kanzari	Robert Scandary
STR	Lisa Vetterlein	Fran Werner
Head STR	Eric Peterson	Denice Wepasnick
TT Ref	-	Mark McCaw
Underwater	-	Robert Broyles
Underwater	-	Ron Van Pool
S&T	Hector Acevedo	Lorna Anaya
S&T	Pamela Birnbrich	Debbie Baldwin
S&T	Julie Carpenter	Phil Barnes
S&T	Ken Chung	Edgar Caraballo
S&T	Randy Clark	Mike Dilli
S&T	Michael Davis	Dave DiNardo
S&T	Kathleen Fish	Val Gibson
S&T	Jon Fox	Colleen Gillan
S&T	Patrick Garrett	Suzanne Heath
S&T	Tracey Garrett	Kevin Hogan
S&T	Dar Gerber	Mark Johnson
S&T	Melissa Hellervik-Bing	Rich McMillen
S&T	Susan Huckeby	Edie Mueller
S&T	Tim Husson	Curtis Myers
S&T	Steve Marchitelli	Jack Neill
S&T	Ernesto Martinez	David Olack
S&T	Thomas Oliver	Scott Powell
S&T	Derigan Silver	Betsy Purcell

S&T	Jeanette Soe	Frank Swigon
S&T	Joe Tiago	Joe Waller
S&T	Bob Vincent	Marianne Walling
S&T	Brian Walls	Matt Wilson
S&T	Katherine Walton	Pam Wilson
S&T	Todd Webber	-
S&T	Jack Yetter	-



## Officials Excellence Award

### *Cynthia Shannan - North Carolina Swimming*

Cynthia has dedicated so much of her life to volunteer work as well as community, church and education programs. It would be hard to find someone more dedicated to the sport of swimming and the teams, individuals, families and community involved.

Cynthia, who received North Carolina Swimming's Volunteer of the Year Award in 2019, has worked at swim meets as a Timer, Hospitality Chair, Concessions Manager, Meet Director and CTS Operator, running video wire and any other area needed. She has always used her knowledge and expertise gained in these positions to improve and advance to the next volunteer opportunity.

As a USA Swimming Official, Cynthia is very knowledgeable in setting up all levels of meets and inspires the volunteers to orchestrate every aspect with precision and professionalism. She never hesitates to coach, mentor or counsel those in the sport.

Cynthia regularly makes long trips to help support meets, perform clinics, evaluate officials for advancement and provide direction at all levels. To understand just how valuable she is to the sport, her USA Swimming Official Tracking System history that shows the 200-plus sessions she's performed in a single year speaks volumes.

Thank you for your dedication to the sport, Cynthia!

Talk to us today  
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