



PACIFIC SWIMMING COMMITTEE REPORT

To be submitted to boardmeeting@pacswim.org the Sunday prior to the next BOD meeting

Committee: _____ Officials Committee

Liaison to the Board: _____ Diana Fetterman, Cindy Rowland

Date of Last Meeting: _____ 11-12-25

Members Present:

Phil Grant, Diana Fetterman, Cindy Rowland, Debbi Tucker, Valerie Rudd, Katherine Ng-Suen, Brett Shaug, Sarah Obbagy, Lisa Kaplan, Mike Flegel, Mette Graversen, Roger Pflieger, Trevor Gillis, Pulin Muangsiri

Pacific Swimming Officials Committee Mission: To recruit, educate, train, certify, and mentor a diverse team of USA Swimming officials to provide the highest quality and consistent officiating for athletes at all levels of swimming.

I. Call to Order

Welcome: Trevor Gillis, Pulin Muangsiri

II. Staff Announcements: Next Annual Pacific Swimming Officials Clinic, October 17, 2026, at the Pleasant Hill Senior Center

III. Athlete Rep Report: Pulin updated the committee on the last athlete rep meeting.

IV. Chair Report

1. National Officials Committee update:

*Junior Officials are permitted to officiate at any meet provided they are not participating as competitors in the session. A new Administrative Junior Official position is pending approval by the USAS Board of Directors.

*USAS is developing a printable Membership Card. Should be available first quarter of 2026.

*Expired Official that is returning must have clinics up to date and should be evaluated for at least a couple of sessions before recertification.

*A new referee may decline a club's request to serve as meet referee due to insufficient experience.

*Officials whose credentials are nearing expiration may take the Refresher Test at any time within the three-year validity period of their credential.

*Time Drop Timing System has been approved for use at a sanctioned meet.

*USAS went from 59 LSC to 58 due to Lake Erie combining with Ohio Swimming.

2. LSC Apprentice Official FAQ

*Posted on the website, increase transparency and training opportunities.

3. Rule Changes

*Athletes who exceed the permitted number of events within a session or meet will not be seeded in any events beyond the established limit. Participation in an event above the maximum allowance will result in disqualification in those events exceeding the maximum.

* An Athlete during competition who enters another lane will be DQ.

*Stroke and Turn Officials may DQ an athlete for starting the race in an illegal starting position.

4. N2 Mentorship Training Recap Presentation (Mette)

Denver Colorado USA Swimming Summit

5. Apprentice Self Evaluation / Trainer Checklist (Sarah)

*Required to complete and send along with Check sheet requesting certification.

V. Zone Reports:

VII. Adjournment (next meeting, Wednesday, Jan 7, 2026, 7:00 pm)

2026 Meeting bimonthly meeting 1st Wed of every other month, unless on a holiday.

Stroke and Turn Apprentice

Training Progression Plan

This guide outlines the skills and focus areas for each session of your apprenticeship. Trainers can use it to provide guidance, observation, and feedback, while apprentices can use it to follow their progress and understand what to expect in each session. Sessions are flexible and can be adjusted to meet the needs of the apprentice and the flow of the meet.

Session 1 – Stroke Focus: (Freestyle – Always First Session)

- Focus: *Freestyle (required first stroke focus)*
- Discuss common freestyle rulebook language and infractions
- Observe starts and turns
- Emphasize consistent application of rules and jurisdictions
- Have apprentice fill out a DQ slip
- Encourage apprentice to call “Hand” if a violation is observed

Session 2 – Stroke Focus: (Apprentice’s Choice)

- Apprentice selects stroke focus (e.g., Backstroke, Breaststroke, Butterfly)
- Review key stroke and turn rules for chosen stroke
- Observe and discuss live examples at a meet
- Reinforce professionalism and observation protocol
- Review documentation process and how to communicate DQs with the Chief Judge and Referee
- Have apprentice fill out a DQ slip

Session 3 – Stroke Focus: (Apprentice’s Choice)

- Apprentice selects another stroke focus
- Review key differences and common errors between strokes
- Continue reinforcing rule interpretation and consistency
- Discuss relay takeoff judging if not yet covered
- Provide feedback on confidence, positioning, and clarity of calls

Session 4 – Stroke Focus: (Apprentice’s Choice; IM & Relays Must Be Covered)

- Ensure **all four competitive strokes** and **IM/Relay rules** have been covered
- Review integrated understanding of all strokes and transitions
- Observe, discuss, and evaluate IM and relay takeoffs
- Discuss meet flow and communication with other officials
- Confirm readiness for certification with Meet Referee (MR)

After Session 4 – Meet Referee Review

- The **4th MR** is responsible for ensuring the apprentice is ready to move forward.
- The MR will determine if additional sessions are needed.
- If further training is required, the MR will make recommendations to the Certifier, who will then create an action plan.
- The 4th MR ensures the apprentice is confident and there are no significant issues before certification.



PACIFIC SWIMMING APPRENTICE OFFICIALS – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The Pacific Swimming Officials Committee is committed to providing thorough and effective on-deck training programs for apprentice officials. This FAQ serves as a resource for supporting the on-deck training requirements of our LSC in compliance with USA Swimming.

Q1. Which meets can apprentice officials train at and receive session(s) credit?

Any sanctioned meet, where all four strokes are observed. A freestyle “only” meet shall not count for training sessions credit.

Q2. Can an apprentice official train at a Block Party Meet?

Yes. Apprentice officials may train at any block party meet but will only receive session credit if the meet is sanctioned as an OTS meet.

Q3. What is an OTS Block Party Meet?

A meet that is officiated “only using certified officials” in compliance of rule 102.10.4, minimum officiating requirements and rule 102.23, timing requirements.

Q4. Can an apprentice official train at an intrasquad, dual, and invitational meets?

Yes.

Q5. Does the meet have to be a certain length of time?

No. The length of the meet has no bearing.

Q6. Can an apprentice official train at Pacific Swimming Championship Meets?

No. Apprentice officials may not train at Pacific Swimming Awarded Championship Meets, such as; Age Group Championships, Far Western Championships, International Meet, Sectionals, nor any Senior Championship Meet offering preliminary and final events.

Q7. Can an apprentice officials train at a Zone Level Championship Meet?

Yes. Zone Level Championship Meets are not considered Pacific Swimming Awarded Championship Meets. Only the previously listed Pacific Swimming Championship Meets are exempt.

Q8. Can an apprentice official train at a Zone Level preliminary and finals meet?

Yes. Only the previously listed Pacific Swimming Championship meets are exempt from training.

Q9. What is the definition of a Trainer?

A Trainer is an official who is certified at least one (1) year in the position and is assigned by the meet referee or the LSC Officials Chair, to mentor an apprentice official. However, if there are no officials meeting the one (1) year requirement, the meet referee may assign the most experienced official to be a Trainer.

Q10. How long does an apprentice official have to complete their training after having taken the required position-specific clinic?

Certification must be completed within one (1) year from the month in which the clinic was taken.

Q11. Does the Referee Certification require the apprentice official to perform meet referee duties before certification?

No. Once the apprentice official has satisfied the minimum requirements of referee (deck referee), they do not have to perform as a meet referee prior to advancement. We will offer additional training to become a meet referee. It is important to note that just because someone is certified as a Referee, does not mean that the individual must accept an invitation to act as a Meet Referee, nor does an LSC that assigns Meet Referees to meets have an obligation to assign inexperienced Referees as Meet Referees.

Q12. Is there an online clinic for Chief Judge?

Currently USAS has not released an online clinic version for Chief Judge. For now, our annual Chief Judge clinic or zone hosted clinic will be used for certification.

Q13. How many apprentice officials can train at one time at a meet?

It will depend on the availability of meets, the number of Trainers, and the Trainer's ability to mentor; however, we should make every effort to accommodate multiple apprentices at onetime. Meet Referees are empowered to be creative.

Q14. If the number of apprentice officials exceeds the threshold at which effective mentoring can be given, is it acceptable to turn The Apprentice away or must they be provided with training?

Yes. It is acceptable to turn the apprentice away, although that should not be done without an explanation as to why the training cannot be provided. Having a frank discussion about what can or cannot be accomplished at a given session can help the apprentice understand why training at a given session is not advisable or practical. This may also be an opportunity to be creative in figuring out how training can be provided. We should 1st try

to find ways in which meaningful training opportunities can be provided, rather than defaulting to practices that limit training opportunities.

Q15. How does a stroke and turn apprentice official request on deck training to complete their required sessions?

As a practice, stroke and turn apprentice officials “should” contact their Zone Official Chair or Meet Referee in advance of the meet to ascertain training availability. However, if the stroke and turn apprentice reports to the meet without notice, the Meet Referee will make efforts to accommodate the training.

Q16. How does a Chief Judge, Starter, Administrative, or Referee apprentice officials request on deck training to complete their required sessions?

Since these positions are almost always preassigned with “certified officials,” the apprentice “shall” in advance contact the Meet Referee or Zone Official Chair so that arrangements can be made to accommodate training.

Q17. Can an apprentice official request training outside of their home zone or LSC?

Yes. Many teams travel to meets within and outside of the LSC, it is appropriate to request training session(s). Moreover, some zones due to their body of officials, have a finite number of apprentices requesting training. In this event, apprentices may reach out to other zones to request additional training opportunities if desired.

Q18. Can an apprentice official request more than the minimum number of sessions?

Yes. They may request additional sessions before asking to be certified. It is preferred that the apprentice official be comfortable in the position prior to requesting certification.

Q19. What if the apprentice official does not demonstrate the requisite knowledge of the applicable rules and satisfactorily performs the on-deck protocols and duties for the position?

In the event it is believed that an apprentice has not shown the necessary competency in the position after completion of the required training and apprentice sessions, the Certifier shall provide the apprentice with a written action plan of the steps needed to successfully obtain certification. Written notice shall be provided to the apprentice within two (2) weeks of the last apprentice session (or submission of the appropriate documents to the Certifier), and a copy shall be provided to the LSC OC. Additionally, an apprentice may always request additional training.