
Officials

Committee Members

Omar de Armas, Chair; Teri White, Vice Chair

Virgil Chancy, Brendan Clark-Griffin, Emily Cook, Daniel Cox, Rob Duguay, JoAnn Faucett, John Fox, John King, Thomas Murphy, Alina Perez de Armas, Edward Stranc, Cindi Wood,

Ex-Officio: Carrie Stolar, Onshalee Promchitmart

Introduction

The Officials Committee's purpose is to offer training and education opportunities for officials to ensure that USMS competitive meets are officiated to the highest standards. In addition, the committee is responsible for working with the hosts of each National Championship meet to ensure an adequate supply of masters-trained officials are present.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Annual Meeting

1. Officials Certification Program:

a. Status:

Since it was established in 2016, we have 625 currently active USMS certified officials, including 359 Starters, 24 Administrative Officials and 185 Referees. Administrative Officials certification is new this year.

b. As we continue to grow our numbers, we are fortunate some areas of the country with no or few USMS officials are able to continue relying on our partners at USA Swimming, YMCA, NCAA, and high school to conduct meets in those locations.

2. National Championship Meets:

a. 2026 College Club Championships – Greensboro, NC; April 10 to 12; Meet Referee, Rob Stevens. Teri White was head starter.

- 32 officials plus meet referee.

- Level of swimming comparable to USA Sectional level.

b. 2026 Spring Nationals – Greensboro, NC, April 30 to May 3; Meet Referee, Lisa Olack. Tracey Meece was the Administrative Referee, Teri White was head starter, and Jacki Allender was the Team Lead Chief Judge.

- 38 officials plus team leads registered to work the meet.

c. 2026 Summer Nationals – Sacramento, CA, August 5 to 9; Meet Referee, Leo Lin, Alina Perez de Armas Administrative Referee, Teri White head starter.

- Omar: Committee members attending include VIRGIL, Brendan, Alina, Omar, Teri, Daniel, and Thomas.

- 1700 swimmers in the 5-day meet.

3. Rules:

- a. Enforcement of the use of backstroke ledges continues to be a point of discussion. With the current styles available the general rule of thumb is to work with the host prior to the meet to ensure they are set to the prescribed depth, and officials monitor for obvious deviations from the rule.
 - b. The Chair participated as ex-officio on the Rules Committee in a number of discussions regarding adjustments to technical rules in order to ensure rules are not only fair to competitors but clear in their enforcement.
 - The rules committee adopted World Aquatics and USA Swimming rule changes regarding submerging at the finish of Freestyle and Butterfly, use of elastic tape and lap counting and use of a bell for 400M Freestyle events and informed the Officials Committee for immediate implementation.
- 4. USMS Excellence in Officiating Award:**
- a. Award for 2026 to be presented at the Annual Meeting.
- 5. Action Items**
- a. Continue all ongoing programs and refresh ownership of them.
 - b. Testing: continue to search for a different testing platform.
 - c. Officials Award: send out general call
 - d. Continue working on Policy Handbook to assist Officials standardize procedures.
- 6. Agenda**
- a. Call to order
 - b. Approval of Minutes
 - c. Old Business
 - Officials Certification program status
 - Championship meet reports for 2026
 - College Club Swimming National Championship –
 - Spring (SCY) Championships – Nova, Irvine, CA
 - Summer (LCM) Championships – SwimRVA, Richmond, Virginia
 - d. USMS Officials Award
 - e. USMS Officials website
 - f. New Business
 - Virtual Annual Meeting (September 18-19)
 - Relay (September 25-27, Denver, CO)
 - g. Future Agenda items
 - Policy Handbook
 - 1. Update Training/Certification materials
 - h. 2027 Nationals (Irvine, CA and Richmond, VA)

Officials Committee Meeting

[Thursday, September 3, 2026 8:00pm-9:00pm EST | Zoom Registration Link](#)