



This Certifies that

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The Newsletter

(Published Quarterly)

Communicates with the Swimming Officials of:
Georgia Swimming Inc.

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Rob Schreer

Officials' Committee Chair

Georgia Swimming's mission is to provide a program designed to encourage Georgia athletes to pursue opportunities available through competitive swimming and to educate organizations of the benefits of Georgia Swimming.

Georgia Swimming's vision is to increase opportunity, recognition and growth in competitive swimming.

NOTE FROM ROB

Seen and Heard on Deck

from Kingsland to Dalton and at pools in between

April 2012

The two most frequent words I have heard lately “session counts”. Georgia Swimming has been maintaining records of session counts for our certified officials for many years. Each certified member has a personal record maintained for them on our official's WebExOne site. Not only does this file record your personal work history as a certified swimming official, it also triggers other events that recognize your contributions both publicly and personally. Unlike USA Swimming and most LSC's, your official's certification in Georgia is for a two year period. During that two year period there are minimum session requirements that when met will automatically renew your certification for an additional two years. No recertification testing is required because we feel that your deck experiences are more indicative of your value to the sport than test results. There are also key events that, when surpassed, trigger changes in your certification status like extending your recertification; like receiving a certificate expressing our appreciation for your involvement; like being recognized in a specific “Officials Chair” Award group; or like receiving a new certification card that has one or more STARS or a SHOOTING STAR or a colored bar in the right margin in reorganization of your 100, 200, 300, or more sessions. More recently USA Swimming Officials Tracking System (OTS) has begun tracking positions/sessions worked by swim meet. During the OTS development efforts to make the two programs compatible were not successful. So, while these two programs record the same information they are not always synchronized. Earlier this year the responsibility of entering officials/participation data shifted from designated LSC OTS Assistants to the Meet Referee.

Let's take a moment and look at the mechanics of getting your work from the pool deck to show up when you click on the “Session Information” tab on the WebExOne site. To do this I want to look at three different swim meets, sanctioned meets conducted in Georgia; sanctioned meets conducted out-of-state that you attend; and non-sanctioned you attend in-state or out-of-state. The term “sanctioned meets”, in this case, includes sanctioned, approved, or observed meets.

First the meets held in Georgia. As part of the meet sanction, Meet Referees are responsible for completing a Meet Summary Report listing all officials who work the meet and the number of sessions worked. The sanction also stipulates that the Meet Referees should submit the report to the LSC Certification chair within 14 days of the meet. We all know that life sometimes gets in the way of our good intentions and many reports are not received until well after the established deadline. Once the report is received the information is uploaded to

your personal record page on WebExOne. Again this upload process is not instantaneous. There is a lot of important information on the meet summary report and only a portion of it goes to your personal record. Now, the out-of-state meet. As an LSC we can not require other LSCs to follow our procedures such as completing/submitting a meet summary report. Therefore it is the individual Georgia certified official's responsibility to provide written documentation from the Meet Referee validating their participation in an out of state meet upon their return to Georgia following the meet. An Out-of-State form to satisfy this requirement is downloadable from the "Documents" section on our WebExOne site. An alternative to using the out-of-state form is to provide a copy of your Officials Detail Report from OTS to the Georgia certification chair with the meet in question highlighted.

Lastly, the non-Georgia/USA Swimming sanctioned meet. Basically we are talking about college level dual/invitational meets. Recently however we came across the need to expand our process to include international competition, e.g. Dual in the Pool. If you are the meet referee of such a meet conducted in Georgia or out-of-state submit a meet summary report to the Certification chair the same as you would for sanctioned competition. If meet referee is not from Georgia or you are out-of-state report you activity to the Certification chair by using the out-of-state form. You may re-label the form "Non-sanctioned Swimming Competition" if necessary.

This article is longer than I originally intended but hopefully it will answer most of your questions. If there is a lingering question out there ask it. We can find an answer ... hopefully quickly if not immediately.

See you on deck,

Rob

GEORGIA SWIMMING NEWS

Are you planning to join us for the 2012 Georgia LSC Spring Meeting scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, April 14-15, 2012? All are invited, particularly athletes! See how the LSC works, join in at the Officials' Committee Meeting, participate at the Age Group or Senior Meetings, and find out what Technical Planning is all about. Of note: Officials' Committee Meeting will be Saturday Morning. Georgia Swimming House of Delegates Meeting is Sunday morning. The All-Star Banquet will be held April 15 at the Georgia Aquarium (see www.gaswim.org for more information). Hope to see you there!

Meeting Schedule

Saturday, April 14

Officials Committee 11:00-12:30pm, Rm 249***
Coaches Meeting* 12:15-1:00pm, Rm 251
Athletes Committee 1:00-2:00pm, Rm 249
Age-Group Meeting 1:00-2:30pm, Rm 251
Senior Committee 2:30-3:30pm, Rm 251
Technical Planning 3:45-5:00pm, Instruction Center 103
Board of Directors** 5:00-6:00pm Rm 251
Officials Clinics 2:00pm - Class Rm 249

Sunday, April 15

House of Delegates Registration 8:30am, Instruction Center 103
House of Delegates Meeting 9:00am, Instruction Center 103

All Star Banquet 1:30pm GA Aquarium

* Divisions to meet on their own, prior to Technical Planning

** Immediately after Technical Planning

***Classrooms are on the 2nd Floor of the GA Tech Aquatic Center.

****The Instruction Center is across the street from the Aquatic Center main entrance. Room 103.

Parking on Techwood Parkway. Passes will be provided. See Committee Chairs.

HOT TOPICS

In Georgia Swimming

The Georgia Swimming Officials' Committee will begin to actively use the Georgia Officials' website, <http://gaofficials.webexone.com> to post meet situations that provide some learning opportunity to help officials manage and officiate their meets.

1. Please post your questions or comments that may help to clarify the rules and actions involved in the situations.
2. Please feel free to post your own questions or situations that might help officials learn more about officiating at meets.
3. The forum should be viewed as a great way for officials to communicate regarding any aspect of meets or the GA LSC that can impact officials. Veterans and rookies may be able to learn from each other and communicate all over the state even when we have never met.

In USA Swimming

On April 5, 2012 USA Swimming sent out the first edition of the new e-newsletter for USA Swimming Officials. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide a foundation that allows for direct on-going communication. Planned articles will cover the technical rules and interpretations, situations, application deadlines for upcoming meets, news from the officials committee, etc. If you have any feedback, comments, or suggestions for stories (or even want to submit an article), please e-mail officials@usaswimming.org.

Additionally, the Officials' Committee Athlete Representatives created a Facebook page last fall. It's a great way for you to stay up to date and engage in our community. If you haven't signed up yet, the page can be located on Facebook as "USA Swimming Officials." While not everyone is on Facebook, the mission of the page is to promote the interaction and communication between USA Swimming officials, coaches, and most importantly, athletes. This page was formed by the current Athlete Representatives (Shawn Parkhurst & Steve Sholdra) on the USA Swimming Officials' Committee. The purpose is to increase athlete interaction with officials, which has now been expanded to all USA members including other officials, coaches, and volunteers. Not only are athletes able to 'like' the page to show their appreciation for our officials who volunteer their time week in and week out to make our sport possible, any USA member can (and is encouraged to) post on the wall. Any officiating-related issues can then be directed right to the USA Swimming Officials Committee.

NEW AND IMPROVED

Congratulations to the following officials who have advanced to a new certification level:

Referee:	Tom Weyrich	(HRST)
Starter:	Georges Bordes	(DYNA)

And to the following NEW officials who have been certified in Georgia Swimming during the 1st quarter of 2012:

Administrator	Emily Akers	(GOLD)	Donna Lawrence	(TARA)
	Lisa Cave	(ABSC)	Karen Samaha	(ASL)
Stroke & Turn:	Jeff Allison	(ASL)	Mona Murray	(DYNA)
	Bob Best	(RAYS)	Judy Narde	(SA)
	Margret Brandel	(CCAC)	Tony Royek	(SST)
	Cameron Cole	(GOLD)	Steve Seymour	(SST)
	Patty Hampton	(GOLD)	Karen Skiff	(ASL)
	Michele Johnson	(ASL)		

FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN ADVANCING TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Check out the Georgia Swimming Certification and Re-Certification Procedures approved April 16, 2011:

<http://gaofficials.webexone.com/r.asp?a=5&id=138188>

UPCOMING OFFICIALS' QUALIFYING MEETS

Following is a listing of local, not so local, and national meets that are upcoming in 2012:

USMS Spring Nationals	4/26-29 Greensboro, NC	contact Joel Black, joelblack@mindspring.com
Charlotte UltraSwim	5/10-13 Charlotte, NC	deadline 4/1/12, John Wilson, MR
SZES LC Sr Championships	7/12-15 Greensboro, NC	contact Gloria Schuldt, schuldt@earthlink.net
Georgia 14&u State Championships	7/18-21 Georgia Tech	TBA
Georgia Sr State Championships	7/27-29 Univ of Georgia	TBA
US Open Championships	8/7-11 Indianapolis, IN	application deadline 4/15/12 (must be an N2)
Speedo Jr National Championships	8/13-17 Indianapolis, IN	application deadline 4/25/12 (must be an N2)

2012 OFFICIALS TRAINING CLINICS SCHEDULE

Following is a schedule of training clinics anticipated. Others may be added as required by interest.

REFEREE and STARTER:

Bi-annually, April & September, in conjunction with the LSC HOD meeting

- April 14, 2012

STROKE & TURN JUDGE:

Home School Program (HSP)

Open schedule based on participant's completion of HSP

Conducted at swim meet that participant is attending

- April 21, 2012, Johns Creek, GA

Full Clinics (No Pre-Study Required)

5-day advance pre-registration required to assure training material availability)

Tri-annually (October, February, June), Minimum 5 attendees.

- April 22, 2012, Johns Creek, GA (registration deadline: April 15)

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL/CLERK OF COURSE:

Quarterly (March, June, September, December*), Minimum 5 attendees

- April 21, 2012, Johns Creek, GA (registration deadline: April 15)

AUTOMATIC TIMING EQUIPMENT OPERATOR:

Open schedule depending on interest.

Conducted at swim meet that participant and trainer are attending.

Contact Steve Drew (sdrew@imagecounts.us) for more information.

SITUATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

A Philosophy on How to Handle Situations in Finals

by John Wilson, USA Swimming and NCAA, Starter and Referee

Here are some premises for thinking about making decisions at prelim and final meets. These meets are often career ending, season ending, or the last opportunity to swim the time standard for a higher level meet. The goal is to have athletes swim what they came to swim. We should use the rules to keep the swimmer in the meet/event instead of using the rules to keep them out of the meet/event.

Many of the administrative rules around meets are left over from the time when things were done by hand, when Admin Referees didn't have the computer tools they have now. Now we can switch lanes, switch heats, drag and drop a swimmer in a new location – no problem.

Flexibility is the new name of the game in swimming. (In the NCAA) We now allow the second, third and fourth swimmers on a relay to swim in any order as long as the correct order is reported after the swim. They can even change swimmers on the relay up to the last minute. In their meet information, some meets even allow swimmers to scratch any final as late as 30 minutes after the end of prelims. It is easy for the Admin Ref to make the adjustment and still get heat sheets out for the finals session.

If you are the meet referee and a coach comes to you just before finals with the news that an athlete can't (or doesn't want to) swim in finals, what do you do? I will say OK and then have the Admin Ref find the alternate to let them know they are swimming. At that late time I will not re-seed the event. If the open lane is in the slowest heat, I will just move the alternate into the open lane. If the open lane is in a higher heat, I will move the athlete from lane 4 in the slower heat into the open lane in the higher heat. The important thing is to disturb as few athletes as possible. If you re-seed at that late a time, some athletes won't get the message, and you will have to move them around on deck just before they swim – disturbing their focus. The reason someone can't (or won't) swim is not important. What is important is that the athletes who want to swim get the opportunity to swim with the least amount of disturbance possible.

If a lane is open in the first heat in finals, I will call for the alternates. Hopefully one of them is prepared to swim or is willing to go put on a suit. I will wait for the alternate to get ready and then swim the heat. If there is a delay, I will tell all the other swimmers in the heat individually what the delay is about and how long it might be. I will also ask them to be ready to go at that time. I will allow them to do whatever they need to do to stay ready – jump in the pool to swim a bit, whatever it takes. When the heat is ready I will then ask the swimmers individually if they are ready and be sensitive to the fact that some might not be. When I'm sure everyone is ready we'll start the heat.

This discussion does not cover everything that can happen, but I hope it gives you an idea how to solve some of the usual situations that can occur.

OLYMPIC DREAMS

Excitement is building for Georgia athletes who have qualified for the 2012 U.S. Olympic Team Trials this summer, June 5-July 2, in Omaha, Nebraska. As you may know, the United States is the last country to hold its Olympic Trials. Did you know that 17-year-old Matias Koski (son of Matti Koski, a Georgia Swimming Official with Dynamo) has already qualified to represent Team Finland at the London 2012 Olympic Games? Matias qualified at the Indianapolis Grand Prix by swimming an Olympic Qualifying Time (OQT/A-Time) of 15:09.17 in the 1500 Freestyle LCM. Other events in which Matias will compete for which he has the Olympic Selection Time (OST/B-Time) include the 200 and 400 Freestyle events. According to SwimNews.com, Matias was ranked 14th in the world in the 1500 Free as of 4/9/2012 (<http://www.swimnews.com/rank>). Matias was born in Finland but has lived in the U.S. since he was 2 years old. In the U.S., Matias has represented Team Weston (FL), SPDY (Stevens Point YMCA, WI). Prior to moving to Georgia in 2007, he swam unattached in Wisconsin in USA swimming meets 2005-2007.

NCAA CHAMPIONS

The University of Georgia's Martin Grodzki broke the U.S. Open and NCAA record in the 1650 Freestyle at the 2012 NCAA Division 1 Men's Swimming and Diving Championships in Federal Way, Washington on March 24, 2012 with a time of 14:24.08. Grodzki, a native of Germany, who prepped at Baylor School in Chattanooga, held off Stanford's Chad LaTourette, who finished in 14:24.35 and set a new American record with his 2nd place finish. Martin also won the 500 Freestyle, becoming Georgia Men's Swimming's third athlete to win two NCAA titles in the same meet. Martin will compete in Germany's Olympic Team Trials in May.

Megan Romano won the 200 Freestyle for the Lady Bulldogs in 1:41.21 at the 2012 NCAA Division 1 Women's Swimming and Diving Championships in Auburn, Alabama on March 16, 2012, setting new American, U.S. Open, and NCAA records in the event.

UGA's Wendy Trott won the Elite 89 award given to the swimmer/diver at the NCAAs with the highest GPA. Wendy, with a GPA of 3.97, is a native of South Africa and will be competing in South Africa's upcoming Olympic Team Trials.

The Emory University Women's Swimming and Diving Team claimed its third-consecutive NCAA Title and fifth overall in the program's history during the 2012 NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving Championships in

Indianapolis, Indiana on March 24, 2012. Emory has now won the NCAA Division III Women's Swimming and Diving Championship in 2005, 2006, 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Emory University's Women's 200-yard Medley Relay team, including Sadie Nennig, Jennifer Aronoff, Leslie Hackler, and Claire Pavlak, won the event with a time of 1:42.27.

Emory's Patrick Augustyn won the 100-yard Butterfly in 48.22. He also won the 200-yard Butterfly for the 2nd time in two years. Augustyn broke his own school record in the 200-yard butterfly with a time of 1:45.43. It marked the second-straight season that Augustyn has won the NCAA Division III title in the 200-yard butterfly, and his three career National Championships tie him for the most in the history of the men's program.

The Eagles claimed the National Championship in the 200-yard freestyle relay for the third time in four seasons, as Renee Rosenkranz, Anna Dobben, Ann Wolber, and Clair Pavlak won the event with a time of 1:32.38.

Sadie Nennig won the 200-yard backstroke with a time of 1:58.86 to claim her first career individual National Championship. The title was the first in an individual event during the meet by a Lady Eagle and 25th individual National Championship in the program's history.

Emory also defended its title in the 400-yard freestyle relay, with Renee Rosenkranz, Anna Dobben, Nancy Larson, and Claire Pavlak winning the event with a school-record time of 3:22.02, besting their time from last year's championship meet. The Eagles have now won the event at Nationals in each of the last three seasons.

GEORGIA SWIMMING OFFICIALS COMMITTEE:

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IDEAS? COMMENTS? SUGGESTIONS?

Great! We want to hear from you! Send an e-mail with your ideas, comments, suggestions, articles and whatever you think may be of interest to the other officials in Georgia to Julie Allen, editor-in-chief at: GeorgiaSwimmingOfficialsNews@gmail.com

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