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**UPCOMING MEETS**

Hope you can [join us](#) at these upcoming meets:

Grand Prix – Minneapolis, Minn.  
Nov. 20-22, 2014  
(More officials needed – see below)

Grand Prix – Austin, Texas  
Jan. 15-17, 2015

Grand Prix – Orlando, Fla.  
Feb. 12-14, 2015

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This will likely be my last message as Chair of the National Officials Committee. I have been blessed to work with some of the greatest people over the past four years. I cannot thank enough (and am eternally grateful to) Jamie Cahn, Sandy Drake, Lucy Duncan, Bob Griffiths, Melissa Hellervik-Bing, Amy Hoppenrath, Bill Rose, Joel Black, Dan McAllen, Jim Sheehan and Carol Zaleski for their commitment and support of me, our committee and USA Swimming over these past four years. I also had the pleasure of getting to know and work with some exceptional athletes and future leaders of our sport. Thank you to Corey Stein and Jacob Urbano, the current athlete members of our committee, and to CeCe Etter, Shawn Parkhurst and Steve Sholdra who also served during my tenure, for your contributions to the committee. I greatly appreciate your input and perspective. I also would be remiss if I did not mention the contributions of Paul Jones and John Kinney for their service on the committee during my tenure. Paul's attention to detail and John's "passion" for open water swimming were beyond measure. Each committee member brought unique and important perspectives and strengths to the group.

I would also be remiss if I did not acknowledge the many LSC officials chairs and their committees who do the real work relating to officiating. Without them, it simply does not get done at the level that is most important – the LSCs. No Olympic swimmer ever started at the top. They each began as an age grouper. And in each and every case, there was a mom, dad or committed official who gave their time so the athlete could reach their goal. So to those who work the deck for your club or LSC, thank you. Without you, there is no meet and there is no opportunity.

Lastly, thank you to Carol Burch, Mary Illich, Lori Shumate, Gina Mensay and Cathy Durance, who are and were the dedicated and professional staff who supported the committee these past four years and who are simply the greatest folks anyone could hope to work with. You are literally the greatest.

Thanks to all, and I look forward to seeing you on deck.  
*Clark Hammond, National Officials Chair*

## **Arena Grand Prix at Minneapolis Nov. 20-22, 2014**

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Ever thought about officiating at a Grand Prix? We could use a few

more officials. To apply -- go to [USASwimming.org](http://USASwimming.org) and submit your application by **Oct. 26, 2014**. The Arena Grand Prix at Minneapolis, will give you the opportunity to meet new officials and renew friendships with officials who are already members of your wonderful swimming family.

There are a few rooms still available at The Commons, next door to the swimming venue at the University of Minnesota. You can find The Commons at 615 Washington Ave. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414, (612) 379-8888.

Any questions, please contact Bill Rose, Meet Referee at: [cbrose@omsoft.com](mailto:cbrose@omsoft.com) or (916) 397-3628.

## **Our Kids Initiative -- Putting Our Kids First**

By Jay Thomas, Rules & Regulations Chair;  
OKI Committee Chair

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As our athletes are transitioning into short course season, so are many of our USA Swimming officials. This is the time of year when officials start working at meets that are sanctioned under different governing bodies with different rules. As officials, we need to take some extra time to reacquaint ourselves with the different rules. Fortunately, the differences between the organizations today are minimal compared to 10 years ago thanks to Our Kids Initiative.

Our Kids Initiative is a cooperative effort of the leadership from the swimming member organizations to "Put ALL of Our Kids First." The goal of this committee is to find ways for competition to be as fair as possible regardless of the organization the swimmer is representing. Additionally, members are working together to find ways to help each other in making swimming in the United States the best activity for all Americans. The OKI rule-making organizations include: FINA, USA Swimming, NCAA, YMCA, NFHS, USP and USMS. The non-rule-making organizations include: ASCA, CSAA, CSOA and NISCA. All have a seat at the table and all work collaboratively for "Our Kids".

Over the past several years OKI has spent considerable time working together to bring more commonality between the rules of each organization. They have also made it easier for you as an official to transition between governing organizations. They have prepared two documents, which are posted on the [OKI website](#) that will be invaluable to you: The OKI Rules Differences Summary Chart and the OKI Water Depth Summary Chart. You will also find rule interpretations from the governing bodies posted. For all of us who officiate meets under different organizations, please take the time to review and be very careful to apply the rules as appropriate for the meet you are working – we owe that to the "kids". Nobody will ever criticize an official for reversing a call because they accidentally applied a rule incorrectly – admit the error and fix the

call.

Hopefully these efforts will help you to “Put ALL of Our Kids First”. If you have any questions, please contact Jay Thomas at [jaythomas@gmail.com](mailto:jaythomas@gmail.com).

## **Maxwell Award**

Joanie Beisel, New England Swimming

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Joanie Beisel has contributed to New England Swimming for more than 20 years. She is not only a highly qualified national official but she is very dedicated to her LSC. You will see her volunteering at several meets each season.



Joanie is always more than willing to accept projects when asked by the Officials Committee and/or Chair. She is involved in training both new and seasoned officials throughout the LSC in all positions, especially Chief Judge. She instructs and mentors whenever she is on deck and is a facilitator who presents several clinics each year. Joanie is tireless in her patience with new officials, a past member of the NE Officials Committee and never lets New England Swimming down! Any LSC would be very happy to have Joanie!

## **Hy-tek Corner**

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A couple more new features were added in a recent service pack update for Meet Manager for Swimming 5.0.

- Go to Set-up, Seeding Preferences. Near the bottom of that screen under Non-Conforming Entry. Times there is a new check box which allows you to indicate that if an entry qualifies using a non-conforming course, then the entry time is to be the minimum time for the conforming course
- Go to Set-up, Meet Setup. On this screen there is now a date field to indicate the earliest date that entries can be submitted.