

How 2025 U.S. Masters Swimming Annual Meeting — Hybrid

Committee Name:	Officials Committee	Session #:	1
Committee Chair:	Omar de Armas	Vice Chair:	John King
Minutes recorded by:	Omar de Armas	Date/time of meeting:	August 28, 2025, 5:00 PDT

Actions Requiring Approval by the House of Delegates:

- a. Proposals for four (4) rules changes were submitted to the Rules Committee this year.
 - i. 103.3.1/103.3.2: update language on who can approve exception to official's qualification to specify LMSC Chair in lieu of LMSC Officials Chair. – Approved to send to Rules
 - ii. 103.2.1, 103.3.1, 108.1.1: add requirement for referee to be approved prior to sanction being issued. – Approved to send to Rules since it couldn't be determined who else might need to review it.
 - iii. 104.5.10B(1): update selection process of Meet Referee for National Championships to equal current actual process. – Approved to send to Championship for concurrence.
 - iv. 104.5.10B(2), (3), (4): Delete and replace with language referencing existing committee policy document. Approved to send to Rules and Championship.

Motions Passed:

- 1.

Number of committee members present: 10	Absent: 1	Number of other delegates present:
Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair):		
Omar de Armas, Chair; John King, Vice Chair		
Virgil Chancy, Emily Cook, Rob Duguay, Judy Gillies, Alina Perez de Armas, Edward Stranc, Teri White, Cindi Wood		
Ex-Officio: Onshalee Promchitmart (staff), Robin Smith (EC-VP Programs)		
Committee Members Absent: Thomas Murphy		

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm PDT.

2. Officials Certification Program:

- a. Status:

Since it was established in 2016, we have 548 currently active USMS certified officials, including 308 Starters, 3 AO and 153 Referees. This reflects increases of 113 active officials, 21 Starters, and 17 Referees over last year. As we continue to grow our numbers, we are fortunate some areas of the country with no or few USMS officials to be able to continue relying on our partners at USA Swimming, YMCA, NCAA, and high school to conduct meets in those LMSCs.
- b. Administrative Official Certification:

The committee established training and certification requirements for USMS Administrative Officials. The initial goal is to ensure that larger meets (e.g., LMSC Championships) are staffed with a USMS-

certified Administrative Official to relieve Meet Referees of that duty. The Committee also approved a supplemental quiz to be used in conjunction with the USA Swimming AO test.

3. National Championship Meets:

- a. 2025 College Club Swimming National Championship, 3/28-30. Mesa, AZ.
Teri White was the Meet Referee. Mike Abegg, Virgil Chancy and Ed Stranc from the Committee attended. Great response from local officiating community. Onshalee reported that next year the meet is in Greensboro with regional champs in Mission Viejo, Ohio State, Liberty, and Florida State.
- b. 2025 Spring Nationals 4/24-27 San Antonio, TX,
Claude Humbert was the Meet Referee. Judy, Cindi, Rob, Teri reported that there were just minor glitches, wind was a problem with flags, large number of younger swimmers was notable, also there was some CCS carryover – Rhode Island’s CCS team came since they didn’t qualify for nationals.
- c. 2025 Summer Nationals 8/6-10 Federal Way, WA:
Mike Murphy was Meet Referee; Judy Gillis served as the Officials Committee Liaison. Judy reported that there long days, but there were plenty of officials to cover the pool, with over 30 local officials and 20 traveling officials.
 - A \$50 per day stipend was offered to local officials along with the national stipend offered to traveling officials (some local officials declined the offer).
- d. 2025 World Masters, 8/7-14 Singapore
Teri White represented USMS officials as the Discipline Manager for Referees on one of the pools. Teri shared that was “amazing, hot and humid” with over 4,583 athletes and 30 world records set.
 - Qualifying Times were enforced and swimmers clearly failing to meet the time could be removed from future events (8.1.5.1). The enforcement of qualifying times was started in Japan continued in Doha and Singapore.
 - USMS may consider implementing similar policies for enforcing qualifying times in future championships.

4. Reimbursement Policy:

- a. Effective with 2024 Championship meets, a new Committee policy was in place for limited USMS reimbursement to officials certified through the USMS program by the start of the meet.
 - Raised the question of LMSC support for officials' travel expenses to national meets
 - Only two officials at Federal Way indicated they had LMSC support
 - Oregon LMSC has a budget line item for officials’ support
 - Connecticut LMSC's official stance is that officials should volunteer, but meet directors can provide stipends
 - Maryland LMSC pays officials for local meets
 - Florida LMSC pays officials \$50 for each meet
 - Pacific Northwest LMSC doesn't pay officials but provides gifts and excellent hospitality
 - New Mexico provides hospitality and useful items rather than payment
 - Emphasized the importance of financial compensation to retain and attract officials, especially considering the aging membership

5. Tasks for the Upcoming Year

- a. Continue all ongoing programs and refresh ownership of them.
- b. Develop FAQ document with common situations

- c. Testing: transition Testmoz to someone else?
- d. Officials Award: send out general call
- e. Prepare/formalize Policy Handbook
 - i. Policy for Championship meet staffing
 - ii. Officials' certification for Championship meet reimbursement
 - iii. Championship Meet Referee/Liaison roles
 - iv. Referee requirement of being a USMS Member – eliminate?
 - v. Plan for Session Tracking which currently we just rely on LMSC Officials Chairs (whose processes vary).
 - vi. Update Referee Self-Training Guide to be a supplemental guide now that USA Swimming training has launched.
- f. Monitor Administrative Official training and modify as needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 pm PDT
