

USMS Officials Committee 2026

Committee Name:	Officials Committee	Session #:	1
Committee Chair:	Omar de Armas	Vice Chair:	Teri White
Minutes recorded by:		Date/time of meeting:	2/17/2026 5:00 PM PST

Motions Passed:
1.

Number of committee members present:	Absent: 1	Number of other members present: 1
Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Omar de Armas Chair; Virgil Chancy; Brendan Clark-Griffin; Daniel Cox; Rob Duguay; JoAnn Faucett; John Fox; John King; Alina de Armas; Ed Stranc; Cindi Wood; Carrie Stolar, Ex		
Committee Members Absent: Thomas Murphy; Emily Cook; Teri White, Vice Chair; Onshalee Promchitmart, Ex.		

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 PST.

Approval of Agenda

Introductions and Announcements

1. Committee members introduced themselves. New members of the committee are Brendan Clark-Griffin and Daniel Cox.
2. Dawson Hughes provided an update (via email) on litigation and policy changes being discussed at the Board of Directors meeting. Omar will schedule a short meeting when Dawson is available for him to update the Officials Committee.

Old Business

1. Officials Certification program: 580 TOTAL, 324 Starters, 167 Referees, 16 Administrative Officials.
2. National Championship Meets:
 - a. 2026 College Club Championships – Greensboro, NC; April 10 to 12; Meet Referee, Rob Stevens. Teri White is head starter. 35 Officials applicants. Daniel Cox will be working at the meet.
 - b. 2026 Spring Nationals – Greensboro, NC, April 30 to May 3; Meet Referee, Lisa Olack. Tracey Meece is the Administrative Referee, Teri White is head starter, and Jacki Allender is the Team Lead Chief Judge. Cindi Wood, Rob Duguay, and Brendan Clark-Griffin will attend the meet.
 - c. 2026 Summer Nationals – Sacramento, CA, August 5 to 9; Meet Referee, Leo Lin. Alina Perez de Armas was asked to be the Administrative Referee. Virgil, Brendan, Alina, and Omar will attend the meet.
 - d. Open Water National Meet – Sarasota, FL, April 3 to 4; Meet Referee, John Fox. Communication between Long Distance and Officials Committee to recruit officials needed. Cindi Wood will help look for officials in Florida.

New Business:

1. Goals for 2026:
 - a. Continue ongoing programs and possible refresh of ownership.
 - b. Review and update documents on the Officials page of the USMS website. Develop FAQ document with common situations to add to current interpretations. John Fox volunteered to help review documents on website.
 - c. Create policy and procedures for the management of officials at national meets including staffing.
 - i. Officials' certification for Championship meet reimbursement.
 - ii. Referee/liaison roles at national meets
 - iii. Referee requirement of being a USMS Member – eliminate? Discussion on both sides. Coaches pay \$30 for membership maybe Officials can do the same if they are not swimmers. Add Official to profile on the website.
 - iv. Procedures for the appointment of officials to international meets.
 - v. Prepare/formalize Policy Handbook.
 - vi. Cindi Wood, Virgil Chancy, Daniel Cox, and Rob Duguay volunteered to work on policies and procedures.
 - d. Mentoring process for new officials. John Fox and John King volunteered to work on training guides.
 - i. Update Referee Self-Training Guide to be a supplemental guide now that USA Swimming training has launched.
 - ii. Monitor Administrative Official training and modify as needed.
 - e. Testing: transition Testmoz to someone else? Brendan Clark-Griffin and Ed Stranc volunteered to investigate a different testing program. Brendan volunteered to help with current tracking system.
 - f. Plan for Session Tracking which currently we just rely on LMSC Officials Chairs (whose processes vary). Ed Stranc is working on tracking system for his LMSC and will investigate possibly using for USMS, Brendan Clark-Griffin will work with Ed.
 - g. Officials Award: send out general call. Talk to Jessica/Onshalee about LMSC lists.
 - h. Adoption of College Club meets to be under the USMS Officials Committee umbrella. Add to policy to send liaison and possible funds to support them. Details on what is needed from Onshalee. Daniel Cox and Virgil Chancy volunteered to help to work with College Club.
2. Alina asked about AO certifications and taking USA Swimming Clinic, would it be possible to grandfather or have Officials Chairs vouch for AO's that have been working at USMS meets for years. Committee discussed and it was brought up since Referees are grandfathered into USMS certifications AOs should follow same procedures. Alina will work with Teri on the certifications.

Next meeting: April 7, 2026, 5pm PST, 8pm EST

The meeting was adjourned at 06:10 PM PST
