

## USMS Officials Committee 2026

<b>Committee Name:</b>	Officials Committee	<b>Session #:</b>	2
<b>Committee Chair:</b>	Omar de Armas	<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Teri White
<b>Minutes recorded by:</b>		<b>Date/time of meeting:</b>	3/07/2026 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; Emily Cook; Daniel Cox; Rob Duguay; JoAnn Faucett; John Fox; John King; Alina de Armas; Thomas Murphy; Ed Stranc; Teri White, Vice Chair; Cindi Wood; Carrie Stolar, Ex; Onshalee Promchitmart, Ex.

**Committee Members Absent:** Brendan Clark-Griffin

**Guest:** Dawson Hughes, USMS CEO.

### Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 PST.

Approval of Agenda. M/S/C

Approval of previous meeting minutes. M/S/C

Introductions and Announcements

#### 1. Transgender Athlete Policy and Litigation Update

Dawson Hughes (USMS CEO) presented updates on ongoing litigation and policy changes for Spring Nationals and future meets.

### Key Update: Transgender Athlete Policy & Litigation

- An organizational leader provided an update on ongoing litigation and explained that meet policies will follow applicable public accommodation and non-discrimination requirements based on meet location.
- For Spring Nationals and future meets, local jurisdictional rules will govern participation and recognition; national program time recognition may differ from local meet awards depending on policy constraints.
- Committee members raised questions about award categories and a contact pathway for policy questions; the group reiterated that determinations should not be made on-deck and should be handled through registration/eligibility processes.
- Participants will acknowledge the policy as part of pre-meet communications.

### Conclusion

- Policy will vary by jurisdiction based on local laws
- Officials should not make determinations on deck; issues are handled through registration process
- All participants will acknowledge the policy as part of pre-meet communications

## Old Business

### Officials Certification Program

- Credential milestone: 599th credential card issued; program nearing 600 total officials.
- Program composition reported: 343 starters, 18 administrative officials, and 180 referees.
- Referees will not be certified as Administrative Officials (AOs) until they complete the applicable AO test.
- New sanction process requires the meet referee to be on the USMS list (not only USA Swimming/other organization lists).
- Referee cards are being issued frequently to support meet sanction requirements.

### National Championship Meets

- **Open Water National Meet (Sarasota, FL; Apr 3–4):** Event reported as successful overall with 300+ swimmers; staffing challenges occurred due to schedule conflicts among some officials. The committee discussed creating an application process to officiate Open Water Nationals to support staffing. Coordination with the long-distance group will continue, with the committee maintaining jurisdiction over official assignments while long-distance handles rulings.
- **College Club Championships (Greensboro, NC; Apr 10–12):** Reported staffing plan included 32 officials plus the meet referee. Meet used two pools for prelims and one pool for finals; event sold out. Structural changes for next year were discussed (more similar to USMS Nationals), including facility coordination changes and budget constraints impacting the ability to reimburse a large number of officials.
- **Spring Nationals (Greensboro, NC; Apr 30–May 3):** Application closed to travelers; 38 officials plus team leads registered. Facility provided 30 complimentary hotel rooms; organizers planned to ask applicants to shift reservations to the complimentary inventory. USMS will not pay for additional hotel rooms when complimentary rooms are available, but may reimburse non-cancellable commitments (e.g., certain rentals).
- **Summer Nationals (Sacramento, CA; Aug 5–9):** Meet leadership roles and anticipated committee attendance were discussed; administrative referee coverage was requested.

### Subcommittee Work

- **Officials at nationals/international meets:** A subcommittee will address the requirement for referees to be USMS members in sanction applications and develop written policies for staffing and managing officials at national meets, including reimbursement policies and requirements.
- **Policy handbook:** Work will begin to consolidate information currently dispersed across the website into a single resource; website duplication/confusing navigation issues were noted, and a website review/restructure effort will proceed.
- **Mentoring process for new officials:** The group will review and update the referee self-training guide, examine the administrative official training program, and develop mentoring initiatives; regional differences in training expectations were discussed.
- **Testing transition:** Test management handoff is underway; tests have been updated based on the 2026 rulebook (Appendix updates noted).
- **Session tracking:** Proposed meet tracking approach uses a cloud-based, self-reporting model; concerns about accuracy were acknowledged, with an honor-system approach discussed. Integration options and a year-by-year tracking structure were suggested.

- **Officials award:** Award program is moving forward; nomination handling and photo collection process were discussed to ensure nominations are not blocked by missing photos and winners can provide preferred photos.
- **Adoption of College Club and Open Water:** Committee supports formal adoption of both programs under the committee umbrella. Next steps include developing applications to officiate, coordinating with Events, and exploring reimbursement expansion subject to budget constraints and potential approvals.

**New Business:**

None

**Action items:**

- **John Fox**
  - Research written open water rules regarding swimming to finish line requirement
  - Work with policy handbook subcommittee on website review and restructuring
- **Teri, Rob, and Emily**
  - Develop written policies for official management at national meets including staffing procedures
  - Document current reimbursement practices as starting point for formal policies
  - Create clear reimbursement requirements and policies
- **Ed and Brendan**
  - Move forward with developing Google Cloud-based meet tracking system
  - Work with Excel expert/official on system design
  - Coordinate with Teri on potential data integration from past nationals
- **Cindy, VIRGIL, Daniel, and Rob**
  - Initiate work on policy handbook to consolidate scattered website information
  - Collaborate with John Fox on website restructuring
- **John Fox, John King, and VIRGIL**
  - Review and update referee self-training guide
  - Examine administrative official training program
  - Develop mentoring program initiatives
- **Brendan and Ed**
  - Continue test management and updates (Brendan already completed 2026 rulebook updates)
- **Emily**
  - Continue managing officials award program
  - Contact nominees to solicit preferred photographs
  - Promote award nominations among committee and broader community
- **VIRGIL and Daniel**
  - Work with Events (Anjali) on College Club Swimming coordination
  - Develop application to officiate process for CCS
  - Explore reimbursement options within budget constraints

**Next meeting: May 19, 2026, 5pm PST, 8pm EST**

The meeting was adjourned at 06:10 PM PST