

USMS Officials Committee 2026

Committee Name:	Officials Committee	Session #:	4
Committee Chair:	Omar de Armas	Vice Chair:	Teri White
Minutes recorded by:		Date/time of meeting:	7/21/2026 5:38 PM PST

Motions Passed:

1.

Number of committee members present: 13 Absent: 1 Number of other members present: 2

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

Committee Members Absent:: John Fox;

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 PST.

Approval of Agenda. M/S/C

Approval of previous meeting minutes.

Introductions and Announcements

Old Business

1. Officials Certification program:
 - a. Issued 625 credential cards
 - b. Program includes 359 starters, 24 administrative officials, and 185 referees
 - c. New sanction process requires meet referee to be on USMS list, not just USA Swimming or other organizations
2. National Championship Meets:
 - a. 2026 Summer Nationals – Sacramento, CA, August 5 to 9; Meet Referee, Leo Lin. Alina Perez de Armas was asked to be the Administrative Referee
 - i) We have 24 total, 9 are swimming so 15 are available for all sessions
 - ii) Video review of relays was approved.
 - b. 2027 Spring Nationals – Irvine, CA
 - i) Need to discuss numbers of officials from local area due to high school leagues and community college state meet for Irvine 2027 Spring
3. Sub-Committee Reports
 - a. Officials at Nationals/International meets: (Rob Duguay, Emily Cook, Teri White)
 - b. Swimming Competitions and Weather Discussion
 - i. The group discussed recent swimming competitions and weather conditions. Committee shared details about attending a USA Swimming sectional meet in California Nevada with hot weather conditions, while Brendan mentioned attending a competition in Denver that reached 102 degrees.
 - c. Summer Nationals Officiating Planning Meeting

- i. Omar announced approval for video review implementation at summer nationals for relay takeoffs, which will be determined by he and Aaron using the rulebook.
- ii. Video Review and Official Concerns
 - (1) The committee discussed implementing video review for relay events at an upcoming meet, suggesting it be added to the meet information and recommended it be placed on the relay entry page.
 - (2) Also addressed concerns about the officiate application for summer nationals, noting that while the website button shows "closed," the link still functions and can only be accessed by local officials.
 - (3) The committee highlighted potential challenges for spring nationals next year due to conflicts with high school swimming leagues and Community College State Meet, which may impact the availability of local officials.
- d. Meet Officials Policy Formalization
 - i. The committee discussed formalizing policies for meet officials and reimbursement procedures, including a potential percentage reimbursement system for officials swimming beyond the standard three automatic events.
 - ii. They addressed the ongoing debate about requiring USMS membership for meet referees versus officials, particularly for high-profile events.
 - iii. The committee also emphasized the need to create a formal policy handbook and update the website to clearly document these procedures and rule changes.
- e. Referee Training Guide Updates
 - i. The committee discussed updates to the referee self-training guide, with John noting it is still a work in progress and needs to be reviewed before the annual meeting on September 3rd.
 - ii. Brendan shared a success story about Virginia passing a budget to reimburse USA swimming testing fees, which resulted in two new officials being certified.
 - iii. The committee also addressed the need to review the administrative official training after it has been in place for a year, with Alina agreeing to conduct this review after Nationals.
 - iv. Brendan reported that they are still using Tesmos for testing but are exploring free alternatives that integrate with Google Sheets to streamline results logging.
- f. Official Attendance Tracking System
 - i. The committee discussed tracking meet attendance for officials, with Alina expressing concerns about the honor system's effectiveness due to issues with officials reporting accurately.
 - ii. It was suggested that meet referees should collect and submit data to official chairs rather than relying on self-reporting, particularly for larger LMSCs. Cindi shared that Florida successfully uses an Excel spreadsheet system where meet information is submitted to the person who sanctions all meets, as a more effective approach.
- g. LMSC Lists Consolidation Discussion
 - i. The committee discussed managing LMSC lists and agreed to consolidate them into one system rather than maintaining separate lists. It was reported that regional location contracts are being signed, with some including officiating applications and others not depending on local demand.
 - ii. The committee clarified that Onshalee would handle initial questions about officiating for College Club Swimming regionals, though specific officiating decisions remain at the discretion of local hosts.
- h. Swimming Rule Changes Committee Meeting
 - i. The committee discussed upcoming rule changes, including new requirements for KT tape and 400 lap counting, which will be announced before summer nationals. They addressed ongoing

discussions about measuring pools with bulkheads and the need for guidance on backstroke ledges, particularly for Colorado systems

4. New Business:

- 1) Guidance document on use of backstroke ledges to conform with AQUA rules.

Action items:

Alina

- Review and update the administrative official training and test after Summer Nationals.
- Bring a portable strobe light to Summer Nationals for the Colorado starting blocks.

Brendan

- Continue testing the free options for online testing and decide whether to change from TestMoz, with an update by the next meeting.

Carrie

- Ask the Summer Nationals host on the call tomorrow about the availability of a strobe light for the hearing impaired.

Committee

- Update the Summer Nationals meet information to include the use of video review for relays.
- Pass along information to Leo about the application to officiate link still being active despite showing as closed.
- Look ahead and start planning for officials for Spring Nationals 2025, considering conflicts with high school and community college meets.
- Formalize a policy handbook, including updating the website with rule changes once they are finalized.
- Work on creating a guidance document for the use of backstroke ledges, especially for Colorado systems.
- Prepare an agenda or materials for the annual meeting on September 3rd to review at the August 18th meeting.

John

- Meet with John Fox to review and update the referee self-training guide, aiming to have progress to report by the annual meeting on September 3rd.

Onshalee

- Make a specific call-out for the Officials Award nominations, likely in the Streamlines Volunteers newsletter.
- Connect Virgil with the host clubs for the College Club regional meets for officiating questions.
- Set up a workflow in Slack to send reminders for future committee meetings.
- Investigate if Slack huddles can be recorded or transcribed and report back.

Rob

- Work with the committee to formalize a policy on reimbursement for officials, especially for those swimming in meets.

Collaboration

- Brendan and Alina: Discuss and decide on the best method for tracking officials' meet participation (self-reporting vs. LMSC officials chair reporting).
- All Committee Members: Download the Slack desktop and/or phone app to access the committee channel effectively.

Next meeting: August 18, 2026, 5:30pm PST, 8:30pm EST

The meeting was adjourned at 06:10 PM PST