

Streamline

MARYLAND SWIMMING'S OFFICIALS NEWSLETTER



A NOTE FROM THE OFFICIALS CHAIR:

Thank you is all I can think of to say as I end my term as the Maryland Swimming Officials Chair. This has been a rewarding experience for me as you all have allowed me to be your advocate and leader these last two years. I am proud of some of the accomplishments we have had during this time such as our Newsletter, updated website, clarified certification standards, bi monthly referee calls, web training clinics and a large number of newly certified officials within our team. As we wrap up our championship season, a special thank you to all of those officials who spent time on deck serving our athletes while trying to stay dry on deck. It is so wonderful to see how many of our team members come out week after week to support the FUNNEST sport out there! You all are OFFICIALLY AWESOME. I will be stepping down from the board but you will still find me on deck. As always, feel free to say hi and I am certainly willing to help out in any capacity needed.

Best of luck to each of you,
Peter



-----*Peter LaGow*, Maryland Swimming Officials Chair

REMINDER: Upcoming Referee Conference Calls are scheduled for the following dates: 3/29/17, 6/14/17, 10/4/17



YOU MAKE THE CALL:

In a butterfly event, the swimmer touches the wall at the finish with their head and then does a simultaneous two hand touch. Is this a violation?



celebrations:

CONGRATULATIONS to...

New Stroke and Turn

Andre Biuckians (NBAC)
 Douglas Zeier (CBAC)
 Kevin Sproge (CBAC)
 Matt Martini (GBSA)
 Scott Hayes (ASC)
 Janine Meadows (ACA)
 Jeff Wanko (UN)
 Casey Otten (CAA)
 Lisa Brabazon (NAAC)
 Wes Tower (ASC)
 Heather Polinsky (YCM)

New Starter

Mike Brown (LBA)
 Jerilyn Deitch (NAAC)

New AO

Tim Merton (ASC)
 John Murphy (ASC)

New Referee

Jen Zinderman (CAA)
 Barry Schaub (LBA)



RULES AND REGULATIONS:

During the stroke briefing at a meet I recently attended, some terminology was used to describe an alternating kick in the butterfly that has caused some misunderstanding of the rules. I have also heard the same description used over the past several years. Under rule 101.3.3, "...they (the feet) shall not alternate in relation to each other." What I heard during the briefing is when you observe the ankles crossing, that would be considered an alternating kick. Not necessarily! The key is when you observe the feet going in opposite directions. In the February newsletter published by USA Swimming under the rules and regulation section, you will find a very good description of an alternating kick. If you did not receive a copy of this newsletter, send me an e-mail and I will forward you a copy of the newsletter.

A second description that I heard pertained to the stroke. What was said is that the hands **must** exit and enter the water simultaneously. Rule 101.3.2 states, "Both **arms** must be brought forward simultaneously over the water and pulled back simultaneously under the water throughout the race." Since the swimmer's shoulders must be at or past the vertical towards the breast, not parallel to the surface of the water, a swimmer can have one arm straight out and the other arm half way extended. The arms can be brought forward simultaneously and the hand of the arm that is not extended will come out of the water after the hand of the fully extended arm. This is legal!

When giving a briefing, you are strongly encouraged to use the terminology of the rulebook. When you add your own words or words that you heard at a previous briefing that were not according to the rulebook, newer and/or apprentice officials are oftentimes misguided. I would also encourage officials who give a stroke briefing to give it in IM order even though the stroke briefing document does not list the descriptions of the individual strokes in this manner.



OFFICIALS IN ACTION:





Congrats Linda Sue, Jim Pusateri award winner! Well deserved after so many years!

Recent National Meets



Austin APS

Send all photographs to Betsy Coe @ 01ANDERCOE@GMAIL.COM or Linda Sue Lottes @ LSMDSWIM@GMAIL.COM



YOU make THE CALL (Answer):

At the finish of a butterfly event, the swimmer's, "body shall be on the breast and the touch shall be made with both hands separated and simultaneously at, above, or below the water surface (101.3.5)." In the glossary, the word **shall** means mandatory. The word **touch** means contact with the end of the course. When the swimmer touched the end of the course with their head, that was the end of the race. The swimmer would be disqualified for an illegal touch at the finish of the race.



UPCOMING meets:

[CLICK HERE FOR THE MEET PAGE OF MARYLAND SWIMMING](#)

Meet

CBAC Spring into LC Meet
 EST Spring into LC Meet
 LBA Sprint to the Finish Meet
 NAAC Chidester Memorial Meet
 EST 1500 and Mini Meet
 NAAC LC Meet
 RAC Abby Seeger Meet
 John C Clegg Memorial Meet
 NBAC Long Course Invitational
 FSC Summer Invitational
 NAAC LC Meet
 Eagles Speedo Summer Sizzler
 NBAC Long Course Champs
 ASC Sandbox Meet
 CBAC Southern MD Summer Splash
 RAC Sandbox Meet
 NBAC Mid Summer Classic

Meet Referee

Adam Scott
 Steve Gorsuch
 Joe Cucchiaro
 Dipper Wettstein
 Joe Cucchiaro
 Carol Forsyth
 Rob Dobry
 Dipper Wettstein
 Betsy Coe
 Stan Lesniak
 Carol Forsyth
 Dipper Wettstein
 Betsy Coe
 Doug Karr
 Adam Scott
 Chris Waters
 Zuzana Chamrova

Contact/ Link

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**Training and certification:**

2017 is a CLINIC year! All officials will be required to attend the 2017 LSC Officials Clinic in September 2017 or another approved clinic prior to year end. Plan ahead!

Training videos online! Click [HERE](#)

Upcoming Clinics [HERE](#)

**ARTICLE: Pre-session Brief, Pain or Painless?**

By our very own, Adam Scott, CBAC

What's the purpose of the pre-session officials briefing? I assure you it is not to play rule book stump-the-chump. This is not why the herd of white shirts gathers. In a good pre-session brief two groups of tasks will be accomplished. One group includes logistics; assignments, meet referee expectations, protocols and a review of the rules sufficient enough to get everyone's head back in the game. The other group of tasks deals with the people and relationships in the room. I'll argue these tasks are more important than the first group. In these tasks we train our relief and we grow the friendships that keep us coming back to stand in soaking wet shoes four hours at a time.

A great deal of training happens during the brief. This is when your new stroke and turn officials can have their questions answered. It's when a new chief judge gets to build her skills giving a stroke briefing. Here, new referees first learn how to delegate and meet referees get to hear how it's going on the deck. The attitude and demeanor of the "seasoned" officials sets the tone. I've been in briefs where new officials feel comfortable asking questions and I've been in some where new officials are treated so poorly they walk out and vow never to return.

We're all volunteers. If someone makes a mistake follow the age old adage to "praise in public and reprimand in private." If it's between sessions and a new official did something well in the previous session praise her in front of the group. If he made a mistake, privately tell him what you observed and offer tips on how to improve. When you offer a correction do your best to find something positive to combine with it. "You did a good job with your deck aerobics but try not to hold anything in your hand when you signal that you've observed an infraction." Is much better than "you looked like you were raising the white flag of surrender when you signaled that DQ with the heat sheet in your hand."

Try to put yourself in the shoes of the people around you. Remember what it was like when you attended your first officials briefing (even if it's been decades.) If you see a new official, introduce yourself, ask if he has any questions, sit with him and introduce him to other officials. After the session follow up and see how it went, offer him your contact info and encourage him to contact you if he has any questions along the way to qualification. Help him begin to build the relationships you've come to enjoy as an official. If a new CJ's going to give a stroke briefing for the first time ask if she'd like to practice part of it. Don't just find the officials you see at every meet and plop down in your comfort zone. It's enjoyable to help run a fair and efficient meet but even more enjoyable is to do it with friends. Be an official who improves the relationships and friendships in the room.

The next time you attend a pre-session briefing pay attention when the briefers cover all the logistics for the session but I hope you'll invest in the relationships you have with your fellow white shirts. Encourage the new officials and help ensure they want to return. With a little encouragement along the way they just might be your team's next meet referee. Last but not least, if someone starts a round of rule book stump-the-chump I hope you'll make him stop.



Need some new OFFICIATING CLOTHES?



The portal is CLOSED!

Contact Linda Sue Lottes at LSMDSWIM@GMAIL.COM regarding baseball caps.



Need a new name BADGE?

