

# The AZ Official Times

A NEWSLETTER FOR ARIZONA SWIM OFFICIALS



From the LSC Officials Chair

Recertification and Certification

From National

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Virtual Meets

## From the Officials Chair

Well it is now May and still no swimming; what are you doing with all this free time. This LSC is looking at what is needed to get all this started and continues to work the issue. In this issue you will find some information of how to run a "Virtual Meet". Please share it with your team to get them thinking about different meets that can be ran. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns give me a call let me know.

Also in this issue you will find information on National Certifications and Meets. You will notice all the National Summer Meets are cancelled, the USA Swimming Convention is cancelled, and national training is cancelled. This does not mean that the National Officials Committee isn't working - they are.

Lastly, you will find some addition information on what is required for depth for starting. This brings up some recent things we have found as pools do not have the correct setting for flags, 15 meter marks on the pool side, and any number of other things. Be sure to pay attention to what is (M) mandatory and can be waived by the LSC.

In the meantime, cover up and Stay Safe.

Tom Oliver

AZ Swimming Officials Chair

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## REMINDER: 2020 RECERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Thank you to those that have recertified!

Be sure your Arizona Officiating certification requirements have been met.

### 2021 Recertification requirements::: work 4 sessions AND

- 1) Complete the USA Swimming Re certification Test
- 2) Pass a LSC deck check

Or

- 1) Maintain a National Certification at the requested position
- 2) Work an AZ State Championship Meet or OQM (Official Qualifying Meet) eg: Junior Olympics, Age Group or Senior Championships

New training logs and deck check forms have been uploaded to the AZ swimming website. You can locate them by visiting:

[www.azswimming.org](http://www.azswimming.org)

- click on **Member Services** tab
- click on **Document Library** drop down tab
- scroll half way down the page and click the **officials** tab
- viola the new forms are listed under the **officials training** title

Please use these forms to advance your certification by printing it out and bringing it to your clinic or training meet to accurately guide and document your progress. These forms also double as the deck check forms.

Clinic Schedule - anyone needing a clinic may ask John Rajadas

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Please contact: John at [john.rajadas@gmail.com](mailto:john.rajadas@gmail.com) if you have any questions, need a clinic or a deck check.

Thank you,  
John

## YOU MAKE THE CALL

What is the minimum depth for racing starts from the blocks in practice or competition?

### FROM NATIONAL:

As we continue to monitor the changes of this global pandemic, assess the lifting of restrictions across the country and prioritize the health and safety of our members, we are also optimistically planning for our return to competition.

Given the varying timelines expected for a return to training, we have made the decision to modify our upcoming events schedule. National events in July and early August, which include USA Swimming

Sectionals, Futures and the Speedo Summer Championships, will be canceled in order to refocus our efforts on introducing a new series of summer events better tailored to the current environment.

The introduction of 14-16 regional events in mid to late August would allow for a successful return to pools and training and help kickoff the competition season.

These regionally focused events will limit the need for travel and promote a safer competition environment for our athletes, families and everyone involved. The approval of these event sanctions will be subject to local health guidelines and directives. We look forward to providing further details in the coming weeks.

Following the end-of-summer events, we are pleased to announce our tentative 2020-2021 national schedule of events in preparation for the U.S. Olympic Team Trials in Omaha in 2021:

**Nov. 5-8, 2020**

TYR Pro Swim Series at Richmond | Richmond, Va.

**Dec. 2-5, 2020**

Toyota U.S. Open | Atlanta, Ga.

**Dec. 9-12, 2020**

Speedo Juniors East | Atlanta, Ga.

**Dec. 9-12, 2020**

Speedo Juniors West | Austin, Texas

**January 13-16, 2021**

TYR Pro Swim Series at Knoxville | Knoxville, Tenn.

**March 3-6, 2021**

TYR Pro Swim Series at San Antonio | San Antonio, Texas

**April 8-11, 2021**

TYR Pro Swim Series at Mission Viejo | Mission Viejo, Calif.

**May 12-15, 2021**

TYR Pro Swim Series at Indianapolis | Indianapolis, Ind.

**June 13-20, 2021**

U.S. Olympic Team Trials – Swimming | Omaha, Neb

**Guidance for Expiring National Certifications Because of Coronavirus**

There have been several questions from officials whose National Certifications expire on 6/30/2020, and what they can do regarding them. The good news is that you have three years after the expiration date in order to complete the recertification requirements for that position before you would need to start from the beginning. That means you have until 6/30/2023 to complete any necessary

recertification requirements. However, please note that officials whose certifications expire 6/30/2020 cannot serve as evaluators at an OQM until their certifications have been brought current.

Also, N3 final evaluations need to be completed within 3 years of the N3 initial evaluation. Due to the current shutdown of meets, we are extending the expiration window for officials that received N3-initial evaluations between 3/12/2017-5/31/2017 to 9/1/2020. Depending on when meets can begin again, these dates may be re-evaluated for further extension. We will keep everyone posted as the situation dictates.

### New Apparel Vendor

USA Swimming has partnered with a new apparel vendor for meet officials. The new online store has white polo shirts with a new “USA Swimming Meet Official” logo on them. This is where you can order shirts for national meets as well as shirts for LSC meets if your LSC allows them. Note that white polos with the old “meet official” logo are still fine to be used for national meets.

**Congratulations to Brian Shepard for attending his first National Meet - TYR PSS – Knoxville**

## HOW TO HOST A VIRTUAL MEET:

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the aquatic community, USA Swimming is pushing a different model of competition for events sanctioned by the governing body for swimming in the United States – USA Swimming Virtual Meets.

The idea is not new, and was used for years under the guise of “postal meets,” but with the need to socially distance and limit the size of crowds, these meets are coming back into focus. Postal meets are still held in some places, including for some US Masters Swimming National Championship events, but are not as common as they once were.

Virtual meets allow club teams to swim locally, but to compete against other teams within their own Local Swimming Committee (LSC).

- See the full best practice guidelines document here: <https://cdn.swimswam.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/virtual-meets-2020-0401-rev-1-1.pdf>

The guidelines also include instructions for how to set up virtual meets in the Meet Manager software that is used to run most swim meets in the United States.

Although these meets will be held “virtually,” they must meet some requirements.

While these meets can extend through various sessions, they must all be held as a single event.

Remember we would need 4 officials to run these meets at the swimming site. A meet Referee, Starter, a S&T, and an AO. It may be possible to share an AO between sites.

Different swim teams can partake in the meet while essentially swimming as intra-squad meets with results being combined to score meets, similar to the old postal meet system (though, more commonly now this won't be done through the actual postal service).

[USA Swimming](#) has suggested that a host team be determined, with responsibilities extending from developing meet announcements, establishing an order of events, or merging the results from different intra-squad or smaller site meets for scoring purposes.


The new project would also allow for different LSCs to virtually swim against each other. A team would still host the event and be responsible for duties such as results management

Find Arizona Swimming Officials on Facebook.

Find this private group on line. Make announcements, share pictures

### You Make the Call (Answer)

In accordance with rule 103.2; Minimum water depth for racing starts during practice and competition shall be measured for a distance 3 feet 3-1/2 inches (1.0 meter) to 16 feet 5 inches (5.0 meters) from the end wall. Starting requirements and height of starting block shall be in pools with water depth 4 feet (1.22 meters) or more at the starting end, starting platforms shall meet the height requirements of 103.14.1

 <b>Official's National Links</b>		<b>Official's LSC Links</b>	
<b>National</b>	<b>Link</b>	<b>LSC</b>	<b>Link</b>
How to Become an Official	<a href="https://www.usaswimming.org/articles-landing-page/2017/02/12/how-to-become-an-official">https://www.usaswimming.org/articles-landing-page/2017/02/12/how-to-become-an-official</a>	Non-Athlete Renewals	<a href="https://www.azswimming.org/non-athlete-renewals-login/">https://www.azswimming.org/non-athlete-renewals-login/</a>
Officials Tracking System (OTS)	<a href="https://www.usaswimming.org/utility/landing-pages/officials/officials-tracking">https://www.usaswimming.org/utility/landing-pages/officials/officials-tracking</a>	Calendar of Events	<a href="https://www.azswimming.org/events/">https://www.azswimming.org/events/</a>
Officials Online Testing	<a href="https://www.usaswimming.org/utility/landing-pages/officials/officials-online-testing">https://www.usaswimming.org/utility/landing-pages/officials/officials-online-testing</a>	AZ Officials Clinics	<a href="https://www.azswimming.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Officials-Clinic-Schedule-as-of-6.14.2018.2018.pdf">https://www.azswimming.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Officials-Clinic-Schedule-as-of-6.14.2018.2018.pdf</a>
National Championship Meet Officiating Applications	<a href="https://www.usaswimming.org/utility/landing-pages/officials/national-meet-officiating-applications">https://www.usaswimming.org/utility/landing-pages/officials/national-meet-officiating-applications</a>	Meet Management Forms	<a href="https://www.azswimming.org/document-library/#ffs-tabbed-11">https://www.azswimming.org/document-library/#ffs-tabbed-11</a>
National Certification and Evaluation	<a href="https://www.usaswimming.org/utility/landing-pages/officials/national-certification-and-evaluation">https://www.usaswimming.org/utility/landing-pages/officials/national-certification-and-evaluation</a>	Officials Training Log	<a href="https://www.azswimming.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Officials-Training-Log-Rev-3-12-2018-1.pdf">https://www.azswimming.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Officials-Training-Log-Rev-3-12-2018-1.pdf</a>
Officials Training Videos	<a href="https://www.usaswimming.org/officials/officials-training-videos">https://www.usaswimming.org/officials/officials-training-videos</a>	AZ Swimming Radio Protocols	<a href="https://www.azswimming.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/AZ-Swimming-Radio-Protocols-Final-06042017-2.pdf">https://www.azswimming.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/AZ-Swimming-Radio-Protocols-Final-06042017-2.pdf</a>

## Officials Quick Links

LINKS TO POPULAR OFFICIAL'S PAGES

### Office location

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(Located in the Pueblo Nuevo office building complex, 2nd floor)

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### Social Media

Find us on 

Or Search for "Arizona Swimming Officials Group". Then click on "Join"