



USA Swimming
Officials' Track Workshop
Denver Colorado
April 20-23

Workshop Summary:

BOARD OF DIRECTOR TOWN HALL: Members of the USA-S Board of Directors were introduced. A sort of town hall session was held. Joel Shinofield moderated questions and answers to Kathy Fish, Kenneth Chung, Kathleen Prindle and Natalie Hall.

ZONE MEETINGS: Each of the five zones held separate meetings. I attended the Western Zone meeting where we discussed sectionals, age group, and senior zone meets. Jane Grosser was introduced. Jane offered herself as a resource of information that LSCs can call upon.

INTERPRETING OFFICIALS' SURVEY: During this workshop, MJ Truex, and Maggie Vail, discussed the national survey results, where officials with less than 5 years of experience were asked to participate. The results showed that a great number of respondents wanted additional training and mentorship during the initial stages of training:

- How to fill out a DQ slip
- More information on the process of becoming an official and the pathway
- Video examples of younger swimmers – both legal and illegal stroke examples
- Day in the life overview before showing up to first mentorship
- Video examples of common calls

Certification Process:

- Standardize roles across LSCs
- Faster ways to “level up”
- Make evaluations more accessible
- Competency-based evaluations
 - Provide a rubric
 - Respondents with a swimming background wanted a faster process of certification
 - Respondents without a swimming background wanted more mentorship

LSC COLLABORATION FOR OFFICIAL'S CERTIFICATION: USA-S created a working group to revise the minimum standards of officiating in all positions. The first step is to create a standardized process for becoming a stroke and turn official. The working group's goal is to eliminate the inconsistencies of advancement throughout the country, while still certifying a competent official. The LSC Official Chairs provided the working group with feedback and each LSC submitted their current minimum standards of officiating.

TED STEVEN'S ACT : We discussed the issue that all members's have the "right to volunteer." However, in some isolated cases, after repeated mentorship and counseling have failed, there are comprehensive steps needed to decertify an official. It was suggested that all LSC have a code of conduct for officials to adhere to. This document would serve as a tool in cases of unprofessional poor behavior or incompetency, and etc. LSC Official Chairs will work with the USA-S Admin Board of Review on any decertifications.

SAFE SPORT: Liz Hahn spoke about the subject of bullying and effective ways of deescalating situations.

SUMMARY: The Official Chairs' workshop was intuitive and the collaboration between LSCs throughout the country was informative. The workshop promoted quality and values throughout our organization. Much of the information I received is valuable and useful to share with the Pac Swim Officials Committee. Overall, it was a pleasure to gather with like minded individuals to strive for excellence, consistency, and to serve our athletes.

Phil Grant
Officials Chair
Pacific Swimming