

# Officials Chair Report

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In general, our sanctioned meets run very smoothly and we have a good roster of officials that volunteer to work. We rely heavily on USA Swimming officials and we have been able to staff most of our meets with no issues. We do occasionally see conflicts with the USA Swimming calendar of meets. USMS has implemented a certification program and is extending this program to referees in 2019.

In the past, we have run into a few issues with officials who lack full awareness of USMS rules. We strongly prefer a certified referee from USA Swimming. Even with these experienced officials, there is a need to ensure that referees are educated on the key differences between USA Swimming and USMS. Therefore, I provide telephone briefings for referees who have not previously worked a masters meet and routinely provide updates to referees who regularly officiate our USMS sanctioned meets. I provide a standard checklist for briefing other officials that was developed by the USMS Officials Committee. Important for the new sanctions chair - please inform me as soon as possible of the name of the meet referee so we can assist them. If we don't have a meet referee, I can assist in securing one. I have been supplying rule books to meet referees and officials who don't already have one.

It is not too early to name a meet referee for USMS Long Course Nationals in August 2020. I did speak with Bob Rustin a few months ago and it was my understanding that he willing to serve in this position. By rule, the chair of the USMS Officials Committee and the USMS Championship Committee must concur on the selection. I can work this issue for the LMSC if the meet host and Bob agree.

The following are just a few observations that we might consider for reminders and other questions.

- I noticed that the meet announcement for the Lexington meet in October 2018 did not include a statement regarding the timing system. USMS rules require automatic timing (i.e., touchpads) for records and the pool in Lexington does not have touchpads. As a reminder, by rule, the meet announcement should have had a statement that times achieved at this meet would not be eligible for USMS records so that swimmers are informed. I spoke with the meet referee for awareness. (My rules committee agenda for 2019 has a project for us to develop an updated checklist of requirements for meet announcements.)
- In a couple of meets, I observed a couple of female swimmers wearing two-piece tie-back suits. This may be due to open water swimmers and triathletes participating in USMS meets. The FINA guidelines for swimwear preclude fasteners and ties, so these types of suits are illegal. I wonder if we should consider a reminder in the newsletter on swimwear rules.
- I have observed that we lack a policy for the use of equipment in warm-ups at sanctioned meets. This may be a safety issue if a meet gets crowded. The rules specify that hand paddles are not permitted at any sanctioned meet. I have occasionally observed swimmers using other equipment (kickboards and pull buoys) in meets. I wonder if we need a policy restricting the use of kickboards and possibly other equipment in the warm-up lanes at meets.