

NATIONAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM for OFFICIALS

January 2006

To: USA Swimming LSC Officials Chairs and LSC General Chairs

From: USA Swimming National Officials Committee

On January 1, 2006 the education and experience based certification program for officials desiring to work the USA Swimming National Championship deck became effective. The previous, attendance based, "National" and "National Championship" certification designations are replaced by the current program which requires certification based on experience, activity, knowledge and evaluation prior to advancement and selection to the National Championship deck.

Details of the program are found on the USA Swimming web pages, Officials section, under Certification. Program requirements include evaluation of officials wishing to advance to the highest level (N3) at officials "Qualifying Meets." Those meets include Sectional, Grand Prix, Zone and other meets that comply with program requirements. Host LSC's may apply for meet approval by completing and submitting the application form on the USA Swimming web site.

New Program Highlights: There are three levels for each of five positions.

Positions – Stroke & Turn Judge, Chief Judge, Starter, Referee and Administrative Referee.
Attainment of N3 Stroke and Turn Judge is a prerequisite for the N3 level in any other position. Thereafter progression is within the position. National Certification cards will show the level attained for each position.

Levels N1 – Experienced LSC official – provided the LSC certification program meets "minimum standards." Certification is issued by the LSC.

The program does not change, or require any changes, in existing LSC certification programs that meet "Minimum Standards."

N2 – Requirements include certification for one year at the LSC (N1) level, regular activity as an LSC official, and evaluation and recommendation for advancement to N2 by a "National Evaluator." The evaluations for advancement to this level may be done at officials "Qualifying Meets," but are probably best done at other meets where most of the requirements are met.

Certification at the N2 level means that an official is capable of performing in the position at any sub national championship level meet in USA Swimming. Re-certification requires



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continued training and participation in LSC meets, and evaluation by National Evaluators at officials “Qualifying Meets.” When this program is mature, LSC’s will be able to rely on the skill and competence of N2 officials from any LSC.

- N3** – National Championship qualified official. Advancement requirements include at least one year at the N2 level in the position, continued participation at LSC level meets, and evaluation by two different National Evaluators at officials Qualifying Meets. Recertification requirements include continued participation in LSC and higher-level meets and evaluation at officials “Qualifying Meets.”

The program will transition officials with previous “National” and “National Championship” Certifications that expired on December 31, 2004, or later, to N2 and N3 certifications, as appropriate. They will have to comply with the re-certification requirements of the program before December 31, 2007 to maintain transitioned certification.

Certification and re-certification in the program requires LSC Officials Chairs to verify the LSC participation requirements. This requirement has been set aside temporarily in favor of the applicants attesting that they have met the requirement - the “honor” system. A national tracking program, which will be useful for all LSCs, is under consideration, and if implemented, will obviate the need for the “honor” system or for LSC Officials Chairs to be directly involved in applications. In the meantime, if you know that “honor” is being compromised, please contact the National Officials Chair.

The attached documents, which are also available on the USA Swimming web site, are for your convenience. The application for approval of a meet as an officials “Qualifying Meet” is also in interactive pdf format on the website.

Also attached is a form “Application for Evaluation” which may be modified and included with the meet information letter so that the number of candidates for evaluation at an officials “Qualifying Meet” can be managed. It is not included on the website at this time.

You may also nominate individuals who meet the definition of “National Evaluator” for that position at a Qualifying Meet. The National Officials Chair will consider the nominated individual’s credentials and, if approved, may set limits on evaluation authority.

If, after reading these materials and the web site postings, you have any questions, please email the Certification Sub-Committee of the USA Swimming National Officials Committee at:

onthesamepage@optonline.net

The National Officials Committee

USA Swimming Officials Committee



01 06 09
Page 2 of 2