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Wow! We have just completed the ISI State Championship meets and the support of all the Illinois officials was amazing! Both at the Senior Championship Meet held at the Ratner Center at the University of Chicago and the Age Group Championship Meet held at Stevenson High School, the effect of all the white shirts was blinding! Thank you for all that you do to support our Illinois athletes in pursuit of their dreams. I would like to address a couple of questions that came up at these meets.

- 1) **Officiating at an Illinois Championship Meet** – Any and all Illinois officials (as well as visiting officials from other LSCs) are qualified and welcome to be on deck for the Regional, Senior State or Age Group State Championships. You must be currently certified as a USA Swimming official, which means that you took the course, passed the test and completed your on-deck training sessions. If you meet those criteria, you are qualified! Officiating at championship meets is a great experience and you learn a lot. Often, you will encounter situations that you do not experience during the regular season meets and sometimes there are guest National Officials who can share their stories and experiences from the National Deck. If you can commit to working multiple sessions, I would encourage you to submit an application to officiate when they come available during the course of the regular season. This assists the Meet Referee in planning and sometimes meet shirts are provided to officials who commit in advance and work four or more sessions.
  
- 2) **N2 and N3 Recertification and Advancement** - The second issue that came up was National Certification. Both Seniors and Age Group were Officials Qualifying Meets. This means that officials who wish to advance to the next level could be evaluated at these meets. Evaluation is part of the requirement of recertification or advancement. Additional requirements include number of sessions worked, number of championship sessions worked and other mentoring and educational activities

participated in. To review the requirements for each level refer to <http://www.usaswimming.org/USASWeb/Rainbow/Documents/9eb01198-be79-405c-9c80-1b9cbad03edf/National%20Official%20Certification%20Summary%2020090601.pdf>

f. A common mistake made by many officials seeking advancement is that they erroneously think that requesting and receiving an evaluation is sufficient. Wrong! Once the evaluation is completed the evaluator will post the evaluation on OTS under *Certification Application*. Click on the link to *Submit a New Application*, indicate the certification that you are requesting and submit the application. Within 2 weeks you will receive e-mail notification of the status of your application.

- 3) **OTS Updates** – If you have not already logged onto USA Swimming and into the Officials Tracking System, this would be a good time to do so. Go to [www.usaswimming.org](http://www.usaswimming.org) and go to the upper right-hand corner of the home page to “log-in”. Once you are logged in go to *Volunteers* on the horizontal navigational bar, then choose *Officials* on the left and then *Officials Tracking*. Choose *View My History*. You will now see the sessions that you have worked. For most meets on the ISI schedule the Meet Referee will enter your sessions under *System Tracked Meets*. Further down on the screen you may add any dual meets that have not been recorded. *Activity History* works the same way but records educational and mentoring activities that may be necessary if you are seeking advancement. If you would like additional assistance in navigating, there is a User Guide for Officials on the right of the screen that is quite helpful.
- 4) **Recertification!** As communicated earlier we will be moving our certification processing to coincide with the swim season (9/1 – 8/31) rather than the calendar year. Coincident with this change we also eliminated the use of session cards to track sessions worked and are relying on OTS instead. We will be making the recertification process as easy as possible by mailing out a pre-filled non-athlete registration form based upon information currently on file (name, address, team, etc.) and sessions worked information based upon OTS. Referees will need to add documentation for CEU completion. You will continue to receive your non-athlete membership credential in the mail, but you will need to print your official’s credential from the USA-Swimming website (this was incorrectly communicated earlier); just click on *My Certification Card* under OTS and print!. The conversion process of updating your LSC certification is underway (thanks to Kim McBride in the ISI office – thanks Kim!) and you will receive an email as the conversion is done. Your certification will continue to be good through the end of the year, and when you recertify your credentials will be good through 8/31/2010. The mailing will go out sometime late August or early September – any non-athlete membership fee received after 9/1 is good until 12/31 of the following year.
- 5) **Officials’ Clinics** – Information regarding Officials’ clinics for Fall 2009 has been posted on Illinois Swimming at [http://www.ilswim.org/officials/upcoming\\_clinics.htm](http://www.ilswim.org/officials/upcoming_clinics.htm). Encourage other members

of your clubs to become an official or step up to the next level by letting them know what a great time we have on deck!

Hope you enjoy the break. See you in the Fall!

Cyndi Alexander  
ISI Communications/Web Content

Officials Committee

ISI Officials Committee:

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