

Rome Yount

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Happy Holidays!

This communication contains a lot of information that you will need as we approach 2009 so please read carefully.

- 1. Recertification** - Time is running out. If you have not already done so you need to renew your credentials for 2009. You must display the 2009 credentials to be eligible to be on deck after January 1, 2009. Please refer to the Certification Information section under the Officials tab on the ISI website at <http://www.ilswim.org/officials/Reg%20Instructions%20and%20Official%20Registration%202009.pdf>. Your status as of 12/11/2008 is as follows:

Name:
Club:
Expiration Date:

If you have completed your annual recertification requirements and the bi-annual recertification requirements (on-line test or certification clinic) and have not renewed your certification for 2009, please do so. If you find a need to request an extension to complete your requirements, two things are required: (1) Request an extension good through 2/15/2009 from Rome Yount, ISI Officials Committee Chair (rbyount@comcast.net). (2) Send in an application to be a non-athlete member of USA-Swimming for 2009. Due to USA-Swimming requirements officials may not be on deck without current credentials. Extension requests are documented on the website under 'Officials Renewal and Re-Entry Policy' (<http://www.ilswim.org/officials/Renewal%20Policy%20090307.pdf>).

2. **Training and Certification Standards** - As a reminder to our Referees, the minimum requirement for an on-deck Trainer has been changed to one (1) year from the training class for that position. Please be sure to assign Trainers who meet this standard. Thank you for your cooperation.
3. **State Championship Meets** – Applications to officiate at the Spring 2009 Senior State and Age Group State Championships have been posted to the ISI website under the Officials tab at http://www.ilswim.org/officials/apps_to_officiate/Application%20to%20Officiate%20Senior%20State.pdf and http://www.ilswim.org/officials/apps_to_officiate/Application%20to%20Officiate%20Age%20Group%20champs.pdf.
4. **Breaststroke Interpretation** – An interpretation regarding breaststroke has been provided by the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee (<http://www.usaswimming.org/USASWeb/Rainbow/Documents/de87f600-7cbc-4120-8dae-c6a0f418f2a0/Breaststroke%20Interpretation%2012-08-08.pdf>). The interpretation changes what constitutes the beginning of the first arm pull in relation to the optional downward butterfly kick based upon FINA’s current interpretation. The interpretation now states “*After the start and after each turn, any lateral or downward movement of the hands or arms is considered to be the initiation of the first arm pull.*” Please review this interpretation.
5. **Swimsuit Rule** – The following rule was adopted and amended at the USA Swimming 2008 House of Delegates in September 2008. The rule will go into effect May 15, 2009.

“Purpose: One of USA Swimming’s purposes is to promote swimming as a sport and fitness activity for swimmers of all ages and as a lifelong activity. Swimming has long been readily available at a relatively low entry cost, which promotes and encourages participation at any age. The rule to limit certain swimsuits for 12 and under athletes is important to USA Swimming’s objective of continuing to make swimming a sport and fitness activity of relatively low entry cost for the youngest of its competitors.

102.9 SWIMWEAR

1 Design

A Swimsuits worn for all 12 & under age group defined competition shall not cover the neck, extend past the shoulder, nor past the knee.

B Swimsuits worn for competition must be non-transparent and conform to the current concept of the appropriate.

C The Referee shall have authority to bar offenders from the competition until they comply with the rule.”

6. **Starting Pistols** - There have been some issues reported regarding the use of starting pistols at ISI sanctioned meets including volunteers being adversely effected by the noise and meets in which people outside the pool area thought they heard a gunshot and summoned the police. We will be eliminating the use of starting pistols at all ISI sanctioned events effective immediately. This is consistent with the IHSA policy of prohibiting starting pistols at high school meets.
7. **Recruitment of Officials** –
 - a. USA Swimming allows a non-registered parent to be on deck and shadow an official prior to attending an officials’ clinic.
 - i. Interested parties should report to the meet referee at the beginning of the session
 - ii. Attend the stroke briefing at the beginning of the session
 - iii. Should be limited to on shadow per official
 - b. Training Clinic – It isn’t too early to think about Spring Training (for officials that is!) Two clinics have already been scheduled April 2009
 - i. West Chicago Community High School (West Chicago Sharks) – April 18, 2009
 - ii. Vernon Hills High School (CATS Aquatics) – April 25, 2009

8. **OTS (Officials Tracking System)** – We will be eliminating the use of session cards for next year and use the OTS system instead. To make this a reality, the following two items need to be completed:
- a. Meet Referees will be expected to complete the meet information created on OTS by the ISI office. Instructions are on the USA-Swimming website under ‘LSC Officials Chairs Guide’ (http://www.usaswimming.org/USASWeb/_Rainbow/Documents/9eb006dd-506d-46f0-b3b7-61a062770f5d/OTS%20LSC%20Officials%20Chair%20User%20Guide.pdf). The only meets which will be populated by the ISI office will be ISI sanctioned meets on the schedule.
 - b. All officials are encouraged and expected to post to OTS their participation in meets which are not on the ISI schedule, such as dual meets, closed competition meets, approved meets, and potentially meets in other LSCs (dependent upon whether that LSC uses OTS to track sessions). Instructions are on the USA Swimming website under ‘Officials User Guide’ (http://www.usaswimming.org/USASWeb/_Rainbow/Documents/3a6c1540-f400-45e0-ba92-fbd78f512c90/OTS%20Officials%20User%20Guide.pdf).

I hope that this finds you and your loved ones enjoying the holiday season (and the snow) and wishing you a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Cyndi Alexander
ISI Communications/Web Content
ISI Officials Committee

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