



## **OFFICIALS BULLETIN – October 2019**

### **MESSAGE FROM THE OCRC CHAIR – Suzanne Paulins**

Welcome to the start of the 2019/20 season and the road to the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics! It will be a very exciting season!

As we begin the season and the first competitions of the year begin, it is a good time to reflect on why we, as officials, are at the meet. We are given the privilege and opportunity to create an environment for our swimmers to reach their goals. We are there to work as a team. We are there to judge the rules, but to give the benefit of the doubt to the swimmer. Competition Coordinators/Meet Referees can set the tone of the meet with their officials' team from the very first briefing, perhaps it is the first meet of the season and there will be swimmers who have never competed in a meet before, maybe there is a swimmer for who this will be their last swim meet. As officials we can help make that experience a positive and special one, if we remember why we are there and work together to create an environment that will contribute to their success.

### **OFFICIATING AND NON-SWIMMING CANADA APPROVED OR SANCTIONED EVENTS**

As volunteers and officials, you may be asked to assist at events that are not with Swimming Canada affiliated clubs and/or may not be Swimming Canada sanctioned competitions or approved events, this may include high school swim meets, masters' meets, offered through other organizations, and Special Olympic events. As a volunteer it is important to understand the meet you are working at and who the governing body is for the event. The Swimming Canada Certificate of Insurance is only valid for Swimming Canada events and approved activities. If you have any questions on whether an event is a Swimming Canada event, please reach out to your Provincial Section.

### **PROTESTS AND JURY OF APPEAL**

A Protest and the possible Jury of Appeal that follows is an important learning opportunity for coaches, officials, Meet Managers and Competition Coordinators/Meet Referees. Coaches should advocate for their swimmer and when they come to a referee to ask about a disqualification, officials should allow that conversation to happen, explain the call and answer any questions the coach may ask. Once that is done, the coach may decide to bring forward a protest, that the referee may accept or decline. If the protest is declined, then the Jury of Appeal comes in to play. There is always discussion over what is a "statement of fact", as an example a "statement of fact" may include: the swimmer did not finish the race; the swimmer did not start the race; the swimmer swam the wrong stroke. Other disqualifications may be judgement calls by the official making the call. The Jury of Appeal should focus on the protest itself, what is the coach protesting – it is easy to get caught up in other discussions as part of the jury, so important to keep to the elements of the protest itself and that will help all involved work through the protest.

### **CLINIC UPDATES**

The majority of the PDF versions of the official's clinics, available on the Swimming Canada website, have been updated as per the annual clinic updating procedures. Thank you to all those Provincial Sections, who provided feedback to ensure the clinics are updated annually and relevant for our officials across the country. The final updated versions will be added in the coming weeks. Updated clinics can be found [here](#).



## E-LEARNING CLINICS

The Introduction to Swimming Officiating Clinic, Safety Marshal Clinic and Chief Timer Clinic continue to be available to be taken online. The clinics can be found [here](#). To date, 3867 clinics have been completed through e-learning. We expect to have the Clerk of Course available as e-learning clinic within the coming month. Following which, we will be developing an Introduction to Para Swimming Officiating eLearning module.

## PARA-OFFICIATING

We are currently working with WPS to have the Swimming Canada in-person Para Officials clinic approved as a WPS level 2 clinic. If successful, all those who have taken the in-person clinic since January 1, 2018, would be given credit. In order to be considered a level 2 WPS official, officials would also need to complete the IPC Introduction to Para Sport, found [here](#) and the World Para Swimming Technical Officials on-line para-swimming clinic, found [here](#). There is a cost of €53.50 for the WPS Technical Officials on-line clinic. We will provide more details as they become available.

## OPEN WATER OFFICIALS CLINICS

The Swimming Canada Level 1 Open Water Clinic is now available and can be found [here](#). We are working on updating the Level 2 and 3 Open Water Clinics and will post them once completed. For officials interested in participating in FINA Open Water Schools, which is a requirement for future, FINA Open Water nominations, details can be found on the FINA website [here](#).

## MASTERS SWIMMING

Swimming Canada welcomed Cynthia Pincott to the staff the beginning of September to the newly created Masters Coordinator position. Cynthia has been working hard to move forward on several Masters initiatives. The Canadian Masters Swimming Championships (CMSC) will be held May 22-24, 2020 at the Etobicoke Olympium in Toronto with the Etobicoke Olympium Masters Aquatic Club acting as the local organizing committee. A brief overview on Masters Swimming rules can be found [here](#). Thank you to Greg King for his help in the development of this resource. This resource will be available for officials volunteering at Masters competitions. The key message, for the most part Masters rules are no different than age group rules.

## TECH GOGGLES

The great news is that our sport is always developing and new innovation is developed in order to enhance or improve athletes' performance. You may have seen the news item posted by Swimming Canada recently that announced a partnership with TritonWear as Swimming Canada's Official Training Technology, you can find that article [here](#). Another new piece of equipment are goggles with a minicomputer and heads up display. These goggles were developed by Form. The goggles enable a swimmer to use the smart display to know split times, distance and more, as they swim.

As such, this technology, while seemingly excellent for training, would be illegal during competition. SW 10.16 provides: "No pace-making shall be permitted, nor may any device be used or plan adopted which has that effect."

Accordingly, should a swimmer compete with these goggles or technology, they would be subject to disqualification.



## CONCUSSION TRAINING & PROTOCOLS

As always, the safety of our athletes is a high priority. Many provinces may have specific legislation they must follow with regards to protecting athletes from the effects of a potential concussion. As officials, please ensure you are aware of the concussion protocols in your province and any additional training or obligations you may have as a result.

## 2020 NATIONAL MEETS

The following assignments for National Meet Director, National Meet Referee, Para-swimming Technical Advisor/Meet Referee have been finalized for the 2020 Swimming Canada National meets. The Swimming Canada Event staff look forward to successful competitions over the coming season.

| Event                           | Location/Dates                  | National Meet Director         | National Meet Referee         | Para-swimming TA/Meet Referee |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2020 Tokyo Trials               | Toronto, ON<br>March 30-April 5 | Nicole Parent and Trevor Cowan | Louise Leblanc and Bill Hogan | Jocelyne McLean               |
| 2020 Eastern Canadians          | Windsor, ON April 16-19         | Paul Corkum                    | Dave Shewfelt                 | Jeff Holmes                   |
| 2020 Western Canadians          | Saskatoon, SK April 16-19       | Norma Lachance                 | Joan Butler                   | Lyne Laprade                  |
| 2020 Canadian Open Water Trials | Grand Caymans April 25&26       | n/a                            | TBC                           | n/a                           |
| 2020 Canadian Masters           | Etobicoke, ON May 22-24         | TBC                            | TBC                           | n/a                           |
| 2020 Canadian Juniors           | Montreal, QC July 22-27         | Lyne Laprade                   | Cynthia Pincott               | n/a                           |
| 2020 Canadian Championships     | Edmonton, AB August 6-9         | Nicole Parent                  | Jim Fleury                    | Sheila Guenther               |

## LEVEL V OFFICIALS

Congratulations to the following new Level 5 Officials, certified since June 2019:

|                         |                       |                    |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Angela Taylor, ON       | Ahmed Abdelfattah, ON | Rebecca Rooney, ON |
| Cathi Brown, ON         | Guy Debroux, ON       | John Pezacki, ON   |
| Mary Lerner-Pardy, NFLD | Bradley Angove, BC    |                    |

Overall we are seeing a reduction in the number of officials achieving Level 5 certification. In the 2015/16 season there were 40; 2016/17 – 16; in the 2017/18 – 24; and in 2018/19 – 11. The OCRC has been discussing the decline in officiating numbers with the provincial officials' representatives and are exploring the trend and how we may be able to impact a change.

All the best to all officials over the course of the 2019/20 season. It will be an exciting season as we look toward the 2020 Tokyo Trials for the selection of our Olympic and Paralympic teams. I look forward to seeing many of you on deck in the coming months. Have a great season!