

DEADLINE FOR FLORIDA OFFICIALS' RECERTIFICATION

The deadline to recertify as a Florida Swimming Official is **July 1, 2008** – roughly two weeks away. As of that date, the only officials who will be certified to represent their clubs or volunteer as an official will be those who have completed **both** the online recertification test for their position level and attended a recertification clinic. While the clear majority of you have completed that process there are still several who have completed only half the requirement: either passed the test or attended the clinic. *Both are required!* Don't wait until the last minute to take the test – and if you're still in need of a recertification clinic, please contact your area representative for more information.

As of July 1, the names of those officials who haven't completed any part of the recertification process will be listed on the Florida Swimming website. You will find the names in the same place that these newsletters are posted!

Also please contact your area representative if you're looking for your Florida Swimming Recertification cards! The "Situation Questions and Resolutions" that were used in the recertification clinics will be posted online in the Officials Section of the Florida Swimming website in the coming weeks.

CHAMPIONSHIP MEETS COMING UP

Florida Swimming's two major championship meets will be underway in July. If you plan on volunteering for any or all of the sessions at either championship meet, please contact the Chief Judges at the email addresses below and notify them of your availability!

Junior Olympics	UF, Gainesville	July 17-20*	Sue Carlin Drea Phillips	carclans@comcast.net axiemantha@yahoo.com
Senior Champs	Ft. Myers	July 24-27	Eva Gronke	kapuna42@aol.com

Sectionals Ft. Lauderdale July 17-20

The application to officiate at the Sectional meet can be found by pasting the following link in your browser.
<http://szoneswim.hypermart.net/SZSS%20Application%20Summer%202008.pdf>

*Please remember this summer's JO meet is a full four-day meet!

SWIMMING'S OLYMPIC TEAM TRIALS BEGIN SUNDAY, JUNE 29

The fastest swim meet on American soil will begin in two weeks at the Qwest Center in Omaha when USA Swimming and the United States Olympic Committee host swimming's Olympic Trials. More than a thousand swimmers have already achieved qualifying times for the event and will begin gathering in Omaha later this month. Florida Swimming will have a strong showing at the meet, ranking alongside Florida Gold Coast, and the LSCs in California, Arizona, Michigan and Texas sending the most swimmers – about 100 Florida swimmers are preparing for Trials. The competition is fierce to make the US team, which will send only the top two finishers in each event to Beijing for the 2008 Olympics.

Florida Swimming is also sending more officials to Trials than any other LSC in the country! Six Florida officials were invited to Omaha, including two esteemed officials who have been given "assigned" positions as chief judges -- Bob Griffiths and Gerald Wolsfelt. Joining Bob and Gerald on the pool deck will be Mark McCaw, Robert Thompson, Melissa Hellervik-Bing and Vicky Wolsfelt.

This Olympic Trials swimming competition will also be the most-watched of any of the Olympic sports competitions in the USA. Seizing on that popularity, NBC and the USA Network have teamed to provide

prime-time scheduling to SWIMMING! Below is the schedule; please check with your cable or satellite provider for exact channel locations.

Sunday, June 29	8-9pm	NBC
Monday, June 30	8-9pm	USA
Tuesday, July 1	8-9pm	USA
Wednesday, July 2	8-9pm	USA
Thursday, July 3	8-9pm	USA
Independence Day, July 4 th	8-9pm	NBC
Saturday, July 5	8-9pm	NBC
Sunday, July 6	8-9pm	NBC

If you can't wait for the "Live Time" results that will be posted on the USA Swimming website (www.usaswimming.org), there are more options: sign up for results sent to your cell phone via text messages and podcasts will be available each day. Visit the "Olympic Team Trials – Swimming" on the USA Swimming website for more information. That page also lists all the swimmers who have so far qualified for Trials in ranking order by fastest time, as well as a section on other international swimmers who have qualified for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

GO USA!!!

NEW FLORIDA SWIMMING OFFICIALS

CONGRATULATIONS to the following officials who have moved up in the ranks and to those who are now joining the officiating group in Florida Swimming.

Certified Deck Ref

Bryon Petersen

Certified Starter

Peter Hegwein

Certified Stroke & Turn

David Knight

Alice Wang

Janet Hess

Carl Volz

Diana Woolbright

Rene Lebron

Daphne Castillow

Hao Nguyen

Wanda Webb

S&T Apprentices

Debra Dominanni

Diego Corredor

Lyne Nuskowski

Edward Stevenson

Amy Wilson

Nicole Carusone

Mirsad Kadric

Alix Monacelli

Jason Boardman

Brant Schroeder

Frank Scianna

Christopher Haas

Lance Potter

Scott Stanfield

Karen Stamper

Lane Hinkle

Jill Holt

Jerry Gollither

Mark Hill

Teri Vachon

Scott Bolin

Tabitha Dotson

Ed Painter

Jane Steele

Nelson Ortiz

Chris Brancato

Kristie Willio

Phil Lillo

Kirk Whalen

J. Scott Hiltsley

Jason Lear

Kaye Saute

Demond Thompkins

Starter Apprentices

Chris Wojcik

John Kennedy

Judi Wojcik

Lamar Boutwell

Lee Ann Turner

Ben Oathout

Janine Long

Brian Saute

Deck Ref Apprentices

Teresa Hughes
Jeanne Finke

Rick Mills
Joe Finke

Joyce Truthan

Kristy Gavin

FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL SWIMMING INFORMATION

For those officials and parents who are interested in officiating at the high school level, the registration window is now open at the FHSAA website (Florida High School Athletic Association). **The registration window for swimming/diving officiating will close as of August 1.** After that date, the packets of information, including NFHS and FHSAA rule books and rule and protocol changes, will be mailed to each registering official. Cost of registration is \$34. Please visit the following this website to register. <http://officials.fhsaa.org/>

Once again, there will be an online, closed-book exam and an online rules presentation that are mandatory for all officials. The exam will include 50 questions and must be completed within 50 minutes. The exam period begins at 12:01am on Friday, August 27 and closes on Tuesday, September 2. Please don't wait until the last minute to take the exam as *all* fall sports officials will be online! That's what caused the system to shut down last year!! Should the system close you out of the exam or you don't pass, the Make-up exams will be offered from Friday, September 26 to Tuesday, September 30. Each official is only allowed to take two exams in order to achieve a passing grade! ****Only registered FHSAA Swimming & Diving officials who passed the online exam will be eligible to fill the starter and referee positions at the Region meets and State Finals championships.**

The Jessica Lunsford Act requires that all high school contest officials be fingerprinted and those prints are kept on file in the local school district's database. Contact the Personnel Department or Human Resources Department of your local school district for more information on fingerprinting.

The biggest change to high school swimming rules this season addresses jewelry and attire:

INDIANAPOLIS: High school swimmers and divers will no longer face automatic disqualification for unsportsmanlike conduct for wearing jewelry or other improper attire during meets.

The National Federation of State High School Associations, the governing body for more than 18,500 U.S. high schools, has approved a change in rules to make the penalty "more appropriate for the severity of the violation," said Becky Oakes, the liaison to the federation's swimming and diving rules committee.

The new rule would disqualify the swimmer or diver only for the heat or round in which the infraction is detected. Ineligibility for the rest of the meet would result only if the situation were not corrected.

More information will be included in the FHSAA information packets sent to registered officials.

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