

Reminder about Recertification...

As noted in our Officials' Policies and Procedures, we must recertify in each even year. In order to be recertified for 2013, any official certified prior to May 2012 must: 1) Attend a recertification clinic. 2) Complete the certification – Stroke & Turn/Timer exam (**not** the recertification exam) with a score of 80% or better, and 3) if necessary, complete the Level 2 Background Check and/or Athlete Protection Training. Also, officials will need to have worked at least 6 sessions in each year.

Please remember, the end of the year is fast approaching! If you have any questions about sessions in your area, please contact your Area Representative. As of today, about 240 of you have completed a clinic, and 155 or so have completed the test.

Background Check Renewal

Many of our officials' Background Checks will expire in January 2013 (128) and February 2013 (76). It is recommended that you begin the renewal process 2-3 weeks prior to your expiration date to ensure that there is adequate time to process the requests. Please be sure that you select a renewal (\$19) as opposed to a new check (\$39). If you inadvertently select the new check, you **will not** be given a refund for the difference.

On the USA Swimming website, you will need to select:

Member Resources, then Programs & Services, then Safe Sport, then Screening and Selection, then Background Checks

From there, you will want to select the "Initiate a Background Check" link, which is toward the bottom of the page.

Your 2013 non-athlete registration card will show "VALID UNTIL xx/xx/2013" at the top of your card for those expiring this year. Once you complete your background check, you will receive an updated card. Please make sure that you keep your card with you at all meets and are prepared to show them to the Meet Referee!

Officials Committee Meeting

At October's Officials Committee meeting, held during the annual Florida Swimming Convention, we had a very good discussion about a range of topics. Some of the news includes:

- The national Officials Committee has posted to the USA Swimming website a number of great resources for the Professional Official. These cover the Stroke & Turn, Chief Judge, Starter, Deck Referee, and Administrative Referee positions, and are invaluable for giving guidelines to new and experienced officials alike.
- The rule changes passed by the USA Swimming House of Delegates have been posted to the USA Swimming website.
- The Background Check portal is now open. When you are doing your renewal, please make sure you are selecting renewal instead of a new check. You will not be refunded the difference if you select the wrong one. It is encouraged that you begin the background check renewal process about one month before your current check expires.
- Deck Mentors of Stroke & Turn apprentices need to make sure that they are being taught how to do relay take-off judging, writing DQ slips, notifying swimmers of infractions, radio protocols, and the roles and responsibilities of Chief Judges.
- While it is not currently required that apprentices and officials attend meets away from their home pool, it is strongly encouraged to gain a broader base of knowledge from other officials and learn how other clubs conduct their meets.
- Area Reps need to, if they haven't already, identify key team official leaders to help communicate with apprentices the process for getting them information on how to volunteer at meets and who the point of contact will be.

...And the Awards go to...

Congratulations to the two recipients of this year's Fred Cruciger and Al Soltis Awards! All officials are eligible for the Cruciger Award, while only Stroke & Turn judges are eligible for the Soltis Award. Both awards recognize officials who are professional, helpful, fair, consistent, knowledgeable of the rules, patient, mentor others, always willing to help at every meet, and are simply officials we look up to because of their attitude and value to Florida Swimming Officiating.

Congratulations to our award winners this year:

Al Soltis Award: Amy Moring, JCLA
Fred Cruciger Award: Judi Wojcik, TCSC

Also, congratulations are in order for our three Maxwell Award Winners, presented by Swimming World Magazine and USA Swimming: Melissa Hellervik-Bing, STAR, Bob Griffiths, CVST, Grady Steele, BSS.

New & Advancing Officials!

Congratulations are in order for all of the following officials who have either joined us as Stroke & Turn officials or who have advanced into new certifications since the beginning of June through October. Great job everyone, and welcome! We certainly appreciate all of the countless hours our officials put on the deck. We can't do it without you!!

Stroke & Turn Judge

Melvin Barber	Adrienne Cardwell	Kevin Doel	John Dupee	Brett Ewald
Xueqing Gao	Laura Haynes	Carolyn Landolfo	David Lemar	Dan McDaniel
Joyce Middleton	Carolyn Mizell	Ian Pollitt	Patrick Victor	Glenn Wright
Sharon Yee-Salinas				

Starter

Dean Graves	Ken Henson	Mark Hill	John Jansen	Andy Nuyianes
David Weller	Tara Williams			

Deck Referee

Robert Belle	Nina Kannatt	Keith Powell	Christian Robitaille	Gary Sedacca
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Meet Referee

Tom Tiedt	Terry Treat	Tony Uselis	Chuck Wagner
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