

DRAFT Officials Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: April 14, 2026

Next Officials Committee Meeting: June 2, 2026

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.

II. Roll Call

Meeting convened at 6:56 PM with committee members present including Barb Ship (Chair), Kelly Opipari, Scott Witkin, Erika Livingston, Elizabeth Jester, Paul Jampole, Tom Allison, Brayden Bagla, Tori Simmons, and Becky Fowkes

Guests: Katie Simmons

III. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of January 6, 2026.

Action: Motion carried.

IV. Reports of Officers and Committees

A. Chair's Report (Barb):

- PVS website has been totally redone (hired webmaster worked behind the scenes for several months)
- Information from old website carried over to new design
- Some corrections and modifications made before published but additional input would be welcome
- Barb will create a form for Officials Committee to submit suggested changes
- May open the form up to any official - keeping it narrow to start

● **B. Clinic Coordination (Scott & Erika):**

- CJ Clinic
 - 19 certifications within the LSC, overall 16 initial and 3 recerts
 - 13 initial in PVS, 0 recerts from PVS
 - A lot of representation from outside the LSC
 - Susan Huckabee thanked everyone for the clinic
 - Clinics are averaging 15-25
 - No additional CJ clinics planned for the Long Course season
 - Planning two in the Fall
- Other ideas brewing for training and mentoring

- Webinars/Q&A sessions a terrific idea - Deck Ref, Admin Official, Starter
- Could host it on the PVS website but open it up to anyone in USAS
- Wouldn't need to be much of a presentation - once ball gets rolling people will likely run with it
- PVS has a lot of depth and expertise
- Seems doable - could poll the Membership for questions so there's a starting point for what can be discussed/covered.
 - We don't want to ambush any experts with unvetted questions
 - Could use USA Swimming Scenarios
 - Could start with a Long Course session
 - "Intro to PVS Championship Meets"
- Name-Of-Position "201" clinics also an idea

- **C. Recruitment & Retention Committee (Kelly):**

- Fall Social Sunday, September 27 at Overby (it's free to us)
 - Requires budget \$
 - Probably a meet that day
- Committee is a big fan of the "All Star" nametags
 - Qualifications: 3 meets, 15 sessions for the year, no PVS swimmer, self-reported via form
 - Requires budget \$
 - Kelli will put together a design and bring it back to the Committee
- New AOs and New Meet Refs available on the website - Kelly looking for the best Google form that shows availability - and will ask to put it on the PVS website (as a form that can be copied)
- Can people order the AO stamp kit on their own?
 - Kelli will contact John Avelis

- **D. Disability/DEI Committee (Elizabeth):**

- Howard University camp scheduled April 18-19 with junior officials' component
- Very full two days - very excited, registration is almost full (38 swimmers)
- 4 classroom session, 2 pool sessions
 - Freestyle and non-freestyle groups
 - Cliff Gordon (and his Dad Cecil Gordon)
 - USAS Mental Health expert will present - he works with the Olympic and paralympic athletes at CO Springs
- Age Group Champs and Eastern Zones in Buffalo - Elizabeth gave her presentation about Article 105 - lots of questions (LOTS) afterward to Elizabeth
 - Training for Meet Refs and Directors?
 - Yes - on USAS website but you have to really dig to get to it
 - Elizabeth could put something together to share that can go on the PVS website

V. Unfinished Business

- Short Course Championships:
 - Badge carabiners were very popular; Barb has more for the summer meets
 - If we have additional budget \$ in August we could order another swag item (pens?)
 - Becky will find the quotes we got in the Fall
- Evaluators and Meet Referees
 - Barb has reached out to people and asked them to come be evaluators
 - This summer - Melissa Hellverik-Bing coming to LC Open Champs, Tracey and Patrick Garrett agreed to come to the Katie Ledecky Invitational (can do everything except N3F Deck Ref - could be backfilled within PVS if needed)
 - Barb would like to make a form that lets people make suggestions for National Evaluators - trying to get more people involved, people who are positive and won't tear people down. Willing to teach the entire community, be part of the meet (not just talking to their evaluatees)
 - If you have an N2 in that position and have been to a Nat'l Meet within last 5 years you are eligible

VI. New Business

A. Outstanding Athlete awards for Open Water were approved.

- Filming will be happening at the upcoming Open Water event in Montclair.
- Christine Haslem was asked to come to the 4/14 OC meeting but wasn't available due to a conflict due to an OW clinic - will ask again
- April 29 clinic for OW certification - will advertise to community
- USAS working on the online clinics for OW
- Goal is for PVS OC to be better versed in OpenWater overall
- Attending the clinic is recommended for any official - go do an Open Water meet
 - Competing in Open Water as an athlete is also encouraged
 - Whole new world (canoes etc. a lot of fun)

B. Uniforms: switch PVS over from blue bottoms to black bottoms?

- How many people might be turned away at not wanting to buy something new?
- The committee agreed to keep the blue and not add black bottoms.

C. Summer Championship Meets

- Long Course Championships (July): Jessica Moore MR
- Long Course Age Group Championships (July): Matt James MR
- Age Group LC Champs not currently an OQM

- Strong teams have been assembled by both referees, OC presence at these meets as mentors and experience would be appreciated.
- Barb will be asking for help and information in the upcoming time

D. OQMs Next Season

- Keep the same as 2025-26 Season

E. PVS Officials Roster is posted online

- Not always up to date and accurate - can generate some angst
- Meet Refs can see what they need to see in OTS (re: certs)
- Meet Refs are not always screening officials appropriately
 - Officials are working positions in meets for which they are not certified
- Can be helpful for people getting certified to see who their colleagues are (on their teams, for social reasons)
 - Post the people without the Certs (by name and club)

VII. Executive Session

The committee entered closed session for Evaluator Applications

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned.

Adjournment: 8:37 pm