

# YMCA of the USA Swimming and Diving Advisory Committee



UPDATE MEMO

---

RE: Training of YMCA Swimming Officials

July 12, 2006

With the adoption of the USA Swimming Technical Rules for the conduct of YMCA sponsored meets, certain changes will be required for the training materials for all future Officials' Clinics. Changes will be technical in nature, just like any rule change in the past. One significant exception to the USA Swimming Technical Rules is that **YMCA will retain the mandatory requirement of a 5-foot minimum water depth off the blocks or the end of the pool deck.**

It is important to note that the YMCA will continue to offer Officials' Clinics, as in the past, to train and certify YMCA Officials to work at YMCA meets. **USA Swimming certified Officials will not automatically become YMCA Officials and vice versa.** Our training will continue to focus on the YMCA core values, child abuse prevention and our extensive dual meet swimming program, areas that have been an integral part of our training for many years.

The YMCA National Officials' Committee will meet during the 2006 Long Course National Championships in July to finalize our approach to training and the development of revised materials for all Clinic offerings scheduled after September 1, 2006. These updates will be available and sent out to all trainers shortly after Long Course. The Committee will also consider some more significant changes going forward for the 2007-2008 swim season and beyond. While it is too early to tell exactly what changes will be made, we did want to at least bring you up to date on the current thinking. More specific guidance will be issued after the Committee meeting, but a brief summary of some of our current thinking is set out below.

## **For this first year (2006-2007 swim season)**

YMCA will continue to use the current training, modified to address the USA Swimming Technical Rules. The changes should be quite simple to implement, and in fact, YMCA trainers are currently encouraged to use the USA Swimming videotape in their Clinics. The major changes in the Technical Rules relate to the backstroke turn and the starting protocol. Also, the test will be modified to reflect the appropriate sections of the USA Swimming Rulebook. Guidance for the current year's Clinics, and the new test, will be issued on or before September 1, 2006 to all trainers. For those that are planning Fall Clinics, please continue to obtain sanction numbers and move forward accordingly.

## **For next year (2007-2008 swim season)**

The current proposal is to go back to two levels of YMCA Officials, but somewhat different than the old scheme. Level I Officials would be certified to judge strokes and turns, relay take-offs and finishes, as well as to act as timers or scorers. (As in the past, a Level I certification will not be required to serve as a timer or scorer.) Level II Officials would be certified for all the Level I roles plus referee, starter and chief judge. There would be reasonable time and experience requirements before one could take the Level II Clinic, and Officials could stay as Level I Officials if they so desired. All current Officials would be grandfathered. The period of certification and the requirements for re-certification (i.e., attendance at a clinic and passing a test) would most likely remain unchanged, although there is a proposal to require some level of

meet experience in order to renew certification and there is also a proposal to have a shorter test for re-certifying Officials. All of these issues are under active consideration and have to be discussed by the Committee before we can set out a definitive Clinic outline.

We appreciate your openness to the changes we will be experiencing and we thank you in advance for your efforts during this time of significant change.

Ed Miller  
National Officials' Chair