



Southern California Swimming

29000 S. Western Ave., Suite 304, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Wednesday, September 30th, 2026 8:15PM Pacific Time

Zoom Meeting Virtual Teleconference

MEETING MINUTES

Presiding Officer: Stacy Smith, General Chair

Recorder: Forest Riek, Secretary

Meeting Called to Order: 8:17PM Pacific Time

Board Members (Voice/Vote) in Attendance

General Chair	Stacy Smith	Admin Vice Chair	Chris Barber
Secretary	Forest Riek	Finance Chair	Rick Shipherd
Senior Vice Chair	Ron Aitken	Coach Rep	Matthew Cervantes
Age Group Co-Chair	Iman Khadambashi	Age Group Co-Chair	Lenin Velasco
Planning Chair	Mohammad Khadambashi	Officials Chair	Carol Cracchiolo
DDEI Co-Chair	Virgil Chancy		
Athlete Representative	Grace Nackers	Athlete Representative	Scott Campbell
Athlete Representative	Sarah Ek	Athlete Representative	Toby Chow
Athlete Representative	Allison Lin	Athlete Representative	Payton Bartlett
Coastal Co-Chair	Steve Reardon	Coastal Co-Chair	Alina de Armas
Metro Chair	John Zoll	Orange Chair	Tracy Maurer
Desert Co-Chair	Thomas Farrell		

Board Members (Voice/No Vote) in Attendance

Governance Chair	Lynne Akasaka-Riek	Operational Risk Coordinator	George Young
Immediate Past Chair (Ex Officio)	Terry Stoddard	Executive Director	Steve Roush

Board Members (Voice/Vote) Absent

Treasurer	Ron Ross	Open Water Chair	Alex Moothart
DDEI Co-Chair	Wilma Wong		
Safe Sport	Sheri Stoddard		
Eastern Chair	Aaron Reardon	Desert Co-Chair	Peter Mavro

Board Members (Voice/No Vote) Absent

Office Manager / Registration Coordinator	Nicole Hendry		
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Guests – Cami Stein (Board of Review), Ryan Chang (Athlete Rep)

Approve Meeting Agenda – MSC – (Unanimous Consent)

Motion to Correct May 20th, 2026, Meeting Minutes – MSC – (Unanimous Consent)

Approve Amended May 20th, 2026, Meeting Minutes – MSC – (Unanimous Consent)



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REPORTS/UPDATES:

Submitted Reports from Officers, and Committees are posted.

General Chair – Stacy Smith

- There has been increase in the number of Block Parties. In the past month of September, there were a total of 35 in the LSC. Of those 35, 5 or 6 of these were considered small, novice meets. These meets were the philosophy and original mission of Block Parties. Unfortunately, the remaining meets were extremely large. And some of these are charging more in terms of fees than SCS and being retained by the team hosting. Unfortunately, this means that the SCS does not receive any funding, for example Senior Club Support Fund, Age Group Fund and to outreach. Also, teams that are attending Block Parties (which are close invites) are not attending sanctioned SCS meets at the Geo Committee level, so this affects overall competition. This has the potential to impact events like the All-Star meet, Age Group Championships, Futures, Juniors and even Olympic trials. Teams often turn to Block Parties because they require less officials which reduces the cost. George Young (Ops Risk) indicated that was only one Report of Occurrence (ROO) from a Block Party in the last year. This raises the question if there have been occurrences that haven't been reported. A question was raised about but restricting what times from Block Parties can't qualify for. USA Swimming does not have any rules, but the LSC could put rules in place.

Executive Director – Steve Roush

- 2027 Awards Banquet will be held Sunday April 25th, 2027 in Anaheim.
- Starting October 1st, the office will be sending out via Constant Contact the application process for Outreach Meet Support. This will be a new process that will help better track application requests.
- The USA Swimming Women's Leadership Conference is being held November 20th to 22nd. At the previous Board Meeting, it was approved that the GeoCommittee would cover the \$300 registration fee while SCS would cover travel costs. At this time only one individual, Jessica Chen has enrolled. USA Swimming was contacted and there were still available slots.
- Pacific Coast All-Star meet will be held January 9th through 10th in Snohomish Washington (Snohomish Aquatic Center). There has been a change in LSC's attending, Oregon has decided to drop out and we've added Sierra Nevada. Pacific Northwest, Pacific and SCS still remain.
- SCS is moving forward with a communication plan that will include the SCS Website, social media, our Making Waves podcast and adding a digital quarterly magazine. For all of this to be accomplished, I will be going out and seeking an independent contractor to help with the content. Hannah has been doing a great job however she has pulled into meet processing role and there isn't adequate time in the day to handle both.
- Mega LSC Swim Festival which was held at Mission Viejo. The participants attended the PacPAC finals each night.
- USA Swimming Summit update. Both Tom Dolan and Tom Ugas were elected to the USA Swimming Board of Directors. Two pieces of legislation that SCS was most concerned about were tabled. One was the Transfer Rule, it was sent back to the Rules and Legislation Committee. The other was the Back to Breaststroke turn rule (12 and under vs 13 and over), was sent back to the Age Group development committee for further evaluation.
- Currently looking to add a Competition Manager that would handle day-to-day LSC meet processing/sanctioning. This is the early stages, talking to other LSC's about a similar position. This position may not be required depending on Block Party trend.



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- Anaheim Ducks NHL have approached SCS about doing an aquatics night to honor swimmers and coaches. The timeframe looks to be March of 2027

Office and Registration – Steve Roush for Nicole Hendry

- Membership numbers as of September 30th.
 - Total number 24,945
 - Number of Athletes 23,331
 - Number of Coaches 1,081
 - Number of Officials 286
 - Miscellaneous 452
- There were a total of 147 swim clubs
- SCS is still the largest LSC

Athletes Committee – Grace Nackers

- SCS sent a number of Athlete's to the USA Swimming Summit. They attended special tracks designed especially for Athlete's. All the presenters indicated they learned a lot, met Athlete Reps from other LSC's. The following athletes gave a recap:
 - Toby Chow
 - Payton Bartlett
 - Sarah Ek
 - Allison Lin
 - Grace Nackers
 - Cami attended as the SCS Chaperone

ACTIONABLE ITEMS:

Senior Chair – Ron Aitken

- SMOC was moved from April to June due to a conflict. Mission Viejo would like to keep the meet in June permanently; a fixed date gives our senior swimmers and coaches a dependable meet to plan their season around. This move now leaves an opening in April, looking to create the Las Vegas Cup, which would be senior level meet. It would a 3-1/2 day prelims/finals meet hosted in Las Vegas. Projected dates would be April 8 to the 11.
- Looking to increase participation at the Pro Series. Looking at various options such as \$500 per athlete's that attend. Will get back with a more formal proposal.

Planning Chair – Mohammad Khadembashi

- Meet Calendar was presented for vote. Mohammad covered some changes to several meets.
 - **MSC (Unanimous consent)**

Officials Chair – Carol Cracchiolo

- Withdraw budget proposal and will present an updated budget proposal at a future board meeting. There was some discussion about what other LSC pay or support officials going to national events.
- The committee has worked on updated policies and procedures, duty policies, and disciplinary policy.



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OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

There will be a meet bid meeting on Oct 21, to review all teams that submitted to host meets.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:14PM Pacific Time

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

October 28th, 2026 at 8:15pm

DRAFT



Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

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BOARD REPORT

NAME OF BOARD POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

Executive Director

SUBMITTED BY (NAME):

Steve Roush

ACTIONABLE ITEM(S):

- 2027 SCS Calendar & Bid Process (Planning Chair)

COMMITTEE REPORT:

- The 2027 SCS Awards Banquet will be held on Sunday, April 25 in Anaheim, CA.
- Beginning October 1, the application process for the Outreach Meet support will be the responsibility of the swim club host to complete. We will be using the Cognito software to be able to alert and track when the club submits the application form. A Constant Contact announcement will go out to all the clubs announcing the change and providing the link to where the application form is housed.
- USA Swimming Women's Leadership Conference being held November 20-22, 2026 in Colorado Springs, CO. Only 1 Geo Committee submitted a nominee where the committee pays the \$300 registration fee while SCS will cover all travel expenses. There are still spaces available! Jessica Chen from Coastal is currently the one SCS participant.
- The Pacific Coast All-Star Meet will be held on January 9-10, 2027 in Snohomish, WA. The participating LSCs will be SCS, Pacific Swimming, Sierra Nevada and Pacific Northwest. The selection process will be through an invitation based on swims through the Legends of Coaching Meet at the beginning of November.
- The SCS Global Communication Plan is now incorporating the following mediums: SCS website, Social Media, Making Waves Podcast and a new SCS Digital Magazine. We are working to integrate content for all SCS membership groups into these various platforms rather than dealing with them individually. A survey tool for the website portion will be sent to the Board members in the coming week – please be responsive as it is an opportunity to improve the current platform. SCS will be seeking a independent contractor to serve as our Social Media liaison – this shift is necessary as Hannah has been pulled into more

involvement in registration support and meet processing. This area needs someone who has more time to devote to the constant demands on these platforms. I plan to utilize this individual to support content towards the SCS Digital Magazine (quarterly) as well. My goal is to launch the first edition by the end of 2026. The Making Waves Podcast will resume once the website platform is able to house the library for members to view On Demand episodes.

- The MEGA LSC Swim Festival was a successful event hosted by SCS at Mission Viejo in August. SCS hosted 130 swimmers and 20 coaches from Middle Atlantic, Indiana and North Carolina LSCs. The group was able to attend the Finals of the Pan Pacific Championships held at Irvine. The 2027 edition of the MEGA LSC Swim Festival is being planned and hosted by Middle Atlantic in May in Puerto Rico. More details to follow. I am concerned that this might conflict with CIF and preparation of USA Swimming Nationals in early June. Stay tuned.
- The USA Swimming Summit was held in Denver last week along with the Annual Business Meeting. Tom Dolan and Tom Ugast were both elected to the USA Swimming Board of Directors. No significant legislation was passed with two proposals being tabled and sent back to the Rules & Legislation Committee and Age Group Development Committee for further evaluation. SCS has a strong contingent in Denver.
- A proposal for a new SCS staff position (Competition Manager) is being examined and will be brought forward with a full job description in the near future. The addition of the staff member is to help improve the day-to-day operations of LSC meet processing (sanctioning, oversight, admin report processing, records keeping, et.al.). I am reviewing similar positions in other LSCs in an attempt to create a tailored job description for the needs of SCS.
- SCS has been approached by the Anaheim Ducks NHL team regarding hosting an Aquatics Night to honor swimmers and coaches. It looks like available dates are in the March 2027 timeframe. More about this event once I have met with team reps to determine if it works for SCS.

UPCOMING SCS CALENDAR

October 30 – Nov 1, 2026	Rising Tides Meet @ NOVA
November 5-7, 2026	Legends of Coaching – Don Lamont Meet @ RMDA
December 2-5, 2026	USA Swimming Toyota US Open @ Austin, TX
December 9-12, 2026	Speedo Winter Junior Nationals @Austin, TX & Indianapolis, IN
December 11-13, 2026	SCS Winter Age Group Champs @ SCAT, GWSC, RAA
January 9-10, 2027	Pacific Coast All-Star Meet @ Snohomish, WA



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BOARD REPORT

NAME OF BOARD POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

Athlete Committee

SUBMITTED BY (NAME):

Grace Nackers (Senior Chair)

ACTIONABLE ITEM(S):

No actionable items

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Athlete Reports from ABM USA Swimming Summit In Denver a 3-5 minute presentations from Sarah Ek, Tobey Chow, Allison Lin, Payton Bartlett and Grace Nackers on the ABM Summit, what we learned, our experiences, and why we should take trips like this in the future to help grow the Athlete Committee, and what we envision moving forward for the Athlete Committee this season.

(Grace Nackers- will be sending in new names for BOD athlete Jr and Sr reps to vote on the BOD)



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BOARD REPORT September 30, 2026

NAME OF BOARD POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

Senior Chair

SUBMITTED BY (NAME):

Ron Aitken, Senior Chair

ACTIONABLE ITEM(S):

1. Accept the senior meet calendar update as reported, including the addition of the Las Vegas Cup.
2. Approve, in principle, SCS seed money toward bringing a recurring Pro Series meet to SCS. The amount will be determined and brought back for review once the effort gains traction.
3. Remove the protected status of Senior Signature Meets and direct the Senior Committee to develop review criteria and a bid process. The Board will use them to decide whether each Signature Meet stays with its current host or goes out for bid.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

1. Senior Meet Calendar Updates

SMOC moves to June. The Speedo Meet of Champions (SMOC) has moved from April to June 17–20, the weekend after World Championship Trials. Mission Viejo wants to keep the meet in June permanently rather than moving it from year to year. A fixed date gives our senior swimmers and coaches a dependable meet to plan their season around.

New April meet: Las Vegas Cup. SMOC's move to June left an April gap in our senior calendar. The Las Vegas Cup fills that gap. It is a 3.5-day long course prelims/finals meet in Las Vegas, and it is not an SCS Signature Meet.

I see a specific need for this weekend. The meet is scheduled right after Open Water Nationals so that athletes who swim both open water and pool can practice what the Olympic Games demand: open water racing followed by a prelims/finals pool meet. No meet in the country currently offers this. With the open water participation we have in SCS, this gives our athletes a real developmental opportunity.

Sandpipers of Nevada would like the opportunity to make this happen. As a developmental

meet, we will host it at our new facility, the Regional Aquatic Center, and cover any financial shortfall.

Senior long course calendar

Month	Meet	Location
February	Road to SoFi	La Mirada
April	Las Vegas Cup	Las Vegas
May	Grand Challenge	Irvine
June	SMOC	Mission Viejo
July	JEI	USC

This gives our senior swimmers a consistent long course meet about every month from February through July.

2. Proposal: Seed Money for a USA Swimming Pro Series Meet in SCS

I would like USA Swimming to hold a Pro Series meet in our LSC on a regular basis. SCS is one of the largest LSCs in the country, and a regular Pro Series stop would benefit a large number of our senior swimmers. It would let them race against the best in the country without traveling, and it would give our clubs and facilities more national visibility.

Proposal: SCS commits in principle to providing seed money that makes our LSC a strong bid location for a recurring Pro Series meet, so the event can be offered to SCS swimmers every year. The amount will be set and reviewed once the effort gains traction with USA Swimming.

3. Proposal: Review of Signature Meet Protection

For years our senior meets have been protected as Signature Meets that belong to their host teams. I believe this needs to change.

Proposal: Remove the protected status of Signature Meets. Unlike age group meets, Signature Meets would not automatically go out for bid. Instead, the Board would review each Signature Meet and decide what is best for the LSC: keep it with the current host, or recommend it for bid when a change is needed.

I know this will be a hot topic. My reason is simple: our senior meets should be allowed to change site and location when that serves our swimmers better. Decisions would be based first on facility quality and on having central locations that make the meets accessible to the most SCS swimmers.

Club Support Policy

The SCS Club Support Program is intended to provide a financial incentive and support to Clubs that qualify for the highest levels of competition. The following general requirements shall be met for all levels of club support:

1. Club Support funding requests must be submitted via the SCS Club Support Online Form within 30 days of the last day of competition.
2. Club Support disbursements shall be processed via ACH to registered Clubs and not to individual Swimmers. Clubs must maintain updated ACH account information with the LSC to participate in the Club Support Program.
3. All clubs, coaches, and athletes shall be in good standing with Southern California Swimming.
4. Coaches and athletes shall have attended and competed in the meet. Relay-only athletes shall not be eligible for club support funding.
5. The club shall maintain an updated Team Travel Policy and all athletes who travel shall sign a Code of Conduct Form prior to the trip.
6. All clubs, coaches, and athletes electing not to follow the criteria for reimbursement from the Club Support Policy will be ineligible for club support.

Athlete eligibility requirements:

An athlete must be registered with SCS at the time he/she participates in a qualified meet and:

1. Must represent or be on the roster of an SCS Club at the qualified meet.
2. If unattached and not on the roster of an SCS Club, eligibility shall be determined by the Board of Directors which at its sole discretion shall determine whether the athlete is entitled to reimbursement.
3. Athletes will not be eligible if he/she is registered in another LSC or is on the roster of a non-CA Club at any time during the fiscal year for which reimbursement is sought. Collegiate athletes required to register with another LSC during the college season are exempted from this requirement.
4. The amount paid to each SCS Member for an eligible swimmer or to each unattached athlete shall be adjusted in accordance with the following criteria:
 - a. During the first year of the athlete's SCS registration, 30% of the recognition amount.
 - b. During the second year of the athlete's SCS registration, 60% of the recognition amount.
 - c. During the third year of the athlete's SCS registration, 100% of the recognition amount.

Coach Eligibility and Amount:

Each SCS club with one or more eligible swimmers on its roster who are entered in individual events at qualified meets shall also be awarded Club Support for one coach to attend the same meet in accordance with the published SCS Club Support Levels.

Club Support for coaches shall have the same priority and funding level as club support for athletes. For current Club Support funding levels see published SCS Club Support Levels (enclosure 1.)

Club Support will be provided for one coach for every 10 athletes attending Club Support designated events.

Club Support Qualifying Meets and Funding Levels:

The Club Support Qualifying meets and Funding Levels shall be determined by the Senior Committee and approved by the Board of Directors annually by February, for the upcoming season. To qualify for Club Support athletes must participate in one of three acceptable types of meets:

1. US-sanctioned National Championship or Selection Meet (other than Olympic Trials), World Trials, US Open, US National Championship, US Jr Nationals, Futures.
2. USA Pro event sanctioned by the National body (currently the TYR Pro series)
3. Any AQUA-recognized event appearing on the AQUA Calendar as described in the AQUA Constitution section C 14.5 (includes World Cup events, LEN Sanctioned events, most national championship meets for other countries, and many high-end international invitationals, (i.e., Mel Zajac, The Maccabiah Games, and many high-end domestic invitationals like Santa Clara)
4. Separate Club Support funding is provided when the 10K Open Water Championship is held separately from National Championship and/or When a Trials Class meet is offered in addition to summer Nationals or Open, Summer Junior Nationals, and Summer Futures.
5. Swimmers shall be eligible for additional support for any unique Trials event, as scheduled by the National body if said event is held as a separate meet between the Fall and Summer National meets. Club Support funding for the unique Trials event will be in addition to support earned for the Fall and Summer National events.

The funding levels shall be determined by the Senior Committee and based on geographic location and the duration of the meet, using the following formulas:

1. US Open, Nationals, and Trials (not including Olympic Trials) - \$250 for each day of the meet + 1 travel day. \$850 airfare if east of the Mississippi, \$550 airfare if west of the Mississippi (but requiring air transportation), and zero transportation allotment for all local national events.
2. Juniors - \$110 for each day of the meet + 1 travel day. \$650 airfare if east of the Mississippi, \$450 if west of the Mississippi (but requiring air transportation), and zero transportation allotment for all local national events.
3. Futures a flat rate of \$0-300 per athlete. (except on an Olympic Year). Amount to be determined after August 15th of each year. Remainder of the Club Support Budget will be distributed to Futures level divided into shares not to exceed \$300 per athlete.

2027 SCS Club Support Qualifying Meets and Funding Levels

Event Date	Event Name	Total Support	East/West
April 2027	Open Water Nationals	\$1,850.00	East
April 2027	Open Water Juniors	\$1,180.00	East
TBA	Para	\$1,850.00	East
June 2027	Nationals	\$2,350.00	East
July 2027	Futures Champs	\$0.00–300	West
Aug 2027	Summer Juniors	\$1310.00	East
December 2027	US Open	\$2,100.00	East
December 2027	Winter Juniors	\$1,000.00	West

“Only one funding payment per athlete per season (Winter, Open Water, Summer).”

****Please click [HERE](#) to submit a funding request.****

2026-27 SCS CALENDAR (Proposed)

2026

Oct 30 - Nov 1	Rising Tide Senior Meet @ NOVA
November 6 - 8	Legends of Coaching Senior Meet @ RMDA
November 21 – 22	Timed Final Long Course Meet @ ????
December 2 – 5	Toyota U.S Open @ Austin, TX (2025 15 SCS swimmers)
December 9 – 12	Speedo Junior Nationals @ Austin, TX (2025 80 SCS swimmers)
December 11-13	Winter Age Group Champs (RAA, SCAT, GWSC)
December 17 – 20	Sectionals @ BREA

2027

January 2-3	Pacific Coast All-Star @ Seattle
January 15-17	SCS All-Star Camp/Clinic @ Irvine site????
January 23-24	SCS All-Star Festival @ TBD (???)
February 12-15	Road to SOFI Senior Meet @ La Mirada – Long Course Meters
February 25 – 28	Sectionals @ Oceanside????
March 11 - 14	SCS Spring Age Group Championships @ TBD ****
April 2-4	Open Water Nationals & Juniors
April 8-11	Vegas Cup
May 13-16	May Age Group Invitational @ TBD (2-3 sites, P&F, slower than JAG cuts)
May 28-30	NOVA Speedo Grand Challenge @ NOVA
June 10-13	SCS June Age Group Champs @ TBD **** [3 sites, 3 Finals 13&O/ 2Finals 12&U]
June 17-20	Fran Crippen Swim Meet of Champions @ MVN
Mid-June	Post Trials Senior Meet ???
July 9-11	LA Invite @ USC
July 15-18	SCS Elite Age Group Championships @ TBD ***** (?????)
July 15-18	Sectionals @ ????
July 22-25	SCS Summer Age Group Championships @ TBD ****
December 10-12	SCS Winter Age Group Champs @ TBD **** [4 sites]

***** Denotes Meets Involved in the 2027 Bid Process (11 total meets)



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BOARD REPORT

[Board Meeting Date]

NAME OF BOARD POSITION OR COMMITTEE: Officials Committee Chair

SUBMITTED BY (NAME):

Carol Cracchiolo, Committee Chair

ACTIONABLE ITEM(S):

Budget Proposal 2026-27 season

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Officials

FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

SCS OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP

Due to the increasing number of officials working National Meets or OQM meets to receive education, mentoring, and receive National Level certification, the committee would like to assist officials for volunteering at these meets. These meets are primarily conducted outside of the SCS. It requires the official to travel at their own expense. The officials' committee is asking for an increase in the fiscal budget to assist SCS officials for travel to these meets (2026-2027). Each official would be required to work 80% of the meet and must be in good standing with USA Swimming and SCS.

This fiscal year (2025-26), we were unable to cover all those officials who went to National Meets.

Airfare and hotel costs are increasing. Therefore, we would like our budget to increase to \$10,000.00 for the fiscal year 2026-27 to cover these expenses.

Number of Officials who attend National Meets: 4-6 twice per year

Sectionals: Summer, 24 officials; Winter 15 officials; Spring, 10 officials (outside of our LSC)

TYR Pro: 2-4 officials annually

This is more likely to increase as newer officials want to obtain National Certifications and the experience outside of our LSC.

Reimbursement Tiers:

Level 5: Nationals, Open USA (Maximum \$800)

Level 4: Pro Series (Maximum \$800)

Level 3: Junior Nationals and Open Water Nationals (Maximum \$800)

Level 1 and 2: Sectionals and Futures: \$50 per day (including outside LSC)

Any SCS Official who has been invited to work Olympic Trials may request to be awarded the same amount as an athlete or coach.

The Officials Committee budget extends beyond travel reimbursements for national-level meets. Annual obligations include providing name tags for all officials and producing updated DQ cards in response to rule changes issued by USA Swimming. This year, the committee also funded an officials' clinic in Las Vegas. Because these clinics are now part of our ongoing education and development plan, additional clinics will be scheduled in future years, resulting in increased recurring expenses.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AND NEVADA SWIMMING OFFICIALS' POLIICES AND PROCEDURES

SEPTEMBER 2026

Southern California Swimming is the local governing body for USA Swimming in the Southern California/Las Vegas Area. SCS Officials' Policies and Procedures are intended to maintain a high level of consistency in officiating and shall provide programming and oversight of recruiting, training, certifying, educating, and mentoring.

Officials Program Overview

The Officials' Committee shall establish and publish the requirements to become an official in SCS. The minimum standards required to become an SCS official shall at least meet the minimum standards established by the USA Swimming Officials' Committee, for those positions where there are national standards. The certification criteria should be accessible to all certified officials at any time.

Individuals interested in becoming an SCS Official shall work one meet (4 sessions) as an apprentice official. An apprentice official **must register** with USA Swimming. As of June 11, 2025, an apprentice has 60 days to complete the appropriate background check, APT, Concussion, CANRA, online clinics for Foundation of Officiating and Stroke and Turn. Until USA Swimming registration is completed, a trainee is not allowed on deck.

The Officials' Committee shall maintain a roster of all currently certified officials. Officials may request not to be included in any list published on the SCS website, which may include their name, certification level, phone number, and email address. If the official makes a request to be excluded from the main list that is published, they may not get called to work meets in the SCS area, as the people doing the assignments may not know to call or email an official.

THE 5 PILLARS

1) OFFICIAL RECRUITING

The goal of the Officials Recruiting Program is to promote an inflow of new officials by engaging all existing officials and teams to participate in extending a consistent invitation to parents. It takes a combined effort from the teams, coaches, and officials to provide parents with the opportunity to learn and give back to the sport of swimming by becoming an official.

The SCS Officials Committee is composed of the Officials Chair and the Geographic Officials Representatives from each of the six geographic committees: Coastal, Desert, Eastern, Pacific, Metro and Orange.

- a) Each Geographical Committee Representative will present at committee meetings the opportunity and need for officials.
- b) Athletes, ages 16-17, may become junior officials. The athlete representatives on the official's committee, shall provide the information to other swimmers, coaches, and parents.
- c) Information on how to become officials will be provided on the SCS website or through the Geographic Committee Representatives.

2) OFFICIALS TRAINING

The Official Training Program intends to ensure that all officials, including Junior Officials are applying the rules with equal interpretation and to provide the swimmers in the LSC with competitions that are fair and equitable to everyone involved. Ensure that the quality of officiating provided to our LSC is conducted with integrity, consistency, fairness, and held to the highest standards of professionalism.

a) Membership in USA Swimming

- i. All deck officials, administrative officials, and the meet director at ANY sanctioned Southern California Swimming meet shall be a current non-athlete member of USA Swimming and adhere to all requirements related to background, athlete protection, and concussion protocol training. As required by the State of California, all officials must take the CANRA course (when working in the state of California).
- ii. When joining USA Swimming, the potential official will need to apply as either an athlete or non-athlete member. Most officials are non-athlete members. If you are a Masters swimmer or an age group swimmer training with a USA Swimming club, you would register as an athlete member for insurance purposes (YOU NEED NOT be registered twice. Members may designate both athlete and official on the registration application (Only athlete-coaches need to be registered twice).

b) A rulebook may be obtained on the USA Swimming website.

- USA Swimming's URL is www.usaswimming.org
- Hover over the "about" tab and select the Rules and Regulations link
- Locate the current rulebook link and click that link
- Once the document is loaded to a local computer, print Article 101. That article contains the technical rules for the strokes and relays.

c) Meet Referees should strive to ensure that they are working to use at least one official who was certified in the last 6 months, if available, to ensure new officials are not left on the sideline, but working and honoring their skills. Each Geographic Committee Representative should maintain a list of new officials in their committee.

d) The Officials' Committee will work to send out periodic links to various videos, rule interpretations and informational material from the USA Swimming website each quarter.

e) To begin training, an individual must reach out to the Geographic Committee Representative and/or Meet Referee to request the opportunity to train at his/her meet.

f) At each meet, the Meet Referee is allowed to have a maximum of two (2) trainees on the deck at the same time. The host team shall be aware of which trainees are working the deck.

3) TRAINING FOR ALL POSITIONS

STROKE AND TURN JUDGE TRAINING

The primary function of all officials is to ensure “a fair and equitable competition.” The way a Stroke & Turn Judge performs this function is to ensure that all competitors comply with the technical rules of the event in which they are competing. SCS and USA Swimming have adopted the philosophy that all competitors, regardless of age (from the age of 5 years to the national champion), must conform to the technical rules. Officials must always remember that an “ugly looking” stroke is not necessarily a disqualification and any doubt goes to the benefit of the swimmer.

SCS offers officials the opportunity to continue their training for positions such as starter, deck referee, administrative official, administrative referee, and meet referee. If a stroke and turn judge is ready to make the transition into another position, he/she shall notify the Geographic Committee Representative and/or the Meet Referee to give them an opportunity to be mentored.

USA Swimming offers 3 levels of certification: local (N1), National (N2), and National Championship (N3). Typically, two meets will be offered each year for evaluation and promotion to the National and National Championship level. Other possibilities for evaluations are OQM meets which are held several times a year, such as Sectional Meets and Futures Meets, throughout the country.

Officials are encouraged to work outside of their committee areas and their LSC to continue their education as an official in the sport of swimming.

USA Swimming provides online clinics for each position available. These clinics are mandatory. These may be taken any time and expire every three years.

4) OFFICIAL EVALUATION/CERTIFICATION

The Official Certification Program shall provide a clear and concise certification criterion so that officials understand the requirements and necessary steps to advance through each certification level. The Officials’ Committee will provide certification for: Meet Referee, Deck Referees, Administrative Officials, Starters, and Stroke and Turn Judges. As part of the role of Admin official, the training involves timing operator, pre/post meet information, and meet results.

The Executive Officials Committee, the Geographic Representatives, and the general officials’ membership shall ensure that all new officials feel welcome and are allowed to work meets and advance as they meet the certification standards.

- a) The Officials Chair shall provide each Geographic Committee Representative a list of new officials in their committee so they can monitor certification progress and help ensure new officials are invited to work meets. New officials are encouraged to work outside of their home Geographic Committee area.

- b) The Officials Committee shall establish criteria for selecting experienced officials to serve as evaluators for specific positions. These evaluators will not only assess an official's performance but also provide mentorship, offering guidance and practical insights to strengthen a new official's understanding of rules, regulations, and procedures. Their role supports fair and equitable competition while fostering growth and confidence in developing officials.
- c) An evaluation is an opportunity for an official to receive feedback on their knowledge, skills, judgment, and performance in a specific officiating position. Participation and/or completion of an evaluation does not guarantee certification or advancement.
- d) Certification is awarded when the official has demonstrated the knowledge, experience, skills, and level of performance required for the position. The evaluator may identify areas for continued development and recommend additional training, mentoring or deck experience before certification is appropriate (use of an action plan).
- e) Evaluations shall be performed using the designated forms provide by USA Swimming and modified by SCS Officials Committee. These forms are available through the Officials Chair and the Geographic Committee Representatives. Any new official and official seeking a certification for advancement, shall provide the Meet Referee and/or mentor a copy.
- f) Evaluation forms are to be submitted to the Geographic Committee Representative for vetting purposes; then submitted to the Officials Chair for final approval. Upon final approval, the officials chair will indicate in OTS the level the official has achieved.
- g) The Officials Committee will maintain a certification criteria document that will be periodically adjusted to meet new rules and regulations or any changes to the certification process that USA Swimming passes to all LSCs for adoption. That certification document is not included in this policy statement and can be found on the website maintained by Southern California Swimming.
<https://www.socalswim.org>

5) OFFICIALS EDUCATION

- a) The Officials Chair and Geographic Committee Representatives shall disseminate all educational material received from USA Swimming promptly by email or posted on the SCS Website. The Officials Committee will provide an opportunity through special meetings or online videos to further each official's skill set. The Officials Committee shall provide periodic updates to the members, either by email and/or by posting on the SCS website under the officials' section.
- b) Hold yearly meetings, either in-person or via virtual meeting, to offer the opportunity to engage the general membership and to provide a platform that will more effectively bring a common understanding on how to interpret and apply the rules.
- c) Recertification testing is required at your highest certification level held, and is required every three years. If a clinic is held, officials will be expected or highly encouraged to attend (via zoom or in person).
- d) All officials are required to take the online clinics provided by USA Swimming for Foundations of Officiating, stroke and turn, starter, referee, and administration, every three years. APT is required for all membership annually. It is the official's responsibility to keep all of their certification requirements current according to the expiration dates shown on. Your USA Swimming account.

- e) The Officials Committee has regular meetings that are held quarterly, unless extenuating circumstances occur. These meetings provide information to all the LSC officials and for the committee to vote on agenda items. If the general officials' membership wishes to bring a topic up to the committee, they should provide that information to the Geographic Officials Committee Representative for their area so they can add it to the agenda.

NATIONAL MEET TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

A travel stipend is intended to assist with an official's travel expenses to work national level competition. The Officials Committee Chairs through the Operation Vice Chair shall recommend to the Board of Directors which meets shall be eligible for reimbursement during the following competitive year (September 1 to August 31).

The meets may be recommended from amongst the following meets: USA Pro Series, USA Junior National Championships, USA National Championships and Open Water National Championships. Reimbursement for a Sectional and/or Futures meet will be taken under consideration, if the meet is held outside of SCS.

The Officials' Committee shall recommend annually to the Board of Directors the maximum amount to be paid per meet held during the following competitive year. An official may receive one reimbursement in each competitive year, (September 1 to August 31). You will be required to work 6 out of the 8 sessions (80%) in order to receive a reimbursement.

Budgeted Officials reimbursement funds shall be allocated to each meet by the Officials' Committee at the start of the fiscal year and shall be granted as long as the criteria has been met. The total budget amount allocated for reimbursement by the Executive Official's Committee for the upcoming fiscal year is requested each year and approved by the Board of Directors and then ratified by the House of Delegates as part of the LSC Budget. Once that amount in pre-meet approval is reached, and/or actual payout has been paid, no further reimbursements will be considered. The amounts shown below were developed to provide the greatest opportunity for multiple officials to receive some reimbursement, while it is known that it will not cover the entire amount for an individual to attend some travel meets.

Reimbursements are subject to the rules below, and once these funds are exhausted, no additional allocations will be provided the remainder of the competitive year. To receive travel assistance from SCS, an official must meet certain minimum eligibility requirements:

- a) Must be registered with USA Swimming and SCS for at least 12 months.
- b) Must have worked a minimum of twelve (12) months prior to the meet or four SCS sanctioned meets during that time. Approved and Observed meets are not valid.
- c) Must notify the SCS Official's Chair with the intent to apply and request a reimbursement upon acceptance to the meet and before the date of the meet. The official must provide a copy of the acceptance letter for the meet.

- d) To be eligible for reimbursement for a Level 1 or 2 meet (Sectionals/Futures), the official must be in an assigned position.
- e) An official may only be reimbursed for two meets per fiscal year and only up to the maximum amount; must work 6 out of 8 sessions (80%). This does not include time trials.
- f) The reimbursement request must be submitted no later than 30 days after the meet ends, or by August 23 of any year. This is the SCS fiscal year-end deadline.
- g) The reimbursements amount for an official to receive are:
 - Level 5: Nationals, US Open (Maximum-\$800)
 - Level 4: Pro Series (Maximum-\$800)
 - Level 3: Junior Nationals and Open Water Nationals (Maximum \$800)
 - Level 1 and 2: Sectionals and Futures (**reimbursed for assigned positions only** @\$50 per day, providing the officials works all sessions, 4 days or 80% of the meet)
- h) Any SCS Official who has been invited to work at Olympic Trials may request to be awarded the same full amount as the Athlete. A recommendation from the Officials' Committee Chairs will also be requested from the Board of Directors to ensure the official is in good standing with SCS.
- i) Western Zone Age Group and Senior Championship meets qualify for reimbursement under the Western Zone Mentoring and Travel Assistance Program and NOT under the SCS Policy.
- j) To request a SCS Travel Reimbursement, officials need to complete the SCS Officials' Travel Application and submit an SCS expense report, listing the expense incurred to the Officials Chair
<https://www.socalswim.org> .
 - i. Receipts for all expenses must be listed on the report. If driving, the standard IRS mileage rate should be used, and only mileage from the originating point to and from the meet location will be reimbursed.
 - ii. The SCS Officials Chair will certify that the official is eligible and meets all requirements and will submit the names to the SCS Finance Vice Chair within ten days after the submission deadline for reimbursement.
 - iii. The SCS Officials Chair will notify any official not meeting the requirements. That official can then submit an appeal which will be heard by the SCS Board of Directors the next meeting. The Board will vote on the appeal at that time.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEETS

Each certified official shall, when assigned, carry out his/her duties in accordance with current rules and regulations of USA Swimming and current procedures of Southern California Swimming.

- a) The meet host is responsible for obtaining the Meet Referee and Administrative Referee. The Meet Host may defer the staffing of other officials to the Meet Referee and/or the Administrative Referee respectively.
- b) Officials SHALL NOT solicit or request appointment as Meet Referee, or to any other officiating positions directly from a host team.

c) For LSC Championship meets such as JAG, WAG, Age Group; other SCS meets such as Legends of Coaching, Grand Challenge, SCI, LAI, and SMOC the host must submit a request for a Meet Referee and Administrative Referee to the **LSC OFFICIALS' CHAIR BEFORE** contacting any officials to work these meets. This ensures that the requested officials for the meet are in good standing with USA Swimming and SCS.

<https://www.socalswim.org> and /or <http://www.usaswimming.org>

d) This request should be submitted prior to sanctioning of the meet and at least 20 days prior to the date of the meet.

e) There are applications to officiate, these must be submitted to the LSC OFFICIALS' CHAIR, along with the Meet Referee who will consider those officials for the meet.

EXPECTATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

For additional information regarding officials' expectations, check out the website www.usaswimming.org

1. Administrative Official

An SCS Administrative Official shall have all the duties and authority describe in the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations to maintain the "dry side" portion of a swim meet. The Administrative Official in conjunction with the Meet Referee shall ensure that USA Swimming and SCS policies and procedures are followed in running a sanctioned swim meet. The "dry side" officials consist of Announcer, Timing Operator, AO, and the AR who supervises seeding, results, and announcing.

- a) At the conclusion of the meet, the AO/AR shall submit a report with the disqualifications to the Official's Chair in CSV format.
- b) Create and utilize a tracking form for new officials on deck for each sessions worked to receive credit for certification. These are to be submitted by the Geographic Committee Representative to the Officials Chair.
- c) Before the meet, there shall be communication with the MR and the host meet director so the everyone is on the same page. This includes emails, information sent out to the officials, coaches, and meet director.
- d) All reports generated by the meet AO shall be kept on file for at least three years.

2. Meet Referee

The Meet Referee serves the athletes and the competition. The position should not be viewed as an entitlement or personal appointment.

Officials interested in becoming a Meet Referee or gaining experience in other positions are encouraged to communicate their developmental goals through the appropriate officials' leadership.

Above all, the Meet Referee should lead by example by being prepared, fair, consistent, calm, approachable, and committed to providing the best possible competitive environment for the athletes and officials

An SCS Meet Referee shall have all the duties and authority as described in USA Swimming Rules and Regulations.

- a) The Meet Referee (MR) must be aware of what is taking place throughout the meet and ensure all procedures are followed consistently and competition is being conducted fairly by all officials.
- b) The MR must uphold the integrity of a meet and question officials' calls, especially repetitive calls.
- c) The MR should maintain a notebook for the meet which contains the meet announcement, psych sheets, timeline, emergence information for each official on deck, deck rotations, and other paperwork generated by the Administrative Official.
- d) A MR is responsible for updating officials' sessions and positions worked at the meet in OTS within **7 days** of the competition of the meet. This includes apprentice officials who are working the meet.
- e) The MR is responsible for providing a bell for distance races and clipboards for STARTER, DECK REF, and Order of Finish Board, if necessary.
- f) The MR should act as a mentor by using at least one new official that was certified in the last 6 months for appropriate level meets.
- g) To be assigned as a Meet Referee at a Championship meet, an official must have a minimum of 3 -5 years of experience in the role including experience in a heats and finals meet.

3. Deck Referee and Starter

Deck Referees and Starters have the authority relative to the start, stroke, turn, and finish. They have control of the swimmers from the time they are on the starting block until the athletes finish the race.

- a) **STARTER:** it's more than saying "take your marks"
 - i. The Starter should avoid holding a clipboard when starting an event. The clipboard should remain on the table until the starter sends the athletes off, watch the pool until heads up, take a step back, return the microphone to the holder or on the table. Unless asked to watch stroke, the starter should remain off deck. If the starter is watching stroke, make sure you do not take your eyes off the pool to pick up the clip board or put your microphone away).
 - ii. The starter will decide when to start the event after the DR turns the heat over to them.
 - iii. The starter should determine where he/she will stand to start, and the DR will locate themselves around the starter.
 - iv. The Starter is responsible for giving timing instructions 10 minutes prior to the meet. This can be accomplished by going down the line or in a group.
 - v. The Starter must check all equipment, the starting unit and microphone to ensure it is operational.
 - vi. The starter is the one that shall initiate a possible "false start". No discussion is to take place between the starter and the deck referee. The starter shall mark their paperwork and then hand that paperwork to the deck referee, without speaking, and let the deck referee make the decision about the false start.
- b) **DECK REFEREE:** "it's more than blowing the whistles"
 - i. The DR will ask the starter where he/she would like to stand prior to the start, and the DR will work around the location of the starter.
 - ii. Whenever practical, the Deck Referee should position themselves with their body and attention oriented toward the athletes, the pool and the officiating team. Positioning should

allow the referee to maintain awareness of the competition and observe the officials for whom they are responsible.

- iii. After the DR indicates that the starter shall start the event, The DR shall walk to the backstroke flags to observe the pool and the officials on deck. The DR must be aware at all times.
- iv. Referees should avoid prolonged conversations or positioning that requires them to turn their back to the pool, athletes, or officiating team while an event is in progress. Conversations that require extended attention should, whenever possible, be conducted between events or away from the active competition area.
- v. The DR should vet a call, if necessary, when a disqualification is called by a stroke and turn judge.

4. Stroke and Turn Judges

Stroke and turn judges shall perform their duties as assigned by the Meet Referee, which include observing swimmers during races to ensure the technical rules of swimming are being followed. Stroke and turn judges must signal their observation of an infraction by extending an arm above their head and reporting the infraction to the Deck Referee.

- a) Radio protocol: "I have a disqualification, lane #, describe the infraction according to the rule. Speak slowly and clearly, repeat the heat and lane #.
- b) Describe exactly what you observed, but do not scrutinize the swimmer.

5. Apprentices

- a) To begin training, an individual must reach out to the Geographic Committee Representative and/or Meet Referee to request the opportunity to train at his/her meet.
- b) Shadow your mentor on deck. Be confident and know the rules of swimming.
- c) Required to work a minimum of 4 sessions, but not limited to.
- d) You and your mentor should develop an action plan for improvement.
- e) Must work outside of the Geographic Committee before being recommended for certification for all positions. It is recommended at least 2 sessions.
- f) Evaluation forms must be submitted to the Geographic Committee Representative for vetting and educating. These forms are to be forwarded to the SCS Officials' Chair for final approval.
- g) The official in training **WILL NOT RECEIVE** any compensation for the meet.
- h) The apprentice must officiate the entire meet in the position for certification. He/she may not rotate the deck.
- i) Apprentices may not work a championship meet, unless certified in a particular position.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

- a) Dress professionally in the uniform suggested by the Meet Referee. All shirts must be tucked in your pants, shorts, or skorts. Wear a belt and proper foot gear.
- b) Arrive at least 45 minutes to an hour before the start of the meet in order for the MR to conduct a briefing and give instructions, to include a timers' briefing.

- c) Make sure you have the proper equipment necessary to officiate. Such as a whistle, clipboard, pen/pencil, and an FRP radio with headset.
- d) Do not discuss disqualifications on deck or in the hospitality room.
- e) Mentoring of all officials is an ongoing process.
- f) It is suggested that SCS officials wear name tags during the meet for identification purposes.
- g) All officials should be strongly encouraged to volunteer during the competitive year, one short course meet and one long course meet.

STAFFING MEETS

Minimum deck staffing for SCS-sanctioned meets which includes the Meet Referee.

4 or less lanes: 3 deck officials

5-6 lanes: 4 deck officials

7-8 lanes: 5 deck officials

9-10 lanes: 7 deck officials

11-12 lanes: 7 deck officials

Double ended meets: 8 officials (MR is off deck)

Dated: September, 2026

DRAFT

SCS DISCIPLINARY POLICY

September 2026

Guiding Principles

Concerns regarding an official's conduct or performance shall be addressed fairly, objectively, promptly, and in proportion to the nature and seriousness of the circumstances. This policy establishes a clear process for addressing concerns, maintaining appropriate standards, and supporting the continued development of officials whenever possible.

Before corrective or disciplinary action is imposed, the relevant facts shall be reviewed, and the official shall be informed of the concern and given a reasonable opportunity to respond. Decisions should consider the seriousness of the conduct, its effect on athletes or meet operations, whether similar concerns have occurred previously, and whether education, mentoring, retraining, or another corrective measure would be appropriate.

For isolated or minor performance concerns, the initial emphasis should ordinarily be on education, mentoring, and corrective action. Officials should receive clear notice of the applicable expectations and a reasonable opportunity to improve.

Repeated concerns may result in formal corrective or disciplinary action when an official does not correct the conduct after receiving notice and an opportunity to improve. A significant violation of applicable rules, or conduct that materially affects the fairness or integrity of a meet. All appeals will go to the ARB of SCS.

Any corrective or disciplinary action shall be based on documented facts and applied in accordance with applicable Southern California Swimming and USA Swimming rules, policies, and procedures. The response should be reasonably related to the seriousness and frequency of the conduct.

The goal of this policy is to provide a process that is fair to the individual official, accountable to the officiating community, and supportive of a safe, professional, respectful, and positive environment for athletes, coaches, volunteers, and officials.

Causes for corrective or disciplinary action may include the following.

Professional Conduct

1. Repeated failure to comply with established uniform or professional appearance requirements after receiving notice. If this occurs more than three, times, the official will be asked to comply or be removed from the deck.

Attendance and Assignments

1. Repeated tardiness or failure to report for an accepted assignment without timely notice or a reasonable explanation.
2. Accepting a meet assignment while already committed to another meet without first obtaining release from the appropriate Meet Referee. This will be monitored when the administrative referee notifies which officials were on deck at any particular to the officials' chair and the committee.

Officiating Performance

1. Repeated failure to remain attentive to the assigned jurisdiction or area of responsibility.
2. Repeatedly making calls outside the official's jurisdiction or focusing disproportionately on a particular infraction without an objective basis.
3. Repeated failure to follow published meet procedures or reasonable instructions provided by the Meet Referee.
4. Repeated failure to comply with applicable Southern California Swimming or USA Swimming rules and regulations.

Meet Referee and Administrative Responsibilities

1. Failure by a Meet Referee to enter officials' sessions into OTS accurately and within seven (7) days after completion of the meet. Each official on deck is responsible to check OTS under meet history to maintain his/her records of sessions. If the MR doesn't comply, the deck official shall contact their Geographic Representative immediately.

2. Failure by a Meet Referee or mentor to submit required apprentice-evaluation documents within the required period in OTS under My OTS MEETS.
3. Failure to accurately record the positions worked by officials during a meet.
4. Failure by an Administrative Referee to submit the required disqualification report in the prescribed format within ten (10) days after completion of the meet to the Officials' Chair.

PROCEDURES:

1. The Meet Referee will have an immediate conversation with an official.
 - a. If the problem is with the Meet Referee, the official should notify his/her Geographic Committee Representative.
 - b. Geographic Committee Representative should notate that the conversation took place on deck, with the date and time.
 - c. The Geographic-Committee Representatives shall notify the Officials' Chair of the infraction. If the problem continues and reports are filed, there will be an informal discussion with the Meet Referee.
2. After three on-deck conversations with the official, the Geographic Committee Representative will contact the SCS Officials' Chair.
3. Deck Officials:
 - a. If problems continue (i.e. an official continues arriving late, not in proper uniform, etc.) the Geographic Committee Representative will notify the Officials Chair.
 - b. The Officials Chair will reach out to the official and have an informal discussion
4. If the problem continues, the Geographic Committee Representative will bring the issue to the entire Executive Officials Committee for a formal review. This would include the Officials Chair and the six (6) Geographic Representatives.
5. If the Meet Referee is negligent of their responsibilities, two or more times, they shall be barred from being a Meet Referee two to four months suspension (see below for appeals)..

PENALTY:

1. No penalty will be imposed at steps 1-4
2. The issue goes to the entire SCS Official Committee for review, The following steps may be taken (not an inclusive list). These will require a hearing from the Official's Committee.
 - a. Retraining requirements
 - b. Reduction in certification level
 - c. Suspension from working decks

PROCESS FOR IMPOSING PENALTY:

1. Hearing before SCS Officials Committee
 - a. Official may appeal to SCS Administrative Board of Review

September 2026

DRAFT

FITNESS OF DUTY/SAFETY ON DECK

It is important that we always take a cautious approach when it comes to the safety of anyone on deck. We routinely remove swimmers from a meet when there are various medical related concerns, especially those related to concussion. Those guidelines shall be adhered to without fail.

In the interest of also protecting officials, and to limit the liability to USA Swimming, SCS, the host team and related government agencies, please follow the guidelines below when it relates to officials.

1. Any official who falls on deck and requires extended time off in order to ice his/her body, and/or to address medical concerns that affect their ability to work the deck, shall be released from the meet. This will be administered by the Meet Referee and/or Meet Director.
2. Any official who experiences a medical emergency and/or has a medical professional, including an EMT, recommend the official be transported to the hospital for further evaluation, shall be released from the meet. This is to be followed regardless of whether the individual accepts or refuses medical attention or direction. The Meet Referee and/or Meet Director shall make the decision in regards to the officials' health related issue.
3. Any official who has sustained an injury requiring him/her to use a cane, crutches, boot, scooter for the boot, etc... shall first obtain a medical release from his/her doctor before being allowed on deck. The release shall state whether or not the official has any restrictions and what those restrictions are, if any. It will then be up to the Meet Referee to determine whether or not the official can be used in some capacity that will not endanger the official or others. And, if the Meet Referee decides to use the official, additional paid officials should not be brought in to "cover" for the injured official, should the official need more time off deck than usual. Doctors write notes that the official will say, "is it ok for me to be on a pool deck?" The doctor will then decide whether or not an official is capable of returning to a deck and has the ability to walk or work on concrete or a slippery deck. The release form from the doctor needs to be specific.

Failure to adhere to this policy may result in disciplinary actions that could include suspension. If any disciplinary action is necessary, the executive officials committee will create a recommendation based on the circumstances and submit the recommendation to the SCS Administrative Review Board (ARB).

September, 2026

DRAFT



Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Southern California Swimming
29000 S. Western Ave., Suite 304, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

BOARD REPORT

NAME OF BOARD POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

Governance Committee

SUBMITTED BY (NAME):

Lynne Akasaka-Riek, Governance Committee Chair

ACTIONABLE ITEM(S):

None

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Governance met in June, July, August and September. Minutes are posted for May, June, July and August meetings.

Job Description and Call for Nominations are posted on the SCS website.

Continue to source candidates are being sourced for open Board of Directors positions for 2026 House of Delegates Meeting.

Vetting of candidates will commence shortly.



Meeting Minutes Safe Sport Committee-SCS

June 30,2026 at 8:00PM via Zoom

Zoom Meeting Information Attached

1. Call to Order @ 8:20 PM with the help of SCS General Chair Stacy Smith who was in attendance for the meeting.
 - The following SCS Safe Sport Committee Members were in attendance: Sheri, Sebastian, Toby and Scott.
2. Review and approve the May 26, 2026 meeting minutes. Attached Doc Approved by Unanimous Consent
3. Review and approve the June 30, 2026 agenda. Attached Doc Approved by Unanimous Consent
4. Update on Action Items from May 26, 2026 Meeting (see below)
5. Old Business
- Important Update
 - Beginning February 2026, training transitioned from Zoom to the Microsoft Teams platform.
 - Reminder: Virtual training numbers are entered in the application only and will not show on SWIMS reports. Clubs can ask for a roster of attendance by emailing ssrp@usaswimming.org
 - 2026 Safe Sport Club Recognition Training
 - For Parents: June 23 @ 8 PM ET ([Register](#))
 - For Athletes: June 25 @ 2 8 PM ET ([Register](#))
 - Members can also participate in trainings online at their own pace through the Education tab on their USA Swimming account. To learn more, including easy-to-follow steps, visit USA Swimming's Safe Sport training page ([here](#))
 - Tip - These courses count towards SSRP approval points. If you click these links remember to log in to earn credit for your approval points.
 - For parents: Parents Guide to Misconduct in Sports
 - For Athletes: SafeSport for Youth Athletes (5-12),
 - SafeSport for Youth Athletes (13-17)

- The meeting covered updates on various Safe Sport initiatives, training platforms, and upcoming events. Key topics included the continued emphasis on new training requirements for 18-year-old athletes, dissemination of a new Parents Guide to Misconduct in Sport, and discussion of scheduling conflicts for the next meeting due to summer championships. There was also a brief update on Safe Sport Club recognition and virtual training attendance statistics as noted below.
- US Center for Safe Sport Investigations:**
 - The speaker noted ongoing investigations and judgments (e.g., two judgments and three new situations in the last month within the LSC).
 - Committee members were reminded not to act as "police" or get involved in investigations; their role is to provide information and education. Becoming involved in discussions could make them part of an investigation.

6. New Business

- **Parent's Guide to Misconduct in Sport Course Club Resource**
 - i. We've created a flyer with a QR code that links directly to the course. Feel free to print and distribute it so parents can complete the training while waiting for their athletes.
 - ii. Flyer link
 1. https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwebsitesstage-core.azurewebsites.net%2Fdocs%2Fdefault-source%2Fsafe-sportdocuments%2Fsafe-sport-recognition-program%2Fssrp-parents-course-w_qr-code.pdf%3FStatus%3DMaster%26sfvrsn%3D4091f32_1&data=05%7C02%7Csastoddard%40pasadena.edu%7C651baec8799541a4358e08dec652cb7b%7C9ce50fa6f36e48c19b9e35fd148ac43a%7C0%7C0%7C639166256814007766%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFFpbCIsIlIdUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=QcuUbHuXvpFQYNgMRDNk8%2FLccBjaAwgOQIbq3fvP39Y%3D&reserved=0

7. Announcements

- Congratulations on achieving Safe Sport Club Recognition for the Mission Viejo Nadadores and Canyons Aquatics Club.
- **MAY HIGHLIGHTS:**
 - **36 CLUBS COMPLETED SAFE SPORT CLUB RECOGNITION FROM 22 DIFFERENT LSC's!**

- 30 of these were renewals.
- 22 clubs had their Safe Sport Recognition expire in May.
- 289 parents and athletes attended a virtual training!*

*(Reminder: Virtual training numbers are entered in the application only and will not show on SWIMS reports. Clubs can ask for a roster of attendance by emailing ssrp@usaswimming.org)

TRAINING FOR PARENTS

Wed., July 22 at 8:00 p.m. EST | [REGISTER](#)

Wed., Aug. 26 at 8:00 p.m. EST | [REGISTER](#)

Wed., Sept. 16 at 8:00 p.m. EST | [REGISTER](#)

TRAINING FOR ATHLETES

Thur., July 23 at 8:00 p.m. EST | [REGISTER](#)

Thur., Aug. 27 at 8:00 p.m. EST | [REGISTER](#)

Thur., Sept. 17 at 8:00 p.m. EST | [REGISTER](#)

8. Next SCS Safe Sport meeting was scheduled for July 23, 2026.

- The next Safe Sport meeting was tentatively scheduled for July 23rd. As this date conflicts with the Summer Age Group Championships (July 23-26) and other upcoming events include sectionals (week before), futures (week after championships), and Paralympic nationals, and due to widespread unavailability among committee members (Sebastian, Toby, Scott), the consensus was to cancel the July meeting.
- With consideration to a very busy August, return to school for many Coaches and Athletes as well as the USA Swimming Annual Summit the week of September 23-26 the new schedule of SCS Safe Sport Meetings are as follows:
 - 09/22, 2026 8:00-9:00 PM
 - 10/20, 2026 8:00-9:00 PM
 - 11/17, 2026 8:00-9:00 PM
 - 01/19, 2027 8:00-9:00 PM
 - 02/16, 2027 8:00-9:00 PM
 - 03/16, 2027 8:00-9:00 PM
 - 04/27, 2027 8:00-9:00 PM
 - 05/25, 2027 8:00-9:00 PM
 - 06/22, 2027 8:00-9:00 PM

For more information or the link for the meeting, contact Sheri Stoddard at sastoddard@pasadena.edu

SCS Mission:

Southern California Swimming embraces the diversity and inclusion of our membership across all skill levels, from water safety skills to all levels of competition from novice to elite, with a commitment to excellence that elevates dreams into reality, while supporting scholar-athletes and fostering a lifelong appreciation of the sport.

SCS Vision:

Southern California Swimming strives to develop its athletes' skills in and out of the water, educate all its members on the lifelong lessons and benefits of swimming, instills character and discipline, and support the community as we welcome everyone into the sport.

2026-27 SCS CALENDAR (Proposed)

2026

Oct 30 - Nov 1	Rising Tide Senior Meet @ NOVA
November 6 - 8	Legends of Coaching Senior Meet @ RMDA
November 21 – 22	Timed Final Long Course Meet @ ????
December 2 – 5	Toyota U.S Open @ Austin, TX (2025 15 SCS swimmers)
December 9 – 12	Speedo Junior Nationals @ Austin, TX (2025 80 SCS swimmers)
December 11-13	Winter Age Group Champs (RAA, SCAT, GWSC)
December 18-21	Sectionals @ BREA

2027

January 9-10	Pacific Coast All-Star @ Seattle
January 15-17	SCS Select Camp
February 12-15	Road to SOFI Senior Meet @ La Mirada – Long Course Meters
February 25 – 28	Sectionals @ Oceanside????
March 11 - 14	SCS Spring Age Group Championships @ TBD ****
April 2-4	Open Water Nationals & Juniors
April 8-11	Vegas Cup
May 13-16	May Age Group Invitational @ TBD (2-3 sites, P&F, slower than JAG cuts)
May 28-30	NOVA Speedo Grand Challenge @ NOVA
June 10-13	SCS June Age Group Champs @ TBD ***** [3 sites, 3 Finals 13&O/ 2Finals 12&U]
June 17-20	Fran Crippen Swim Meet of Champions @ MVN
Mid-June	Post Trials Senior Meet ???
July 9-11	LA Invite @ USC
July 15-18	SCS Elite Age Group Championships @ TBD ***** (?????)
July 15-18	Sectionals @ ????
July 22-25	SCS Summer Age Group Championships @ TBD *****
December 10-12	SCS Winter Age Group Champs @ TBD ***** [4 sites]

***** Denotes Meets Involved in the 2027 Bid Process (11 total meets)