

Administrative Vice Chair – Chris Barber (Sandpiper - Desert Committee)
Current SCS Role: Age Group Chair

I have been a coach in SCS for the last 30 years developing age group swimmers in addition to being a middle school math teacher with the Clark County School District . I have been involved in making changes to the meet schedule, planning all-star meets, planning coaches' clinics and attending/participating in SCS Board of Directors meetings. I have worked closely with the Senior Vice Chair and Planning Committee to work toward a more cohesive competition calendar. I have a successful record of bringing various committees together.

My qualifications are:

- Current Age Group Chair 2021-2025
- Desert Committee Age Group Chair for 15 years
- SCS coach for 30 years with the Sandpipers of Nevada

As the incumbent Age Group Chair, a few of my accomplishments include:

- Expanding the Age Group Committee to include coaches and team officials from all over Southern California Swimming
- Planning the Age Group Championship schedule each year
- Bringing back the Festival Meet and turning it into a two day All Star Experience for 14 and under swimmers
- Planning, staffing, and selecting the Pac Coast All Star Team and the SCS Festival All Star Teams
- Creating an annual Age Group Coaching Clinic attached to the Festival Meet (Free to all SCS coaches)
- Creating and developing the SCS Elite Meet
- Changing the meet format for WAG and JAG by making it prelims/finals for all age groups
- Started Coaches check-in for all championship level age group meets
- Developing Novice Meet formats and guidelines
- Including all 6 Geo-Committees to represent SCS as Festival Coaches and Age Group Coaching Clinic attendees. This allowed information and experience to return to all 6 Geo-Committees.

My Goals if elected:

- My main goal is to continue to develop ways to communicate changes and advances in SCS to all of the member organizations. Communicating with Geo-Committee representatives ensures that information gets to all areas of SCS. This is only a first step though. I would like to work with Geo-Committees to find ways to reach out to member teams that are not represented.
- A second goal would be to work with officials and coaches to create lines of communication. I would like to find avenues for discussions about difficult calls or interpretations of rules. Getting the officials and coaches on the same wave length is an opportunity to improve the instruction and experience for swimmers.

Age Group Co-Chair – Iman Khadembashi (TSM Aquatics, Pacific Committee)

I have been coaching for over 13 years in Southern California Swimming, with experience ranging from Learn-to-Swim programs to working with USA Olympians in 2016, 2020, and 2024. Over the past decade, I have led and supervised multiple Age Group programs within the Pacific Committee, which has allowed me to be involved at every stage of Age Group swimming in SoCal Swimming. I am grateful and have worked hard to be involved in both Age Group and Senior-level swimming throughout my career. I have coached swimmers to the highest levels of Age Group swimming in SoCal, helped develop swimmers to transition between Age Group and Senior, and coached swimmers to the National Junior Team level, competing at the Junior Pan Pacific Championships. In recent years, along with coaching my 14-and-under athletes, I have helped develop several National Team members, World Championship Team members, and USA & foreign Olympians, which has led to my inclusion on the USA National Team Coaches list [2023-present].

Qualifications

- Pacific Committee Co-Chair 2024 – present
- Pacific Committee Age Group Chair 2022-present
- Pacific Committee Open Water Chair 2019-2021

Age Group Co-Chair – Lenin Velasco (Oasis, Metro Committee)

I started as a parent volunteer over 10 years ago and became a coach in 2016. I am now the head coach at Oasis Aquatics and was the head coach at Palmdale Aerospace Academy for 7 years. I have worked on All Star Festivals and Western Zone coaching staffs. I believe I can leverage the skills I have as a coach and as the CEO of my software company to help coordinate and provide additional opportunities for our age group swimmers.

Qualifications

- Metro Committee Age Group Rep 2019-2021
- Coastal Committee Age Group Rep 2025-present
- Coastal Committee DDEI Rep 2021-2024]

Goals

- Move us to the National Motivations Time Standards for our championship meets; a sub-committee has already started work on this we want to continue that process
- Make sure we have a calendar that athletes and clubs can still thrive on for 2028
- Find ways to bridge the gap and better help our athletes transition from age group to senior swimming

Age Group Chair – Christopher Mendoza-Smithour (MVN Aquatics, Orange Committee)

I am excited to present my candidacy for the Board of Directors of Southern California Swimming. Over the past nine years, I have coached age-group swimmers across small, medium, and large teams, and have served on the Orange Committee, and the coaching staffs for multiple All-Star Festival and Pacific Coast All-Star Teams. I am currently planning and organizing the 2026 All-Star Festival Meet and Coaching Clinic alongside Chris Barber, a project that demonstrates my commitment to advancing coach education and athlete development within our LSC.

Qualifications & Experience

- DDEI Chair – Orange Committee (2022)
- Age Group Chair – Orange Committee (2023 – Present)
- Pacific Coast All-Stars Staff (2024, 2025)
- All-Star Festival Staff (2022, 2023)

These experiences have strengthened my understanding of the needs of athletes, coaches, and clubs across all levels of Southern California Swimming.

Vision & Goals

If elected, I will continue the progress established under Chris Barber's term and focus on:

- Expanding and enhancing coach education through clinics and collaborative development opportunities.
- Curating competition formats that promote the growth and long-term development of age-group athletes, aligned with USA Swimming standards.
- Initiating contingency planning for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics in collaboration with other board members/committees, creating excitement and opportunities for athletes and coaches to connect with international-level competition.
- Establishing time standards for 13 & Over 50's and moving toward adoption of USAS Motivational Time Standards for age group championship meets, supported by a dedicated sub-committee.
- Promoting greater athlete involvement and representation within SCS decision-making processes.
- Streamlining communication across all clubs to ensure timely updates on pertinent items such as meet formats, site changes, and application deadlines.

DDEI Chair – Virgil Chancy (Unattached Eastern Committee)
Current SCS Role: Co-Chair DDEI

My qualifications are:

- Current DDEI Co-Chair since 2023
- Eastern DDEI Chair from 2023-2025
- Western Zoan DEI Committee member for last 10 years
- USA Swimming National DEI Committee member
- Governance Committee member for two terms

DDEI Co- Chair – Wilma Wong (Swimuphill – Pacific Committee)
No Current SCS Board Role

I have coached swimming at the elite levels with swimmers competing at US Nationals, Olympic and Paralympics, and World Championships. I have trained medalist winners at the Paralympic Games, Pan American Games and World Championships. I was on the Team USA coaching staff at the 2023 World Para Championships in England. I also earned the Order of Ikko granted by the Team USA for her work in coaching a Paralympic medalist. I also work as a coach for high school and middle school teams. This extensive experience as well as my experience in dealing with boards in these areas, will help me work with my co-chair to build this program.

Qualifications:

- Swimuphill Foundation Board of Directors
- The Growing Place Board of Directors
- Yang Jia Mi Chuan Tai ji Associate Board of Directors
- Paralympic Swim Coach
- National Swim Team Coach for Athletes Without Limits

Goals for 2025-2026

- Clinic targeting new and novice swimmers
- Establish a database to better communications with disabled athletes
- Communications with Officials and Coaches committee on a regular basis to increase awareness and support

Finance Vice Chair – Rick Shipherd (LaMirada Armada – Metro Committee)
No Current SCS Role

I have been active as a leader in USA Swimming and Southern California Swimming since its inception in 1978.

- Long and diverse involvement in USA Swimming, Southern California Swimming and the coaching community has allowed me to contribute in many ways to the betterment of the athletes, families, coaches and volunteers in our sport.
- Contributions with USA Swimming:
 - Chairman USA Swimming Club Development Committee 2 years.
 - Member of USA Swimming Senior Development Committee 6 years.
 - Member of OIO for four terms
 - Member of four USA Swimming National team staffs
- Contributions with American Swimming Coaches Association:
 - ASCA Board of Directors for 7 years
 - Chair Coaches' mentor program for two years
- Contributions with Southern California Swimming
 - Board member for 26 years
 - SCS Senior Chair, three terms
 - SCS Program Chair, two terms
 - SCS Coaches' Rep, three terms

My goals, if elected Finance Vice Chair would be:

- Protect the revenue producing capability of the investment fund by enforcing the currently guidelines of the IPS
- Grow the revenue producing capabilities of the SCS investment fund thru regular and prudent adjustment of the portfolio
- Monitor the use of available residual revenue produced by the SCS investment fund
- Become a bit more aggressive on the use of the investment fund to reinvest as much as is prudent in the long term and still provide ongoing benefits for our athletes and teams
- Monitor content and development of the SCS budget, taking into account needs from all
- Review revenue income sources to make strong reform recommendations to the Board
- Based on changes to sanctioning rules and meet calendars, we should make modest changes to the distribution of splash fees and surcharge fees as they are currently collected

Officials Chair – Carol Cracchiolo (Unattached – Pacific Committee)
Current SCS Board Role: Administrative Vice Chair

As Officials Chair, I would bring my experience and passion to continue the development of new officials as well as keeping officials current with the ever changing landscape of USA Swimming. My qualifications for this position are:

- I have been a USA Swim met official for 15 years
- I have served as the SCS Admin Vice Chair for 2 ½ terms
- I have served on the Governance Committee for 2 terms
- I also have worked for many years as a high school volleyball and swim official.
- I am a past board member of CIF Los Angeles City Section.
- I have also been the Northern League Commission for CIF Los Angeles City Section.
- I have been a board member for the Southern California Volleyball Officials for Los Angeles City
- I have served as President of COSDA (California officials swim/dive association) for high school swimming.

My goals for this role would be:

- Develop more active recruiting strategy and training for new officials.
- Working with the officials committee, determine best strategy for continued training to keep officials current

Safe Sport Chair – Sherri Stoddard (Unattached – Pacific Committee)
Current SCS Board Role: Safe Sport Chair

I've been a coach for over 50 years of experience in local pool programs, college, working also with programs at Mission Viejo Nadadores, Rose Bowl Aquatics and Swim Pasadena. I have worked as a Senior Rehab Specialist for the President's Council for Physical Fitness. I am currently an Adjunct instruction/Professor at Pasadena City College. I have many years of experience working at the geo committee, the SCS and USA Swimming levels.

Qualifications:

- Metro Committee
 - Past Chair (two terms)
 - Vice Chair (two terms)
 - Senior Chair (two terms)
 - Age Group Chair (three terms)
 - Safe Sport chair (three terms))
 - Secretary/Treasurer (one term)
- SCS Safe Sport Past Chair
- USA Swimming
 - Convention Education Committee (three years)
 - National Age Group Committee (six years)
 - Sports Science Committee (eight years)
 - Olympic International Operating Committee (eight years)

My goals If elected as Safe Sport Chair:

- Increase Safe Sport Education, Athlete facing and non-athlete facing information
- Be a liaison on to the LSC in all areas of information as is presented to SCS from USA Swimming Safe Sport
- Begin education young and connect to everyday life (grass roots – SafeSport Education through Athlete/Coaches/Officials/Volunteer Training
- Education presented as valuable in breaking down the “old school” barriers in the world of sports
- Return SCS to the forefront where resilience is accomplished through training, learning and development of engagement of more teams in SSRP certification
- As the largest LSC in the nation with 144 teams, my ultimate goal is to incorporate the Committee Safe Sport Chairs and Athlete Representatives into the SSRP education and certification or re-certification process to engage and support teams as they move through the process of being SSRP Certified