

1 Recommendations for Athlete Representation on LSC Officials Committees | USA Swimming

As required by the Ted Stevens Amateur Sports Act, as well as changes made to the Required LSC Bylaws (passed at the 2015 Aquatic Sports Convention and effective January 1, 2016), athlete membership must amount to 20% of the voting membership on all LSC Committees, including LSC Officials Committees. The USA Swimming National Officials Committee believes that this required representation will yield great benefits to both athletes and officials. The USA Swimming National Officials Committee has developed some best practices for both LSC Officials Chairs and LSC Athlete Representatives in order to maximize the impact of the athlete membership on LSC Officials Committees.

Recommendations for LSC Officials Chairs

- Recruit selectively! If you are aware of an athlete who seems to have an interest in learning more about officiating, he or she may be a good fit as an athlete representative for your committee.
- Introduce yourself, as well as your committee, to your athlete representative(s) and extend a warm welcome to them. Make it clear that you are happy to have their representation on your committee and remind them that their voices and votes are equal to those of all other committee members—encourage them to not just attend meetings, but to share input on various topics.
- Encourage your athlete representatives to give a report/update at each committee meeting as the other committee members would—any observations from meets or other interactions with officials and any compliments/suggestions to report.
- Encourage your athlete representative(s) to learn more about officiating—it will make them a more informed member of your committee! (See specific suggestions under “Recommendations for Athlete Representatives.”)
- Don’t be a stranger! If you see your athlete representative(s) on deck, say hello!
- Maintain a working relationship with your athlete representatives. Remind them that you are there for them if they have any questions, concerns, or suggestions.
- Remember that 20% of the voting membership of your committee must be athletes! This means that for every four non-athlete members of the committee (including yourself), you must have one athlete representative.

Recommendations for Athlete Representatives

- Attend and participate in meetings! Your opinions are valued by the committee and can offer great insight to the work of the committee. Your voice and vote are equal to that of all other committee members. Speak up!
- Give an athletes' report at committee meetings—a summary of anything officiating-related you've recently observed, as well as any complements/suggestions for the committee.
- Learn more about officiating and the rules of USA Swimming! The more you know and understand about officiating, the better you will be able to contribute to your committee!
 - Read Articles 101 and 102 of the USA Swimming Rulebook—you'll learn a lot about both the rules of USA Swimming and the roles of officials at swim meets, as defined by the rulebook.
 - Check out some of the resources for officials on the USA Swimming website—you'll learn a lot about the standards for officials and the recommended approach to officiating. The "Professional Documents" are great!
 - Login to the USA Swimming website and take an officials' certification test—not only will you learn a part of the process of what it takes to become an official, but you'll learn a lot about the rules of USA Swimming, which will benefit you as a swimmer!
 - Attend a coaches' meeting at a swim meet—it's another way to see officials and the USA Swimming approach to officiating in action!
- Don't be a stranger! If you see your committee chair or one of your fellow committee members on deck, say hello!
- Maintain a working relationship with your committee chair. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, he or she is there for you!