

**Official Interpretation of Part One Rules Issued by the USMS Rules Committee
“Approved Certifying Bodies” for Officials at USMS Sanctioned and Recognized Meets**

In the 2019 United States Masters Swimming (USMS) Rules of Competition, the following rules govern certification of officials at USMS sanctioned and recognized meets.

103.3 Qualification of Officials

103.3.1 Referees shall be certified in this capacity by a USMS-approved certifying body (Appendix B). Starters or stroke and turn judges certified by one of these bodies may serve as referees if they receive training on specific duties of the referee.

103.3.2 Starters and stroke and turn judges shall be certified in said capacities by a USMS-approved certifying body (Appendix B). However, uncertified officials may perform the duties of such positions if they receive training in the specified duties of their positions and are under the direct supervision of a certified official.

Appendix B was revised in the 2019 rule book with a new format for the summary of differences between the USMS rules of competition and those of other swimming organizations. The list of approved certifying bodies for officials was deleted from this revised format, but the rules committee neglected to make a housekeeping change to article 103.3.

For the purposes of defining “USMS-approved certifying body” in article 103.3, the list of approved certified bodies shall be considered as follows:

- United States Masters Swimming (USMS) through the USMS officials training and certification program administered by the USMS Officials Committee in concert with the Local Masters Swim Committees (LMSC).
- USA Swimming
- YMCA
- The Collegiate Swimming Officials Association (COSA), who is responsible for training and certification of officials for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).
- National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) through the respective state associations.

Local Masters Swim Committees (LMSC) may adopt additional policies to ensure appropriate training, certification, and education of officials in accordance with their local needs.

Charles Cockrell, USMS Rules Committee Chair
January 21, 2019