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*Committed to achieving an Olympic and/or World Championship podium performance by an Ontario trained athlete, individually or as a member of a Canadian relay team.*

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May 20, 2015

**RE: Swim Ontario Officials Committee**

To: Members and families of Swim Ontario

From: Swim Ontario Officials Committee (SOOC)

Dear Swim Ontario Member,

The SOOC is a new Swim Ontario operations committee, whose main objective is to support our member clubs in the development of their volunteer officials throughout Ontario. This includes all of our unattached officials.

Swim Ontario has some very ambitious goals regarding the development of officials. The decision to create a committee was recently authorized as the Swim Ontario Board has questioned how it can best meet those goals and proactively align with upcoming changes expected from the Swimming Canada Officials, Competitions and Rules Committee (OCRC).

An inaugural committee has been struck with Suzanne Paulins as Chair, Rob Filion and Trevor Cowan from Huronia region, Daryle Martin from Northwest region, Paul Corkum from Central region and Dave Shewfelt from Western region. This committee is supported by Nicole Parent, Coordinator – Officials and Competitions Development, at the Swim Ontario office. Nicole is a level 5 official and has worked as a meet manager for meets from the development level all the way up to the National level. The role of Coordinator- Officials and Competitions Development is a new staff position with Swim Ontario that will be a key resource for the SOOC as well as Club Official Chairs and Meet Managers across the province in the delivery of services and programs.

Swim Ontario is committed to the development of officials and ensuring there are sufficient numbers of officials at all levels within each region. With the upcoming changes occurring with Swimming Canada it is important that we work in synch to avoid the duplication of services and activities to meet the needs of the population of officials in Ontario and to offer outstanding programs that emphasize the importance of development and training.

With the implementation of the Officials Registration process on the Swimming Canada site and the creation of the Swim Ontario Officials Committee, Ontario officials will be supported by Swim Ontario through resources and services such as the following:

- Administrative tasks currently undertaken by volunteer officials will be carried out by Swim Ontario staff thus freeing up volunteer time (these tasks will include providing up-to-date educational materials for instructors, maintain communication with all Level III, IV and V officials regarding on deck evaluations and clinic deliveries evaluations, support for COC or club administrator and unattached officials for the registration of officials on the Swimming Canada site and support for COCs regarding educational material);



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- Coordination of education, certification and evaluation programs, currently under review and development by the SOOC; the centralized sanctioning of meet competitions; and the registration of officials through the Swimming Canada registration site;
- Organizing conferences and training sessions within regions;
- Funding opportunities for officials development from the introductory level through to the development of Ontario officials to the national and international level;
- Distribution of communication, notices, forms, policies and interpretations which will support member clubs' Meet Managers (MM), Club officials Chairs (COC), Regional Officials Representatives (ROR) and unattached officials;
- Assurance that insurance coverage and compliance is present for all sanctioned activities of Swim Ontario including volunteer swim officials through the existing Swim Ontario insurance policies.

The Swim Ontario Officials Committee is meeting weekly, in order to coordinate and prepare these resources and services for our clubs and officials in a timely manner. We are creating a Frequently Asked Questions document that will be updated and refreshed frequently to ensure we answer the questions most important to you. There will be a communication in the coming weeks to COCs and MMs that will provide guidance surrounding the new Swimming Canada registration system, the Officials Development Plan (currently under review), and the centralized sanctioning processes. While we are working hard to provide a seamless implementation, we do recognize there may be gaps that we cannot predict or anticipate and we will work to close those gaps as quickly as we possibly can.

We want you to reach out to the new committee and ask questions so they can be answered and shared with officials across the province many of who will have the same questions. Please contact Nicole Parent at [officials@swimontario.com](mailto:officials@swimontario.com). Communication will be distributed through the Swim Ontario email system, if you have not registered to receive email updates from Swim Ontario, please email [officials@swimontario.com](mailto:officials@swimontario.com) to ensure you receive all communications. Updates, including the FAQ, this communication and all other communications will be posted on the Swim Ontario website under the Officials banner. We are committed to providing as smooth a transition as possible, but in the meantime it is business as usual. Our clubs have many meets still to staff for our swimmers over the course of the remainder of the season and we are counting on everyone to continue providing the high level of officiating we have become accustomed to in Ontario.

Swim Ontario and the Swim Ontario Officials Committee recognize that this is a big change and we are not taking it lightly. Many of you have been a part of the Ontario Swim Officials Association (OSO) for many years. We want to assure you that we are all working very hard to continue to support all aspects of officials' development from the entry level parent all the way to international representation. While the committee structure may look different, many of the goals remain the same, and align to the overall Vision, Mission and Values of Swim Ontario and Swimming Canada.

Suzanne Paulins  
Chair – SOOC  
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