

Southeast Zone Newsletter

Winter 2024

As we closeout 2024, I wanted to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

2024 was a great year for Southeast Zone swimmers, with many opportunities to test themselves in competition. The zone had an extremely good registration year with the zone achieving a 99.08% retention rate for the year. Four LMSC's actually exceeded their 2023 registration numbers – great job **Georgia, South Carolina, Southeastern** and **Southern**.

Two months into the 2025 registration cycle and all the LMSC's are off to a great start for another exciting year.

Effective 12/31/24						12/31/24	
LMSC	Members		Recapture	Clubs		Members	Clubs
	2024	2023		2024	2023	2025	2025
Florida	2,721	2,737	99.4%	67	64	1,439	56
Florida Gold	1,369	1,505	90.9%	18	20	789	18
Georgia	922	864	101.0%	23	27	548	27
North Carolina	1,678	1,689	99.3%	14	14	976	15
South Carolina	612	609	101.0%	15	16	355	14
Southeastern	1064	1,058	101.0%	35	33	534	37
Southern	328	319	101.0%	11	9	175	9
	8,694	8,781					
	Zone Average		99.08%				

Crunching the numbers: This year's competition season (January – December), the Southeast Zone played host to **50** USMS sanctioned meets that generated the following statistics:

Participating Swimmers: 4,492

Individual Splashes: 19,048

Relay Splashes: 1,189

Days of Competition: 75

As of today: Zone Status

- All of the zone records are up to date
- The SCY, SCM, and LCM Zone Top Ten lists have been published
- All of this year's meet results have been posted on the zone webpage
- The Zone webpage content is up-to-date

Thank you to all the Meet Directors and LMSC Top Ten Records for doing their due diligence supplying their meet results in a timely manner and in the "**Publication Format**" which makes it so much easier to process.

Thank you to the Southeast Zone crackerjack, volunteer office staff who have kept up with all of the data, pulled it all together, and posted it on the zone page for our members. Great job - Dick, Andy and Ed.

Note: We don't really have a zone office.

Looking ahead to 2025:

Below is the 2025 Southeast Zone competition calendar as it stands today, based on the dates that have been submitted; so far. The sooner you post/advertise your meet, the better chance you have attracting swimmers.

We have several great meets coming up in the near future:

*01/24-25 Spooky Fall Classic (SCY) – Augusta, GA

*01/31 – 02/02 Rowdy Gaines Classic (SCM) – Orlando, FL

****Both meets had to be rescheduled from 2024 due to severe weather.***

2025 SE Zone Pool Competition Calendar

January

11	Goodlife Games	Clearwater	FL	LCM
18	NAC New Year Classic	Nashville	TN	SCY
24-25	Spooky Fall Classic (re-scheduled) *	Augusta	GA	SCY
31-2	Rowdy Gaines Classic (re-scheduled)*	Orlando	FL	SCM

February

8	Gulf Coast Games for Life	Sarasota	FL	SCY
8-9	Jerry ClarkSunbelt Championships	Charlotte	NC	SCY
8-9	Fort Lauderdale Masters Challenge	Ft. Lauderdale	FL	SCY
15-16	Auburn Masters Invitational	Auburn	AL	SCY
23	West Gwinnett Developmental Meet	Norcross	GA	SCY

March

1	Sewanee Masters Invitational	Sewanee	TN	SCY
14-15	St. Patrick's Invitational	Kingsport	TN	SCY
14-16	Snag Holmes Masters Invitational	Jupiter	FL	SCY
15-16	Dynamo Masters Meet	Chamblee	GA	SCY
15-16	St. Pete Masters / Bob Beach Championships	St. Petersburg	FL	SCY
22-23	Red River Masters Spring Invitational	Shreveport	LA	SCY
29-30	Southeast Zone SCY Champs / North Carolina SCY Champs	Cary	NC	SCY

April

13	Swim for Charlie FUNdraising Meet	Hillsborough	NC	SCY
24-27	USMS Spring Nationals	San Antonio	TX	SCY

MAY

17	3rd Annual Chastain Park Athletic Club Masters Meet	Atlanta	GA	SCY
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June

7-8	Bumpy Jones Classic	Sarasota	FL	LCM
6-10	USMS Summer Nationals	Federal Way	WA	LCM

September

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October

10-11	Spooky Fall Classic Meet	Augusta	GA	SCY
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November

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December

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Let's advertise these meets to our swimmers and generate a lot of interest. Great attendance makes meet directors happy and likely to return year after year.

If you don't see your meet on the calendar – get your information to Dick Brewer rdbrewer@gmail.com

We are still looking for a host meet for the 2025 LCM and SCM Southeast Zone Championships. If interested, please have the meet director contact me: swimsalt@bellsouth.net

2025 Open Water

If an open water swim is not USMS-sanctioned, USMS insurance will NOT apply. Those events are noted below. Check with the event organizer about insurance coverage and safety protocols for non-sanctioned events.

USMS Open Water National Championships

Jan. 19: Tampa Bay Frogman Swim (3.4-miles). Tampa FL. [Information](#). *General entry closed; six charity entries still open. USMS sanctioned: NO*

Apr. 4: USMS Sprint-Distance Championships (1-mile). Sarasota FL

Apr. 5: USMS Long Distance Championships (5K). Sarasota FL

Apr. 6: Swim Miami (800m, 1-mile, 5K, 10K). Miami FL. [Information & registration..](#) *USMS sanctioned: NO*

May 17: Beaufort River Swim (1-mile, 3.2-miles). Beaufort SC. [Information](#). Registration opens January 1. *USMS sanctioned: NO*

May 24: Lowcountry Splash (2.4-mile, 6-mile). Charleston SC. [Information](#). Registration opens at the end of December. *USMS sanctioned: NO*

May 31: Bussell Island Swim (1-mile, 2.6K, 5.2K). Lenoir City TN. [Information](#). Registration opens January 1. *USMS sanctioned: will be*

Sept. 13: Swim for Alligator Lighthouse (8-miles). Islamorada FL. [Information & registration.](#) *USMS sanctioned: NO*

Sept. 13: Lake Murray Dam Swim. Lexington SC. *USMS sanctioned: NO*

Sept. 28: Bridges to Bluffs (10K). Knoxville TN. [Information](#). Registration opens in spring. *USMS sanctioned: will be*

Final Note:

Many meet directors I speak to have expressed concerns about being able to get officials to work their meet. This is a universal problem across all LMSC's.

I would like to suggest that each LMSC start actively reaching out to their members to stir up interest in becoming a USMS Certified Official.

The process is very simple:

Start advertising the **USMS Officials Training Program** – link to information and process can be found below:

<https://www.usms.org/volunteer-central/guide-to-local-operations/event-management/officials/training-and-certification/officials-certification-program>

Try direct marketing to a handful of select members of your LMSC.

Sweeten the pot – offer to pay them for working a meet, or pay their entry fee to the next meet, if they forgo swimming one meet to officiate.

Some LMSC's are in areas that are over-subscribed with USA meets and can't spare any officials to work USMS meets.

We need to build our own support structure to be a little less dependent upon officials from other organizations.

On behalf of myself and all the SE Zone Staff:

**Hope that everyone has a wonderful New Years and a fantastic
2025!!!!!!**

Ed Saltzman – SE Zone Chair / SE Zone Records

Dick Brewer – SE Zone Webmaster

Andy Dyer – SE Zone Top Ten