

USA SWIMMING MINIMUM STANDARDS Guidelines

For Utilization By

LOCAL SWIMMING COMMITTEE (LSC) OFFICIALS

MISSION

To develop and conduct mentoring programs to recruit, educate, train and certify USA Swimming officials to provide high quality and consistent officiating for our athletes.

The goal of having all Local Swim Committees (LSC) adopt these minimum standards for certification of officials is to set standards, that when applied, will accomplish the following:

- * ensure a clear and consistent knowledge of the rules*
- * provide sufficient time in training to assure familiarity with all levels of competition*
- * provide opportunity to work on the deck and advance through the certification process*
- * allow automatic acceptance at the Stroke & Turn level between all LSCs meeting the USA Swimming Minimum Standards Guidelines*
- * ensure professionalism in all aspects of the word “team” while in attendance at a swim event both on and off the deck*

The sessions referred to in the guidelines should be of duration to assure sufficient time to observe a significant number of swimmers and should contain a complete schedule of events to provide the opportunity to observe all strokes.

LSC's may set minimum standards for additional positions such as Referee (Non-Starter), Clerk of Course, Timing Judge, Equipment Operator, etc.

Any exception to these minimum standards must be approved by the National Officials Chair who may stipulate appropriate conditions for each exception.

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* May Not Officiate at a Session in Which They are Competing or Coaching

TIMER (Minimum Age 11)	
Education & Training	None except <i>pre-meet briefing</i> . Performance monitored by Chief Timer and/or Referee during meet.
Evaluation & Certification	<i>Certify</i> after passing USA Timer's test and <i>satisfactory performance</i> at one meet.
Renewal	Based on satisfactory performance.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL (Minimum Age 18)	
Education & Training	<i>Formal clinic training.</i> <i>Must take</i> USA Administrative Official test. <i>On-the-deck</i> apprenticeship with at least one (1) mentor (<i>who has a minimum of one (1) year certification as Administrative Official, Administrative Referee, or Referee</i>) for a <i>minimum of two (2) sessions.</i>
Evaluation & Certification	<i>Certify</i> after passing USA Administrative Official test and <i>satisfactory performance</i> at one meet. <i>Must be a member of USA Swimming, pass the Level 2 Background Check, and complete the online Athlete Protection Training</i> before officiating as Administrative official.
Renewal	Recommend clinic and/or re-cert test. To maintain certification, <i>must work</i> a minimum of <i>four (4) sessions per year</i> – <i>at least one session must be as the administrative official</i> , the remaining may be in any of the 6 positions for which the Administrative Official supervises/directs: Entry/Registration Personnel, Clerk of Course, Timing System Operator, Scoring Personnel, Timing Judge, or Meet Management Software Operator. May also work in a higher capacity (based on LSC determination as to designated certifications).. Based on continuing USA Swimming membership and satisfactory performance.

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STROKE & TURN JUDGE (Minimum Age 18*)	
Education & Training	<p>Formal clinic training. Must take USA Swimming Stroke & Turn Judge test. On-the-deck apprenticeship with at least two (2) mentors (<i>who have a minimum of one (1) year certification as Stroke & Turn Judge</i>) for a minimum of four (4) sessions. <i>(cannot make a disqualification during those sessions).</i></p>
Evaluation & Certification	<p>Evaluation by evaluator/mentor and/or Referee to be reported to LSC Officials Chair or their designee. Must complete certification within one year from date of clinic. Must be a member of USA Swimming, pass the Level 2 Background Check, and complete the online Athlete Protection Training before officiating as a Stroke and Turn Judge.</p>
Renewal	<p>Recommend clinic, pre-meet briefing and/or test. To maintain certification, must work a minimum of four (4) sessions per year in Stroke & Turn or higher capacity. Based on continuing USA Swimming membership and satisfactory performance.</p>

RELAY TAKE-OFF JUDGE (Minimum Age 18*)	
Education & Training	Must be certified Stroke & Turn Judge
Evaluation & Certification	Considered part of Stroke & Turn Judge certification.
Renewal	Same as Stroke & Turn Judge.

CHIEF JUDGE (Minimum Age 18*)	
Education & Training	Must be certified Stroke & Turn Judge
Evaluation & Certification	Considered part of Stroke & Turn Judge certification. Must have a minimum of one (1) year experience as a certified Stroke & Turn Judge.
Renewal	Same as Stroke & Turn Judge.

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STARTER (Minimum Age 18*)	
Education & Training	<p>Must attend clinic. Must take USA Swimming Starters test and be a current member of USA Swimming, pass the Level 2 Background Check, and complete the online Athlete Protection Training. Must serve a minimum of five (5) sessions on the deck at two (2) different meets with at least two (2) different mentors approved by the LSC Officials Chair or their designee. Must have worked as certified Stroke & Turn Judge for a minimum of five (5) sessions.</p>
Evaluation & Certification	Certification based on recommendation of the mentor(s) and/or Referee(s)
Renewal	<p>Recommend clinic, pre-meet briefing and/or test. To maintain certification, must work a minimum of four (4) sessions per year in Starter or higher capacity. Based on continuing USA Swimming membership and evaluation.</p>

REFEREE (Minimum Age 21*)	
Education & Training	<p>Must attend referee's clinic and apprentice on-the-deck for a minimum of six (6) sessions at three (3) sanctioned meets with at least two (2) different referees. Previous certification as a Stroke & Turn Judge or Starter for a minimum of one (1) year. Recommend being familiar with the positions of Announcer, Clerk of Course, Starter, Stroke & Turn Judge, Chief Judge, Timer, Timing Judge and Meet Marshall. Must pass USA Swimming Officials tests (Stroke & Turn/Timer, Timing Judge, Clerk of Course, Administrative, and Referee) with a grade of at least 80% within the past 24 months and be a current member of USA Swimming.</p>
Evaluation & Certification	Certification based on recommendation of the mentor(s) and/or Referee(s)
Renewal	<p>Must attend clinic and/or take tests every three (3) years. To maintain certification, must work a minimum of six (6) sessions per year in Starter or higher capacity with at least one session as Referee. Based on continuing USA Swimming membership and evaluation by the LSC Officials Chair or their designee.</p>