



Recommendations for Minnesota Swimming Meet Referees

Updated February 2024

The Meet Referee position is not a certified position under USA Swimming's standards for certifications of officials. However, Minnesota Swimming sanctions a variety of levels of meets, which require different levels of knowledge and experience in the Meet Referee role, who is the leader of the officiating team and the individual responsible for ensuring USA Swimming rules are followed at the meet. The following document is intended as a guide for clubs and officials to help determine readiness to serve as Meet Referee at a specific level of meet and to ensure that Meet Referees are successful in fulfilling their duties. Meet Referees for all levels of meets should have a demonstrated ability to remain calm and to apply the rules fairly without favor to individuals and teams.

Intrasquad Meets, Dual Meets, Development Meets (as defined under 205.11)

Certification as a Referee is sufficient to volunteer as the Meet Referee for intrasquad meets, dual meets, and development meets.

Timed Final Meets of More Than Two Teams

Certification as a Referee, and experience as a Referee after certification, to include:

- 2 complete meets (of 2 or more sessions, with more than two teams) after Referee certification in which the official is mentored in the Meet Referee role (could be concurrently serving in another assigned position, for example, Deck Referee). Should be with two different Meet Referees at meets hosted by two different teams.
- At least 4 sessions at LSC championship meets (MAC, MRC, State Meet) or prelim/final meets as a Deck Referee.

Experience as an Administrative Official at timed final meets with more than two teams.

Prelim/Final Meets and LSC Championships Meets (MAC, MRC, State Meets)

Certification as a Referee, and experience as a Referee after certification, to include:

- Prior completion of recommendations for Meet Referees for timed final meets of more than two teams.
- Substantial experience as a Deck Referee (> 25 sessions) at many levels of meets.
- Substantial experience as a Meet Referee (> 4 Timed Final meets with two or more teams).
- 1 complete prelim/final and 1 complete LSC championship meet as an assigned official (Deck Referee, Administrative Official, Chief Judge, or Starter) OR 2 complete prelim/final meets as an assigned official.
- Substantial participation in prelim/final or LSC championship meets hosted by multiple different teams.

Experience as an Administrative Official and Chief Judge at prelim/final and/or LSC championship meets.

Definitions of Meet Levels

- **Intrasquad meets** are meets in which one team is competing.
- **Dual meets** are meet in which two teams are competing.
- **Development meets** are defined in 205.11 of the USA Swimming rulebook.
- **Timed final meets** of more than two teams are in-season meets of more than 2 sessions with two or more teams.
- **Prelim/final meets** are meets which preliminaries are conducted, with swimmers qualifying for finals in a separate session.
- **LSC championship meets** include the Minnesota Regional Championships, Minnesota Achievement Championships, and State Meets (Age Group State, Senior State, Single Age State, etc.).

Please note: The following are recommendations. Minnesota Swimming clubs are encouraged to assign Meet Referees who met the following characteristics. If a club assigns a Referee not meeting these recommendations, the Officials Chair or designee reserves the right to establish an action plan with the host club/Referee to ensure the Referee and the meet are successful.