



Certification Standards

Once a person is certified as an official, they are encouraged to participate in as many meets as they can to gain experience and knowledge. This will allow those running meets to have greater confidence in their ability to officiate at meets of various levels.

Junior Stroke and Turn Official (Age 16-17) (Effective 9/1/24)	
Education and Training	• Member of USA Swimming. • Attend Stroke & Turn Clinic training. • Pass USA Swimming Stroke & Turn Judge certification test (80% minimum). • Apprentice a minimum of four (4) Training Sessions total over two (2) different meets with a Trainer (cannot make a disqualification during those apprentice sessions.) • Satisfactory performance.
Evaluation and Certification	• Apprenticeship signed off by a Certifier. • Must complete certification within one (1) year from date of clinic. • <i>May officiate in competitions below LSC Championships for 12&U athletes.</i>
Stroke and Turn (Minimum Age 18)	
Education and Training	• Member of USA Swimming. • Attend Stroke & Turn Clinic training. • Pass USA Swimming Stroke & Turn Judge certification test (80% minimum). • Apprentice a minimum of four (4) Training Sessions total over two (2) different meets with a trainer (cannot make a disqualification during those apprentice Sessions). • Satisfactory performance.
Evaluation and Certification	• Apprenticeship signed off by a Certifier. • Must complete certification within one (1) year from date of Clinic. • May officiate in any LSC meet.
Starter (Minimum Age 18)	
Education and Training	• Member of USA Swimming. • Attend Starter Clinic training. • Certified Stroke & Turn Judge for minimum of three (3) months; worked at least four (4) Sessions at a minimum of two (2) meets since Stroke & Turn certification.



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	• Pass USA Swimming Starter certification test. • Apprentice as Starter at least four (4) Training Sessions total, over two (2) meets with two (2) Trainers. Trainer can be the Deck Referee. • Satisfactory performance.
Evaluation and Certification	• Apprenticeship signed off by a Certifier. • Must complete certification within one year from date of Clinic. • May officiate in any LSC meet.
Administrative Official (Minimum Age 18)	
Education and Training	• Member of USA Swimming. • Attend AO Clinic training. • Pass USA Administrative Official certification test. • Apprentice as an Administrative Official for at least four (4) Training Sessions over two (2) meets with a Trainer(s). • Satisfactory performance.
Evaluation and Certification	• Apprenticeship signed off by a Certifier. • Must complete certification within one (1) year from date of Clinic. • May officiate in any AO role at any meet.
Referee (Minimum Age 19)	
Education and Training	• Member of USA Swimming. • Certified Stroke & Turn. • Certified Administrative Official. • Certified Starter. • Referee Clinic training. • Pass USA Swimming Referee certification test. • Apprentice as a Referee for at least four (4) Training Sessions total over two (2) meets with two (2) Trainers. • Satisfactory performance.
Evaluation and Certification	• Apprenticeship signed off by a Certifier. • Must complete certification within one year from date of Clinic. • May officiate in any Referee role at any meet, except that in meets classified as USA Swimming Championships (as defined by 102.10.5), this certification may not meet the requirements of serving as the required Administrative Referee.



Certification Standards

Definitions:

- **Certifier:** An official designated by the LSC OC to certify training is complete and who shall record it in Officials Tracking System (OTS).
- **Clinic:** Formal in person or online training clinic, recorded in Officials Tracking System (OTS).
- **Certification:** The act of certifying. An official must meet certain requirements to be certified in a particular position.
- **Satisfactory Performance:** Demonstrates the requisite knowledge of the applicable rules and satisfactorily performs the on-deck protocols and duties for the position. Deficiencies must be provided by LSC OC or designee in writing to the affected official with an Action Plan to success.
- **Session:** Any portion of a meet distinctly separated from other portions by locale, time, or type of competition, i.e., preliminaries and finals; morning and evening; Senior or Age Group, etc., which has been sanctioned or approved by USA Swimming and recorded in OTS.
- **Trainer:** An official designated by the Referee at a meet, or the LSC OC, who has been certified in the position for at least one year. If an official meeting the one (1) year requirement is not on deck, the Referee may select the most experienced certified official(s) to be a Trainer(s).
- **Training Sessions:** Sessions that include strokes and/or relays. Time Trials & Freestyle Only Sessions shall not count toward Training Session requirements. Sessions shall be recorded in OTS.
- **USA Swimming Membership:** Completed all USAS member associated requirements before being certified in any position.