

Starter Certification

Starter Certification Requirements

Prerequisites (need to be completed before you can begin on deck training):

- Age - 18 years or older
- USA Swimming member in good standing (current registration, APT and BC)
- Session and time requirements:
 - Certified as a Stroke & Turn Judge for at least three months.
 - Worked a minimum of four sessions at a minimum of two meets as a Stroke & Turn Judge

Certification Requirements (preferably completed within one year of clinic attendance):

- Complete a Starter Clinic
- Pass the [USA Swimming Starter Certification Test](#) (prior to evaluation session)
- Minimum of four apprentice sessions at sanctioned or approved meets.
 - At least two different meets
 - At least two different mentors
 - Completion of [Starter Certification Template](#) after each session affirming satisfactory performance
 - Evaluation Session may be done any time after the 3rd apprentice session.
 - Note that if evaluation is not successful, the evaluator must submit to the apprentice a written action plan within two weeks and copy the Officials Chair.
- Evaluation Readiness Request may be submitted any time after the 3rd apprentice session to the Officials Chair. If approved, you will become certified immediately upon successful completion of any outstanding requirements and evaluation.
- Complete certification within one year of clinic.
- After successful completion of evaluation, submit the [Starter Certification Template](#) to the Officials Chair. .
- Certification: good until the Dec 31, 2026.

Starter Recertification Requirements

- Continue to be a USA Swimming Official in good standing (current registration, APT and BC)
- Session requirement: eight sessions over a three-year period as a starter
- Attend a Clinic (recommend Starter Clinic) at least once every 3 years.
- Pass the [USA Swimming Starter Recertification Test](#)
- Recertification extends your certification for three years and recertifies S&T Judge.