

OFFICIAL'S NAME/LSC/MEET(s)/DATE(s)/SESSION #	
CERTIFIER'S NAME/LSC	
STARTER CERTIFICATION	
DEFINITIONS	
Certifier: An official designated by the LSC OC to certify mentoring is complete.	
Clinic: Formal in person or online mentoring clinic, recorded in Officials Tracking System (OTS).	
Certification: Stroke & Turn able to officiate at all LSC meets.	
Satisfactory Performance: Able to demonstrate Performance Requirements. Deficiencies must be provided by LSC OC or designee in writing to the affected official with an Action Plan to success.	
Sessions: At USA Swimming sanctioned or approved meets, recorded in OTS.	
Mentor: Designated by the Referee at a meet or LSC OC, an official who has been USA Swimming certified in the position for 1+ year. If a 1+ year experienced official is not on deck, the Referee may select the most experienced certified official(s) to be a trainer(s).	
Mentoring Sessions: Meet sessions that include strokes and/or relays. Time Trials and Freestyle Only sessions may not count toward training session requirements. Sessions shall be recorded in OTS.	
USA Swimming Member: Completed all USAS member associated requirements before on deck apprenticeship.	
Apprenticeship Requirements	
	USA Swimming Member
	Certified Stroke & Turn Judge for a minimum of 3 months. Worked at least 4 sessions at a minimum of 2 meets since ST certification.
	Attend Starter training clinic - please provide date of clinic attended:
	Apprentice as Starter for at least 4 training sessions total, over 2 meets with 2 trainers. Trainer can be the Deck Referee. OR Coach and Athlete
	Members with 5+ years of USA Swimming experience shall apprentice as a starter for at least 2 training sessions with a trainer.
	Pass the USA Swimming Starter online certification test with a score of 80% or more.
Certification Performance Requirements for Certification	
May be evaluated during last apprentice session and use MR sign-off for each session.	
Y-Yes, N-No, ND - Not Demonstrated	
	Arrives on-time, prepared with necessary personal equipment, and properly attired per LSC requirements.
Timers Briefing	
	Welcomes and Thanks Timers for Volunteering to Help
	Pre-Start Sequence Position of Timers, Behind the Blocks
	Describes Timing Devices in Use During the Session
	Roles – 1 Timer for Clipboard and Button (Pickle) (Organizes Swimmers in Heat Order), 1 Timer with Two Watches in Each Lane
	Start of Heat Sequence between Referee and Starter and Timers
	Protocol for Race Completion, Fly-Over Starts, Step up to the Edge of Pool
	Recording Time, Soft Touch Box
	Swimmers Unable to Leave Pool
	Safe Sport and Photography Behind the Blocks
	Roles of Finish Judges
	Equipment Test Prior to Start of Session – includes testing starter and communications with Timing System
Session Performance	
	Knows the rules for starting.
	Demonstrate ability to start swimmers across a wide range of age and proficiency.
	Understands basic starting protocols and procedures (distance counting, OOF, Responsibilities to Timers/Finish Judges, etc.)
	Understands how to start swimmers with disabilities.
	Demonstrates the start for a hearing-impaired swimmer.
	Demonstrates both forward and backstroke starts.
	Understands how the starting system operates and how it communicates with the Timing System
	Establishes a comfortable starting position on deck for forward starts
	Establishes a comfortable starting position on deck for back starts
	Demonstrates ability to communicate and interact with the Referee (positioning, inserting swimmers, etc...)
	Prepared and in position prior to each heat; comfortable holding microphone and securing cord
	Delivers "Take Your Marks" TYM's calmly and with necessary volume
	Shows PATIENCE before delivering "Take Your Marks" TYM's and starting signal
	Understands the use of Other Commands
	Understands and practices the False Start Protocol
	Understands and demonstrates the Recall Protocol
	Demonstrates Proper Documentation on Starters Heat Sheet and Timeline (Recording Time for Start of Each Event, Potential DQ)
	Always gives the benefit of the doubt to the swimmer.
	Understands performance criteria as outlined in Starter Professional Document
	Understands USA Swimming Safe Sport and MAAPP rules.

Comments (if needed)	
Name and Signature of Referee (session 1):	
Name and Signature of Referee (session 2):	
Name and Signature of Referee (session 3):	
Name and Signature of Referee (session 4):	
RECOMMEND CERTIFICATION AS A STARTER	
<i>Certification must be complete within one year of the Starter clinic.</i>	
<i>Understands need to return completed evaluation form to the official's LSC Officials Chair or designee.</i>	
STARTER RECERTIFICATION EVERY 3 YEARS	
	Be a current non-athlete member of USA Swimming in good standing.
	Work at least 8 sessions, within a 3-year period, as a Starter
	Attend clinic (recommend Starter Clinic) every 3 years
	USA Swimming recertification test every 3 years for the highest certification held
	Satisfactory performance