



## Maine Swimming, Inc. Steps to Becoming an Official



- The prospective official must first register through Maine Swimming (MESI) as a non-athlete member of USA Swimming (USAS). They can either register through an affiliated club by contacting that club's head coach or can register as unattached (not affiliated with a club) at this [link](#). If there are any issues, please contact the Maine Swimming office at [mesiswimoffice@gmail.com](mailto:mesiswimoffice@gmail.com).
  
- Once registered, the prospective official must complete the following through the USAS website:
  - A criminal background check (this must be renewed every two years). The background check can take several weeks to come back, so prospective officials should get it submitted as soon as possible.
  - *Athlete Protection Training (APT)* (refresher training must be completed annually).
  - *Concussion Protocol Training* (this only needs to be done once).
  - *Foundations of Officiating* training module.
  - *Stroke and Turn Certification Course* (a shorter recertification course must be done every three years at the official's highest certification level).
  
- Once the above is done, new officials can complete their on-deck shadows at USAS-approved or -sanctioned meets in any LSC. Most people do at least four shadow sessions prior to becoming fully certified as a stroke and turn official, but final certification is done on a case-by-case basis, following the new certification checklists USAS has provided for each level of officiating. Prospective officials who have previous experience as a competitive swimmer or as an official with YMCA Competitive Swimming may not need as many shadow sessions.
  
- Questions, concerns, or requests for assistance may be directed to the MESI Officials Chair at [mesiofficialschair@gmail.com](mailto:mesiofficialschair@gmail.com).