

Starter Certification Standards

2-5-24

STARTER (Minimum Age 18)	
Education & 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. Pass USA Swimming Starter certification test. Apprentice as Starter for at least four (4) Training Sessions total, over two (2) meets with two (2) Trainers. Trainer can be the Deck Referee. Satisfactory performance.
Evaluation & Certification	Apprenticeship signed off by a Certifier. Must complete certification within one (1) year from date of Clinic. May officiate in any LSC meet.
Recertification every 3 years	Worked eight (8) Sessions, within a three (3) year period, as Starter. Attend Clinic (recommend Starter) every three (3) years. Pass USA Swimming recertification test every three (3) years for the highest certification held. Satisfactory performance.
Comment	Once a person is certified as a starter, 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 be a starter at meets of various levels.

In the event it is believed that an official has not shown the necessary competency in the position after completion of

the required training and apprentice sessions, the LSC OC, or designee, shall provide the official with a written action plan of the steps needed to successfully obtain certification. Written notice shall be provided to the official within two (2) weeks of the last apprentice session (or submission of the appropriate documents to the Certifier), and a copy shall be provided to the LSC OC. An apprentice may always request additional training.

For the positions of Stroke & Turn and Starter, members who have five (5) plus years of USA Swimming as a 13 & Over athlete or coach member need only complete half of the on-deck apprentice requirements provided they show competency in the position, at the discretion of the LSC Officials' Chair (LSC OC) or designee. An athlete or coach may not officiate at a session in which they are competing or coaching.

Online Testing:

- A certification test with a score of 80% or greater is required.
- A recertification test with a score of 80% or greater is required every three years:
 - The Stroke and Turn recertification test recertifies Stroke & Turn Judge and Chief Judge (if held).
 - The Starter recertification test recertifies Starter and Stroke & Turn Judge.
 - The Referee recertification test recertifies Referee, Administrative Official, Starter, Chief Judge (if held), and Stroke & Turn Judge.
 - The Administrative Official recertification test recertifies Administrative Official.

Recertification:

- The Stroke & Turn recertification procedures recertify Stroke & Turn Judge LSC certification.
- The Chief Judge recertification procedures recertify Chief Judge and Stroke & Turn LSC certifications.
- The Starter recertification procedures recertify Starter and Stroke & Turn Judge LSC certifications.
- The Administrative Official recertification procedures recertify Administrative Official LSC certification.
- The Referee recertification procedures recertify Referee, Administrative Official, Starter, Chief Judge (if held), and Stroke & Turn Judge LSC certifications.

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 OTS. Current LSC training curriculum will stay in place until USA Swimming Online Certification Training is available. When USA Swimming training curriculum is available, then that will be the required training.

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 (1) 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.