

OFFICIAL'S NAME/LSC/MEET(S)/DATE(S)	
CERTIFIER'S NAME/LSC	
STARTER CERTIFICATION	
DEFINITIONS	
Certifier: An official designated by the LSC OC to certify training is complete.	
Clinic: Formal in person or online training clinic, recorded in Officials Tracking System (OTS).	
Certification: Starter 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.	
Trainer: 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).	
Training 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
	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 & professionally attired
	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, 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
	Establishes a comfortable starting position on deck for both forward and back starts
	Demonstrates ability to communicate and interact with the DR (positioning, inserting swimmers, etc...)
	Prepared and in position prior to each heat; comfortable holding microphone and securing cord
	Delivers TYM calmly and with necessary volume
	Shows PATIENCE before delivering TYM and starting signal
	Understands the use of Other Commands
	Understands and practices the False Start Protocol
	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)	
Signature of MR (session 1)	
Signature of MR (session 2)	
Signature of MR (session 3)	
Signature of MR (session 4)	
	Recommend Certification as Starter
<i>Certification must be complete within one year of the SR 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