

I'm a new trainee. What do I have to do to be certified?

■ All new trainees are required to complete three components: Clinic, online training, and four live training sessions at meets. At the clinic training guidelines and requirements will be reviewed, as well as an introduction to the strokes and swim rules. Trainees will be given training credentials at the clinic. Either before the clinic OR during the training period, trainees are required to complete the online training component. Training also requires participation in four meet sessions. For the first two meets, the trainee is observing alongside a certified S&T official but not making calls. For the 3rd and 4th sessions, the trainee is making calls under the observation and tutelage of a certified official. After each session the Referee and certified official will sign the training card.

I'm a S&T trainee. What do I do at the meet?

■ As above, you need to complete the four training sessions during the weekly meets. When the announcement is made at the meets asking for officials, please report and indicate that you are in training!

Who has to go to a Stroke and Turn Clinic?

■ All new Stroke and Turn trainees

Who has to take the online Stroke test?

- All returning summer league Stroke and Turn officials (returning officials can skip the clinic)
- All new trainees BEFORE or AFTER attending a clinic.
- Newly certified Y officials (less than 1 year of certification but can skip the clinic)

Who is exempt from Stroke and Turn Clinic and online test?

- All US Swimming certified S&T officials
- All certified Y S&T officials with one year of certification

How do I obtain a "code key" to take the online test?

■ Code keys are assigned by Miki Smith, and are linked to your preferred email address. Miki can be reached at mikilsmith@cox.net. The test can be found at www.strokeandturn.com. The trainee needs to register at the site per the instructions (name, address, email -- select RVAA as league) The system should recognize the linked email and permit the trainee to begin taking the test. The test consists of stages, or segments, that can be taken all at once or over multiple logins. In certain segments (backstroke) RVAA rules are slightly different from the videos. A disclaimer acknowledges as such. Test takers can complete each segment in the timeframe desired. Upon successful completion please notify Miki Smith. New Trainees can finish the online testing before or during their summer training and/or before the clinics, if desired.

How do I obtain my judges badge?

■ Upon confirmation of successful completion of the online test, Miki will drop off badges at your pool. New trainees will obtain their trainee badges at the clinic.

I am a US Swimming or Y official that is exempt from the training components.

What do I need to do?

■ You still need to register to work this season! Please contact Miki Smith so that they can include you in the officials' master list and issue your badge.

I have last year's badge. Does that work?

■ NO! 10 months is a long time, even for the great minds so prevalent in RVAA! The clinics and the online testing are meant to refresh and/or educate. Our swimmers deserve a predictable and fair environment for competition.

What else has changed for officials?

■ We are now requiring Starters and Referees to be S&T certified. This cross-training allows more flexibility at meets and encourages a greater understanding of meet procedures and protocols by Starters and Referees