



Becoming a Stroke & Turn Junior Official

Summary of Steps to Certification (v. 02/21/2025)

Thank you for your interest in becoming a USA Swimming Stroke and Turn Junior Official. This document is meant to provide you with an outline of what you need to do to become certified. If you have not already done so, please review the [Virginia Swimming New Apprentice Official FAQ](#).

Prerequisites

- Age 16-17

Steps Needed to Complete Your Training

To train and certify as a Stroke and Turn Junior Official, you must be registered with USA Swimming as a Junior Official. The following sections provide an overview of the registration process.

Register as a Junior Official

- If you want to register as both an athlete and a Junior Official, you will register in the athlete category as both a Premium Athlete and a Junior Official; if you only want to officiate and not swim, you will still register in the athlete category, but only as a Junior Official.
 - There is an \$8 annual fee for registering as a Junior Official. Your club might reimburse you for this fee. You will need to ask them.
 - Registration after September 1 of the current year is good through December 31 of the following year.
 - Registration in the Junior Official category is required prior to beginning your on-deck training.
 - Registration allows tracking of various requirements including *Safe Sport for Youth Athletes (13-17)* training, *Concussion Protocol Training*, and the required officials' tests.
- Registration process
 - Must be completed prior to starting your on-deck training and must be done to receive an apprentice training card.
 - If you are associated with a club, check with your club registrar to get a registration link. Your club registrar should also be able to provide you with any needed assistance to get you through the registration process.
 - If you are not associated with a club, reach out to businessoffice@virginiasswimming.org to request a registration link. The business office will be able to provide you with any needed assistance to get you through the registration process.

USA Swimming registration as a Junior Official is not complete until you have completed both *Safe Sport for Youth Athletes (13-17)* training and *Concussion Protocol Training*. Both of these items must be completed in order for your membership to be in good standing and to be allowed on-deck to train.

Complete *Safe Sport for Youth Athletes (13-17)* training and *Concussion Protocol Training (CPT)* (see Appendix for a more detailed explanation of the following steps)

- Logon to your USA Swimming account.
- Click on the “Education – Course Catalog” tab
 - Select “Athletes” and then “All” in the window that opens and complete the following item:
 - *Safe Sport for Youth Athletes (13-17)*. The results will automatically associate with your membership, but they may take up to 24 hours to update.
 - Select “Officials” and then “Membership Requirements” in the window that opens and complete the following item:
 - *Concussion Protocol Training*. Select either the NFHS Course or the CDC Course (your choice). Once finished, you will receive a completion certificate that must be submitted to businessoffice@virginiasswimming.org.

Next, you need to take two online courses that are on the USA Swimming website. The first course, *Foundations of Officiating*, will introduce you to the philosophy of officiating and the expectations of officials at a swim meet. The second course, *Stroke and Turn Judge Certification*, will familiarize you with the technical rules for the strokes and relays that you will be observing on deck. The latter course also has an integrated assessment to test your knowledge. By viewing these courses prior to your on-deck training, you will be in the best position to make the most of your on-deck training.

Complete the on-line USA Swimming Foundations of Officiating course and the online USA Swimming Stroke and Turn Judge Clinic and pass the accompanying test (see Appendix for a more detailed explanation of the following steps)

- Logon to your USA Swimming account.
- Click on the “Education – Course Catalog” tab.
- Select “Officials” and then “Certification” in the window that opens.
- Complete the “*Foundations of Officiating*” course.
- Complete the “*Stroke and Turn Judge Certification Course (Certification Course and Assessment)*” that includes an integrated test

Before starting your on-deck training, you need to obtain an apprentice training card to record the completion of each of the individual requirements for becoming a Stroke and Turn Junior Official as well as to track the progress of your on-deck apprentice sessions. You will need to bring this training card with you to your training sessions so that the progress of your training can be recorded.

Obtain a Stroke and Turn Judge Junior Official apprentice training card

- [Follow this link](#) to request your Stroke and Turn Junior Official apprentice training card (please allow up to one week to receive this card via email).

The **final steps** in your training to become a certified Stroke and Turn Junior Official are to complete your on-deck training and then to submit your training card to your District Chair who will finalize the certification in OTS.

On-Deck Apprentice Sessions

- Complete 4 on-deck training sessions with a basic understanding of each required skill.
- An apprentice may voluntarily request additional training sessions if the apprentice feels that he/she needs additional training to master the required skills.
- If the validating Meet Referee does not believe the apprentice is ready to be certified and the apprentice does not voluntarily agree to additional training sessions, the Meet Referee must provide the VSI Officials Chair and corresponding District Chair with specific deficiencies that need to be remedied, and the VSI Officials Chair or District Chair will provide the apprentice with a written action plan of the steps needed to successfully obtain certification.

Following Completion of All Off- and On-Deck Training Requirements

- Make a copy of your completed training card and email it to your district officials chair (see email links below).
- If all certification requirements are met, and barring any rare and unusual circumstances, your District Chair will enter your certification into OTS.

What Happens When You Turn 18 Years Old

- Certification is for a 3-year period, which means that you will turn 18 years old prior to your certification expiring.
- On your 18th birthday, you will automatically be switched to the Official registration category and your certification will be switched from Stroke and Turn Junior Official to Stroke and Turn Official.
- Your registration will show “not in good standing” because you cannot complete a background check before your 18th birthday and because you will not have yet taken Athlete Protection Training (APT).
- You will need to complete both a Background Check and APT before you are again in good standing.
- Time, meets, and sessions worked as a Stroke and Turn Junior Official will count toward your recertification as a Stroke Turn Official.

Steps Needed to Recertify as a Stroke and Turn Judge

- Work a minimum of 8 sessions, within a 3-year period, at a minimum of 2 different meets as a Stroke and Turn Judge or a higher capacity.
- Attend clinic every 3 years.
- Pass USA Swimming recertification test every 3 years for the highest certification held.
- Satisfactory performance.

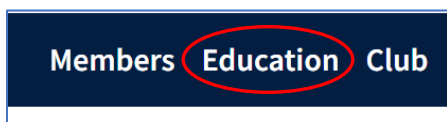
Contact Information

- [Click on this link](#) to find email contact information for the VSI District Officials Chairs and the VSI Club Officials Chairs.
- The VSI Officials Chair can be contacted at officialschair@virginiaswimming.org.

APPENDIX

Instructions for Completing Membership, Educational, and Testing Requirements for Junior Officials

1. Log into your account on the USA Swimming website.
2. Click the Education tab and select Course Catalog

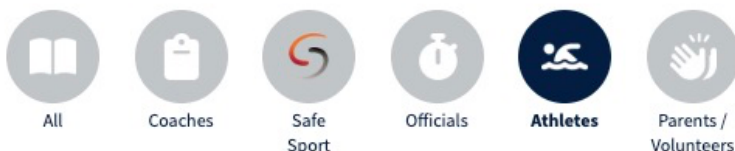


3. In the window that opens, select Athletes → All to access SafeSport For Youth Athletes (13-17).

User: Kevin Hogan
Roles: Official

[VIEW TRANSCRIPT](#)

[VIEW CERTIFICATIONS](#)



4. The required course will be visible. Once you complete the course, take a screen shot of the certificate or the final screen that includes the date of completion. This will be helpful if the course fails to update in your record. Completion of the course will automatically update in your record, but it may up to 24 hours. If it doesn't match after that, please contact businessoffice@virginiawimming.org for assistance. That will be the most efficient and effective way to get assistance.



5. While in the Course Catalog, select Officials → Membership Requirements to access Concussion Protocol Training.

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6. The required course will show. You may choose to take either the CDC or NFHS to satisfy the Concussion Protocol Training requirement.

A course card for 'Concussion Protocol Training'. It features a photo of a USA Swimming pool ball. Below the photo, the title 'Concussion Protocol Training' is followed by a blue dot and the text 'In Progress'. A paragraph states: 'All USA Swimming Coaches and Officials must take concussion training.' At the bottom is a red button labeled 'VIEW INFO'.

7. The certificate for the Concussion Protocol Training will not automatically update in your record. Please send a copy of that certificate to businessoffice@virginiawimming.org so that it can be added.
8. Next, select Officials → Certification. The *Foundations of Officiating* and *Stroke and Turn Certification* courses can then be selected here.

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Roles: Official

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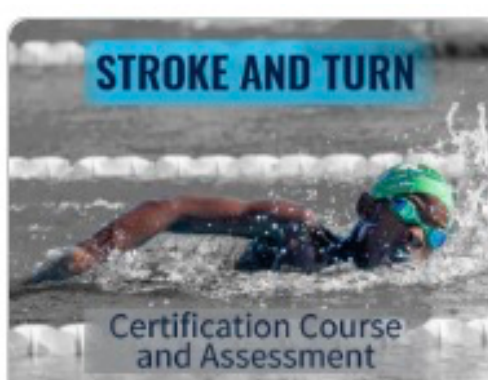
Foundations of Officiating

✔ Complete - Passed

⌚ Doesn't Expire

This is an introductory course to the Officials certifications and is required before moving to your first role-specific course.

[VIEW INFO](#)



Stroke and Turn Certification Course

⚠ Due for Renewal

⌚ Expires on 04/07/2027

This course is required as part of the certification as a Stroke and Turn Judge.

[VIEW INFO](#)