



# Virginia Swimming New Apprentice Official FAQ

(v. 04/11/2024)

## **Q. What is USA Swimming?**

A. USA Swimming is the National Governing Body for the sport of Swimming in the United States. Among its duties, it establishes the rules and regulations for swimming and runs national-level meets including the Olympic Trials, National Championships, U.S. Open, and Junior Nationals. Importantly for officiating, it establishes the standards for the certification and recertification of swim officials.

## **Q. What is Virginia Swimming?**

A. Virginia Swimming, Inc (VSI) is one of 59 Local Swim Committees (LSCs), each of which governs the sport of swimming within their geographical territory. The Virginia Swimming territory covers most of Virginia (except Arlington and Fairfax counties) and includes 3 counties in North Carolina. The Virginia Swimming Officials Committee is responsible for the training, testing, evaluation, certification, and supervision of all officials within its territory.

## **Q. I'd like to start training as a swim official. How do I get started?**

A. You can start off training as a Stroke and Turn Judge, an Administrative Official, or as a Timing Equipment Operator. Visit the [Virginia Swimming Officials Training](#) webpage to view one of the "Becoming a [officiating position]"\* documents. These documents will give you all the information you need to get started. Importantly they will help you understand what requirements you must first fulfill before you are allowed to train on-deck.

## **Q. What do I do if I'd like to become a Chief Judge, Starter, or Referee?**

A. The starting point for each of these positions is to first certify as a Stroke and Turn Judge. There are "Becoming a [officiating position]"\* documents for each of these positions so that you can see what you need to do in the future.

## **Q. Do I need to let someone know that I'd like to train at a meet? If so, who do I contact?**

A. Although not an absolute requirement, it is highly recommended that the Meet Referee for the meet be notified in advance of when and for what you'd like to train. This can be done by your Club Officials Chair (names and contact information are in the "Becoming a [officiating position]"\* document) collecting the information and notifying the Meet Referee for you. Alternatively, the Meet Announcement for the meet, which can be found on the [VSI Meet](#)

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\* These documents include: Becoming a Stroke and Turn Official; Becoming a Chief Judge; Becoming a Starter; Becoming a Referee; Becoming an Administrative Official; and Becoming a Timing Equipment Operator.

[Schedule webpage](#), will have the contact information in the “Officials” section and may even have a link through which you can sign up.

**Q. Is there a required officials’ uniform and if so, what is it?**

A. The standard officials’ uniform for Virginia Swimming is a short-sleeve, white polo shirt, navy blue shorts/pants/skirts, and white socks and shoes. Apprentices are not required to wear the uniform (and may not want to invest in the items until they know they will complete their training), but they may do so if they desire. The uniform is required when working as a certified official.

**Q. Who do I contact if I need help or further information?**

A. Most Virginia Swimming clubs have a Club Officials Chair to help organize the apprentice and certified officials on their club. If your club has a Club Officials Chair, this is the best place to start with a question.

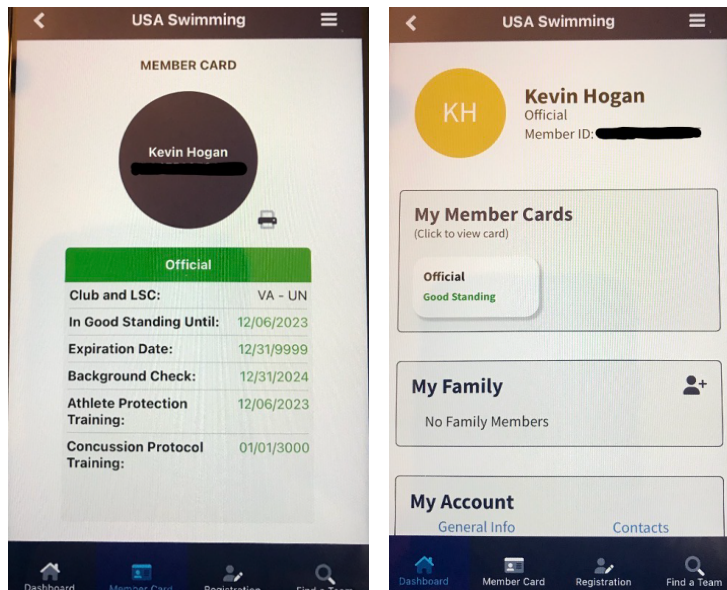
Virginia Swimming is divided into 4 districts, each of which has a District Officials Chair. If your Club Officials Chair can’t help you, or your club does not have an Officials Chair, your District Chair is the next person to contact.

Finally, if you can’t get the information you need from your Club Officials Chair or District Chair, contact the Virginia Swimming Officials Committee Chair.

The contact information for all these positions can be found near the end of the “Becoming a [officiating position]”\* documents.

**Q. What is the USA Swimming App and do I need it.**

A. The USA Swimming App is available for download on both the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store. The app displays your membership card including your “In Good Standing Until” date, Athlete Protection Training (APT) expiration date, Background Check (BGC) expiration date, and Concussion Protocol Training (CPT) expiration date. Eventually, the app will be capable of displaying your officiating certifications. Please install this app as it will allow a Meet Referee to determine if you are allowed to be on deck.



**Q. What is the Officials Tracking System (OTS) and why should I be familiar with it?**

A. Every USA Swimming registered official (both trainee and certified) has a profile that is kept in OTS. OTS displays the following information:

- LSC certifications (check here to see that your certifications are current)
- National Certification History (not important for new officials)
- Meet History (shows when and at what positions you have worked at meets—make sure this is accurately updated following each meet you work)
- Evaluations (not important for new officials)
- Online Tests results (shows when you have taken any courses and the results of any tests)
- Officials Reports (the Official History report will show the status of your registration, APT, BGC, and CPT; your certification status; and your meet history)

**My Official History**

**Official Name:** Kevin Hogan      **Email Address:** hogan.kevin.t@gmail.com  
**Member ID:** SB64F52958634E      **Role:** Official

[LSC Certifications](#)    [Nat'l Cert History](#)    [Meet History](#)    [Evaluations](#)    [Online Tests](#)  
[Official Reports](#)

**LSC Certifications**

[ADD/UPGRADE CERTIFICATION](#)

Total Sessions Worked in Sanctioned Meets Regardless of Certification: 1141      Show All LSC Certification History? **No** ✕

POSITION	SESSIONS WORKED	CERTIFICATION LEVEL	EFFECTIVE DATE	EXPIRATION DATE	RE-CERTIFY?	
Referee/Deck Referee - DR	2	LSC Certified	07/22/2000	12/31/2024	<input type="checkbox"/>	Expire
Starter - SR	2	LSC Certified	11/16/1999	12/31/2024	<input type="checkbox"/>	Expire
Chief Judge - CJ	1	LSC Certified	12/31/2007	12/31/2024	<input type="checkbox"/>	Expire
Stroke & Turn - ST	0	LSC Certified	10/10/1998	12/31/2024	<input type="checkbox"/>	Expire
Administrative Official - AO	0	LSC Certified	07/05/2002	12/31/2024	<input type="checkbox"/>	Expire