

# **USA SWIMMING MINIMUM STANDARDS**

## **Guidelines**

*For Utilization By*

### **LOCAL SWIMMING COMMITTEE (LSC) OFFICIALS**

#### **MISSION**

*Our sport relies heavily on volunteers to work in the capacity of officials in order to conduct fair and equitable competition for our athletes. In order to achieve this stated goal minimum standards have been adopted by Resolution by the USA Swimming Board of Directors.*

*The goal of having all Local Swim Committees (LSC) adopt these minimum standards for certification of officials is to set standards, that when applied, will accomplish the following:*

- ★ *assure a clear and consistent knowledge of the rules*
- ★ *provide sufficient time in training to assure familiarity with all levels of competition*
- ★ *provide opportunity to work on the deck and advance through the certification process*
- ★ *allow automatic acceptance at the Stroke & Turn level between all LSCs meeting the USA Swimming Minimum Standards Guidelines*
- ★ *maintain knowledge of the rules current*

*The sessions referred to in the guidelines should be of duration to assure sufficient time to observe a significant number of swimmers and should contain a complete schedule of events to provide the opportunity to observe all strokes.*

*LSC's may set minimum standards for additional positions such as Referee (Non-Starter), Administrative Referee (Non-Referee), Clerk of Course, Timing Judge, Equipment Operator, etc.*

*Any exception to these minimum standards must be approved by the National Officials Chair who may stipulate appropriate conditions for each exception.*

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\* May Not Officiate at a Session in Which They are Competing

TIMER (Minimum Age 11)	
Education & Training	None except <b><i>pre-meet briefing</i></b> . Performance monitored by Chief Timer and/or Referee during meet.
Evaluation & Certification	<b><i>Certify</i></b> after passing USA Timer's test and <b><i>satisfactory performance</i></b> at one meet.
Renewal	Based on satisfactory performance.

STROKE & TURN JUDGE (Minimum Age 18*)	
Education & Training	<b><i>Formal clinic training.</i></b> <b><i>Must take</i></b> USA Swimming Stroke & Turn Judge test before apprenticing on deck. <b><i>On-the-deck</i></b> apprenticeship with at least two (2) trainers ( <i>who have a minimum of one (1) year certification as Stroke &amp; Turn Judge</i> ) for a <b><i>minimum of four (4) sessions.</i></b> <i>(cannot make a disqualification during those sessions).</i>
Evaluation & Certification	<b><i>Evaluation by</i></b> trainer and/or Meet Referee to be reported to LSC Officials Chair or their designee. <b><i>Must complete</i></b> certification within one year from date of clinic. <b><i>Must be a member of USA Swimming</i></b> and complete the required USAS background check before officiating as a Stroke and Turn Judge.
Renewal	Recommend clinic, pre-meet briefing and/or test. <b><i>To maintain</i></b> certification, <b><i>must work</i></b> a minimum of <b><i>four (4) sessions per year</i></b> in Stroke & Turn or higher capacity. Based on continuing USA Swimming membership and satisfactory performance.

RELAY TAKE-OFF JUDGE (Minimum Age 19)	
Education & Training	<b><i>Must be certified</i></b> Stroke & Turn Judge
Evaluation & Certification	Considered <b><i>part of</i></b> Stroke & Turn Judge certification.
Renewal	Same as Stroke & Turn Judge.

CHIEF JUDGE (Minimum Age 19)	
Education & Training	<b><i>Must be certified</i></b> Stroke & Turn Judge
Evaluation & Certification	Considered <b><i>part of</i></b> Stroke & Turn Judge certification. Must have a minimum of <b><i>one (1) year experience</i></b> as a <b><i>certified Stroke &amp; Turn Judge.</i></b>
Renewal	Same as Stroke & Turn Judge.

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STARTER (Minimum Age 19*)	
Education & Training	<p><b>Must attend clinic.</b>  <b>Must take</b> USA Swimming Starters test and be a <b>current member of USA Swimming.</b>  <b>Must serve a minimum of five (5)</b> sessions on the deck at <b>two (2)</b> different meets with at least <b>two (2)</b> different trainers approved by the LSC Officials Chair or their designee.  <b>Must have worked</b> as certified Stroke &amp; Turn Judge for a <b>minimum of five (5) sessions.</b></p>
Evaluation & Certification	<b>Certification based on</b> recommendation of the trainer(s) and/or Referee(s)
Renewal	<p>Recommend clinic, pre-meet briefing and/or test.  <b>To maintain</b> certification, <b>must work</b> a minimum of <b>four (4) sessions per year</b> in Starter or higher capacity.  Based on continuing USA Swimming membership and evaluation.</p>

REFEREE (Minimum Age 21)	
Education & Training	<p><b>Must attend</b> referee's clinic and <b>apprentice</b> on-the-deck for a <b>minimum of six (6)</b> sessions at <b>three (3)</b> sanctioned meets with at least <b>two (2)</b> different referees.  Previous certification as a Stroke &amp; Turn Judge or Starter for a minimum of <b>one (1)</b> year.  Recommend <b>be familiar</b> with the positions of Announcer, Clerk of Course, Starter, Stroke &amp; Turn Judge, Chief Judge, Timer, Timing Judge and Meet Marshall.  <b>Must pass</b> USA Swimming Officials test (<b>all sections</b>) with a grade of <b>at least 80%</b> and be a current member of USA Swimming.</p>
Evaluation & Certification	<b>Certification based on</b> recommendation of the trainer(s) and/or Referee(s)
Renewal	<p><b>Attend</b> clinic and/or <b>take tests</b> every two (2) years.  <b>To maintain</b> certification, <b>must work</b> a minimum of <b>six (6) sessions per year</b> in Starter or higher capacity with at least one session as Referee.  Based on continuing USA Swimming membership and evaluation by the LSC Officials Chair or their designee.</p>