

**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 pre-meet briefing . Performance monitored by Chief Timer and/or Referee during meet.
Evaluation & Certification	Certify after passing USA Timer's test and satisfactory performance at one meet.
Renewal	Based on satisfactory performance.

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

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

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

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

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