



TRAIN TO BE AN OFFICIAL !!! WE WANT YOU

Did You Know..

In order to host meets, our team needs a solid core of officials. Currently the bulk of our officials have swimmers who are seniors in high school. **We really need more parents of our age group swimmers to train as officials.** If we don't have officials, we can't host meets! Swim meets are a HUGE part of our sport, so **PLEASE** consider training for these volunteer positions.

Some Myths About Officiating:

MYTH: I could never be so mean as to DQ a little kid!

In reality, the officials are not out there to "disqualify swims". Think of it as they are there to "qualify swims" and ensure that strokes are performed properly. Officials are part of an important learning process for the swimmers. If a swimmer is disqualified for a rule violation, it doesn't have to be a negative experience. It serves a step to help them improve. By pointing out to them something that they are doing that is not legal, you play an important role in the teaching process.

MYTH: I do not know enough to become an official.

Some officials have a background in swimming when they first start training, but many do not. You do **NOT** need a background in swimming. There is a training process that all officials go through to help with the learning curve. Additionally, new officials are mentored by existing officials until they are ready officiate on their own. Officials learn through constant mentoring and continuing education opportunities.

MYTH: I really do not have time for this and cannot make the commitment. If I become an official, I will be forced to work every meet.

This is NOT the case. Many officials do voluntarily work way more than the minimum required sessions annually, but no official is ever told that they must work a meet. Many officials enjoy working the meets that their swimmers are entered in because they get to be on deck. Officiating is also a way for parents to meet required volunteer hours that clubs have. Instead of scrambling to sign up for timing or concession stand jobs, many parents just like the idea of having a known volunteer job.

So Why Become a USA Swimming Official?

- 1. You get to support the safety of the swimmers.**
- 2. You get to help ensure a fair process** by allowing everyone to compete on an even level.
- 3. It can be fun!** Quite simply, the athletes should be having fun otherwise why should they be here? This includes being properly educated in the rules, knowing how the meet is being run, and being respectful of everyone around them. A good officiating crew create an environment conducive to these principals by their conduct and by having fun volunteering their services. Officials also end up developing friendships with officials from other teams, which is an added bonus to the volunteer job.
- 4. You are showing your kid you are interested in what he/she is doing.** This is a big one! Our kids want our support and want us to show an interest in what they are doing. This is a great way to do it!

*****If interested in learning more, contact a coach or board member Greg Burns burnswg@gmail.com.**