

To become an official in swimming requires some knowledge of the sport. You can gain that knowledge very quickly by helping out at swim meets. Throughout the swim season, your Club Official Chair (COC) will arrange clinics to be conducted for those wishing to officiate. Your region may also hold Regional Officials Clinics, where several different clinics are offered over a full day. All on-deck officials start off with the Intro to Swimming Officiating that includes a timekeeper component. They then move on to Level II Clinics which includes the majority of other on-deck positions such as Stroke and Turn, Clerk of Course, Chief Timer, etc. The Referee clinic is a Level III clinic. All clinic material is available under "Officials Clinics" section.

There are other specialized clinics that can be offered at either a regional or provincial level such as Para Swimming clinics and Open Water clinics.

Swimming Canada is developing a standardized education program for swimming officials across Canada. As part of the standardized education program, Swimming Canada introduced two new clinics - The Intro to Swimming Officiating and Inspector of Turn and Judge of Stroke. In the coming months, more clinics will be developed by Swimming Canada which will replace the Swim Ontario Clinics found under "Officials Clinics".

Description of Official's Positions/Clinics

- **Intro to Swimming Officiating** (Level I) covers the timekeeper position on the deck. You will learn about swimming, the official, the coach and the introductory information to be a timekeeper on the deck.
- **Inspectors of Turns and Judge of Stroke** (Level II) - In this clinic, you will learn all the rules of the swimming strokes, turns and finishes. This clinic has videos and demonstrations that generate discussion. This clinic covers two positions on the deck: Inspector of Turn and Stroke Judge.
- **Clerk of Course** (Level II) - The Clerk of Course is a position that requires knowledge of the competition and its rules. They are responsible in making sure athletes are assigned heats and lanes and that they arrive to their assigned lanes for their swims. They are assisted by Marshals. They are also an information booth and first point of contact for coaches to hand in documents such as scratches, deck entries, etc.
- **Chief Timer** (Level II) - In this clinic, you will learn the role of Chief Timer. As the name implies, the Chief Timer is in charge of making sure that the timers are fulfilling their duties. The Chief Timer also troubleshoots situations that occur with the timers.
- **Chief Finish Judge / Chief Judge Electronics** (Level II) - These clinics are often given together as they are similar positions. You will be taught both the Chief Finish Judge (CFJ) and Chief Judge Electronics (CJE) roles. They are different depending on the timing system being used at competitions and the level of competition. The CFJ maintains the accuracy and integrity of the official times assigned to EVERY swim. Experience as a Chief Finish Judge is important

to gain before being a CJE. Learning the “clock operations” is also an asset to the Chief Judge Electronics position.

- **Recorder / Scorer** (Level II) - In this clinic, you will learn how to record and score results and placings for every swim. Most meets now use some type of Meet Management software to help with this. Swim meet experience is the best way to learn this position. It is called Desk Control in the Swimming Canada rule book. Deck evaluations are not required for this clinic.
- **Meet Manager** (Level II) - As the name implies, the meet manager makes sure that the swim meet runs smoothly from all aspect of the competition including but not limited to off-deck and office duties. Mentoring is crucial in learning this position. It is a demanding but well deserving position.
- **Starter** (Level II) - The central point of the Starter’s role is to ensure a fair start for all swimmers. The Starter and the Referee must work as a team to ensure fair and consistent starts throughout the session.
- **Referee** (Level III) - In this clinic, you will learn the role of Referee (the General Manager). The Referee is in charge of all aspects of the “field of play”. The Referee clinic should be taken once most Level III requirements are achieved (see certification process). This position will require more mentoring and experience before evaluations are conducted. The Clinic also touches on the role of the Competition Coordinator (meet referee).