

Indiana Swimming

Stroke & Turn Apprentice Session Guidelines

TO THE APPRENTICING OFFICIAL:

- Thank you for volunteering to become an Indiana swim official and help make the great sport of swimming possible. We trust you will find the experience rewarding.
- Bring several copies of these guidelines with you to the meet – one for the Meet Referee and one for each of the official(s) with whom you will be working on deck. It is possible that they will not have these guidelines.
- It is not necessary to give advance notice for an apprentice session. Arrive early enough for the meet session to allow you to locate the meet referee and discuss your training needs with him/her. Let the referee know how many sessions you have already worked, and discuss any concerns or questions you have regarding previous training sessions.
- Be an active participant in your training. Make sure to ask questions of your on-deck trainer(s) during the session, and of the Meet Referee both before and after the session.

TO THE REFEREE:

- Before the session, spend time talking with the apprenticing official to address any questions or concerns that may have come up in previous training sessions. Determine how many prior training sessions he/she has had, and determine the level of responsibility he/she should be given. At the beginning of the apprentice process the apprenticing official should be observing and asking questions. By the final (fourth) training session it is recommended that the apprentice officiate the session, with the trainer observing and confirming any calls made by the apprentice.
- During the stroke briefing take extra time not only on stroke rules, but also on areas such as deck protocol and jurisdiction which may be unfamiliar to the apprenticing official. Invite questions.
- During the training session, try to move the apprenticing official around the deck to give him/her exposure to start, turn and stroke jurisdiction.
- After the session, check with the on-deck trainer to see how the session went. Meet with the apprenticing official to review the session, and address any questions or concerns that may have come up.

TO THE ON-DECK TRAINER:

- Thank you for your willingness to participate in the training of our apprenticing officials.
- Between heats and events, be sure to invite questions from the apprenticing official as to what he/she observed during the previous race.
- Remember to emphasize basic principles such as maintaining a calm, observant demeanor on deck, providing equal coverage to all competitors, and giving the benefit of the doubt to the swimmer.
- Make sure the apprenticing official understands the jurisdiction under which you are working, and stress proper position when working stroke (typically at the feet of the trailing swimmer) and turns (front foot at the edge of the pool with a view of the wall).
- After the session, thank the apprenticing official for his/her time and efforts.