



Ozark Swimming Certification Standards for Dual Certified YMCA/USA Swimming Officials

USA Swimming Officials Mission Statement

“To develop officials who are competent, current and consistent from the LSC level meet to the highest in our sport through a progressive training program based on an accumulation of experience acquired by specific meet attendance, mentoring and constructive evaluation.”



Ozark Swimming has standardized the procedures for YMCA Officials wishing to certify as a USA Swimming Official. The requirements listed on the following pages comply with the USA Swimming/YMCA Reciprocity recommendations.

Levels of Certification

There are five levels of certification for swimming officials within the Ozark Swimming LSC:

1. Stroke and Turn Judge
2. Starter
3. Deck Referee
4. Administrative Referee
5. Meet Referee

(Please contact your Team Administrator for more information on reimbursement. Many teams will reimburse you for the expenses associated with becoming an official.)

Progression of Levels

Progression to each successive level starting as a New Official/Stroke and Turn Judge is summarized on the following pages. ***“Prerequisites” need to be in place prior to starting the apprenticeship to the next level.*** The steps necessary to maintain your certification at your current level are listed at the end of this document. You are responsible for meeting the annual certification requirements.

Expectations of Ozark Officials

- Know the Rules.
- Work meets regularly.
- Call what you see. Don't guess or anticipate.
- Be consistent in application of the rules.
- Disregard swimmers, age, identity or club affiliation.
- Use fair, unbiased judgment.

Ozark Officials Uniform

Shirt: The shirt worn shall be plain white, with a collar, and long or short sleeve. Female officials may wear sleeveless collared shirts. Logos may appear on the shirt; however, the logo shall be restricted to the front of the shirt, and the sleeve area. The logos may not contain, or represent the following: alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, Ozark Swimming member team names or logos, or suggestive/offensive messages. A Meet Shirt provided by USA Swimming, Ozark Swimming or an Ozark Swimming member teams is acceptable.

Shorts/Pants/Capris/Skirts/Skorts: Shall be khaki in color. Cutoffs of any type are not allowed. Denim/Jeans material is not appropriate attire for officials on the deck. *Navy is the official color for USA Swimming and is permitted on deck.*

Socks: Socks, if worn, should be plain white. Manufacturer's logos should be subdued.

Footwear: Athletic shoes are preferred. They should be as white as possible with little or no color and avoiding to the extent possible bold and brightly colored logos and stripes. Crocs and sandals are not appropriate for officials on the deck.

Hats/Visors: Are permitted at outdoor meets and should be white or navy. Hats and visors should not be worn at indoor meets.

Credentials: A valid USA Swimming ID card must be displayed at all times while on deck.



Dual Certification for New Officials USA Swimming Stroke and Turn Judge

Prerequisites to becoming a USA Swimming Stroke and Turn Judge:

Prerequisites must be completed prior to on-deck apprenticeship.

- **Be a minimum of 18 years of age.**
- **Attend a blended YMCA Level I/USA Swimming Training Clinic for Stroke & Turn Judge**
 - (\$15 fee payable to Ozark Swimming)
- **Join USA Swimming as a Non-Athlete Member (\$55 fee)**

*Clinic fee and USA Swimming fee must be paid separately via cash or checks **made payable to Ozark Swimming***

- **Create an account on the USA Swimming website** - Create an account by going to the [USA Swimming website](#). Click “Sign In” at the top right of the page. Click on the “Create an Account” link. Write down your ID and password exactly; you will need it.
- **Level 2 Background Check** – This is a new requirement for anyone who will have credentialed access to the pool deck. The link for this can be found on the Officials Page at [ozarkswimming.org](#). The fee for this is \$39 and must be completed every two years.
- **Complete online Athlete Protection Course** – This is a new requirement for anyone who will have credentialed access to the pool deck. The link for this can be found on the Officials Page at [ozarkswimming.org](#)

You must complete your Background check and Athlete Protection to receive your USA Swimming member ID. Please allow 7 business days for your Membership card to arrive once you’ve completed the background check and Athlete Protection course.

Access to the pool deck will be denied to anyone who does not have a current USA Swimming Non-Athlete ID.

- **Link Your USA Swimming Member ID to your USA Swimming Account** - Once you receive your ID card please add your ID number to your USA Swimming account. Once you do this you will be able to see your test results, track your sessions worked and print out your Certification Card.
- **Take & pass the following open-book, online test: “Certification - Stroke and Turn/Timer”** – Once you’ve signed in to the USA Swimming website select “Member Resources” then “Officials” then “Testing and Certification.” Read all the test instructions carefully. You should print out the test and save it online so you can return to the same test. After completing all the answers on the printed pages, return online and finish the test you started and saved.
 - 80% is passing. You can re-take the test if you do not achieve this score.
 - This must be completed within 45 days of attending the clinic.



Dual Certification for New Officials USA Swimming Stroke and Turn Judge cont'd.

Apprentice on deck at Ozark Swimming sanctioned meets

- Minimum of 5 sessions with at least 2 different Ozark Swimming certified officials as your mentor and 2 different meet referees.
 - After each meet have the mentoring official and meet referee sign your apprentice log.
 - 4 sessions must be during competition where the majority of athletes are 12 & under.
 - 1 session must be during 13 & over swimmer competition.
- 2 sessions and one Referee recommendation may be from a “USA Swimming Approved” YMCA meet with a dual certified USA Swimming/YMCA Meet Referee**

Apprentices must contact the Ozark Officials Coordinator prior to the Ozark Swimming meet(s) they would like to apprentice at.

On- deck Observation

Upon completion of apprentice sessions submit your completed “Apprentice Form” to the Ozark Officials Coordinator and schedule your observation. You will serve for an entire session as an independent Stroke and Turn Judge at an Ozark/USA Swimming sanctioned meet.

- *Observations are held during sessions where the majority of athletes are 12& under*

All apprentice sessions and observations must be completed at non-championship format meets and meets/sessions without time standards. These meets must Ozark/USA Swimming sanctioned meets. Intra-squad meets will not be counted toward apprentice sessions.

The entire certification process must be completed within 6 months from the date of the clinic the candidate attends or they must restart the process.

After you have passed your Observation

- **Print out your Qualified Official card** – After you have completed all the steps above you will receive an email stating that you are a “certified Stroke and Turn Judge”. Print this out and carry it along with your USA Swimming ID to show that you are a certified official with Ozark Swimming.
- **Work on-deck as a Certified Official** – complete before August 31, 2013
 - Work a minimum of 6 sessions as a certified official at Ozark/USA Swimming sanctioned meets hosted by teams other than your own.
 - 3 of these sessions may be at Ozark Swimming approved YMCA meets
 - Work 1 session at an Ozark Swimming sponsored Championship meet as a certified official.
 - A Champs – November 16-18
 - Division I – February 22-24
 - Long Course Champs – July 26-28

Maintaining your certification

Please review the Recertification requirements on the last page of this document.



Current YMCA Level I or II Certified Officials

Certification as a USA Swimming Stroke & Turn Judge

Prerequisites to becoming a USA Swimming Stroke and Turn Judge:

Prerequisites must be completed prior to on-deck apprenticeship.

- Contact the Ozark LSC Officials Committee and communicate desire to be certified in the LSC as a Stroke and Turn Judge.
- Must be a Level I or Level II certified YMCA Official for one year, *after certification*
- Provide proof of current YMCA certification and recommendations from 2 YMCA/USA Swimming dual certified Evaluators listed below who are familiar with your abilities and experience.
- Must become a member of USA Swimming and renew this membership annually. (non-athlete or athlete)
- Must submit and pass a Level 2 Background Check and the Athlete Protection Training course on the USA Swimming website
- Must have attended Dual Certification Clinic for Stroke and Turn Judge within the past 12 months.
- Must take and pass the following online test(s) on the USA Swimming website:
 - Certification test(s): Stroke and Turn Judge/Timer

Apprentices must contact the [Ozark Officials Coordinator](#) prior to the Ozark Swimming meet(s) they would like to apprentice at.

Apprenticeship

Apprentice with a USA Swimming Mentor Official for a *minimum* of 1 session at an Ozark Sanctioned USA Swimming meet to assess capabilities as a USA Swimming Stroke and Turn Judge.

- Assessment will include knowledge and application of USA Swimming technical rules, deck & radio protocols

Additional apprentice sessions may be required after initial apprentice session based on Mentor and Referee feedback.



Current YMCA Level I/II Certified Officials - Certification as a USA Swimming Stroke & Turn Judge cont'd

On- deck Observation

Upon completion of apprentice sessions submit your completed “Apprentice Form” to the Ozark Officials Coordinator and schedule your observation. You will serve for an entire session as an independent Stroke and Turn Judge at an Ozark/USA Swimming sanctioned meet.

- *Observations are held during sessions where the majority of athletes are 12& under*

All apprentice sessions and observations must be completed at non-championship format meets and meets/sessions without time standards. These meets must Ozark/USA Swimming sanctioned meets. Intra-squad meets will not be counted toward apprentice sessions.

The entire certification process must be completed within 6 months from the date of the clinic the candidate attends or they must restart the process.

After you have passed your Observation

- **Print out your Qualified Official card** – After you have completed all the steps above you will receive an email stating that you are a “certified Stroke and Turn Judge”. Print this out and carry it along with your USA Swimming ID to show that you are a certified official with Ozark Swimming.
- **Work on-deck as a Certified Official** – complete before August 31, 2013
 - Work a minimum of 6 sessions as a certified official at Ozark/USA Swimming sanctioned meets hosted by teams other than your own.
 - 3 of these sessions may be at Ozark Swimming approved YMCA meets
 - Work 1 session at an Ozark Swimming sponsored Championship meet as a certified official.
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Maintaining your certification

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Current YMCA Level II Officials Certification as a USA Swimming Starter

Prerequisites to becoming a Starter:

Prerequisites must be completed prior to on-deck apprenticeship.

- Contact the Ozark LSC Officials Committee and communicate desire to be certified in the LSC as a Starter
- Must be Level II certified YMCA Official for one year, after certification
- Provide proof of current YMCA certification and recommendations from 2 YMCA/USA Swimming dual certified Evaluators listed below who are familiar with your abilities and experience.
- Must attend an Ozark Advancement clinic for Starter
- Must become a member of USA Swimming and renew this membership annually. (non-athlete or athlete)
- Must submit and pass a Level 2 Background Check and Athlete Protection Training course on the USA Swimming website
- Must take and pass the online exam within 45 days of attending the clinic.
 - **Certification Tests:** Stroke and Turn Judge/Timer & Starter
 - Must receive a minimum passing grade of 80% on all tests

Apprentices must contact the [Ozark Officials Coordinator](#) prior to the Ozark Swimming meet(s) they would like to apprentice at.

Apprenticeship

- Complete 1 session as a Timing Judge that is deemed a success by the Meet Referee.
- Work a minimum of 1 apprentice session at an Ozark Sanctioned USA Swimming meet to assess capabilities as a USA Swimming Starter.

Additional apprentice sessions may be required after initial apprentice session based on Evaluator feedback



Current YMCA Level II Officials - Certification as a USA Swimming Starter cont'd

On-deck Observation

Upon completion of apprentice sessions submit your completed "Apprentice Form" to the Ozark Officials Coordinator and schedule your observation. You will serve for an entire session as a Starter at an Ozark/USA Swimming sanctioned meet.

- *Observations are held during sessions where the majority of athletes are 12 & under*

All apprentice sessions and observations must be completed at non-championship format meets and meets/sessions without time standards. These meets must Ozark/USA Swimming sanctioned meets. Intra-squad meets will not be counted toward apprentice sessions.

The entire certification process must be completed within 6 months from the date of the clinic the candidate attends or they must restart the process.

After you have passed your Observation

- **Print out your Qualified Official card** – After you have completed all the steps above you will receive an email stating that you are a "certified Stroke and Turn Judge". Print this out and carry it along with your USA Swimming ID to show that you are a certified official with Ozark Swimming.
- **Work on-deck as a Certified Official** – complete before August 31, 2013
 - Work a minimum of 6 sessions as a certified official at Ozark/USA Swimming sanctioned meets hosted by teams other than your own.
 - 3 of these sessions may be at Ozark Swimming approved YMCA meets
 - Work 1 session at an Ozark Swimming sponsored Championship meet as a certified official.
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Maintaining your certification

Please review the Recertification requirements on the last page of this document.



YMCA Level II Officials

Certifying at the USA Swimming Deck Referee Level and above

All Level II YMCA Officials will meet the same prerequisites and follow the same certification requirements as USA Swimming Officials for advancement to Deck, Administrative and Meet Referee in the Ozark Swimming LSC.



Recertification - All dual certified YMCA Officials

Each Season (September 1 – August 31)

- Be current member of USA Swimming (non-athlete or athlete) without any lapse
 - Work a minimum of 6 sessions as a certified Ozark/USA Swimming official at Ozark/USA Swimming sanctioned meets hosted by teams other than your own *
 - 3 of these sessions may be at Ozark Swimming approved YMCA meets
 - Work 1 session at an Ozark Swimming sponsored Championship meet as a certified official
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 - Long Course Champs – July 26-28

***Note: Apprentice sessions do not apply towards this requirement**

Every two years

- Must attend appropriate Ozark Official Recertification Clinic
 - Stroke and Turn Judges – Dual YMCA/USA Swimming Clinic
 - Starter and above – appropriate USA Swimming clinic
- Be a member of USA Swimming without any lapse in membership
- Must take and pass the appropriate online examinations within forty-five (45) days after attending the re-certification clinic. There are recertification test(s) appropriate for each level.
 - A score of 80% or better on all tests taken is necessary to pass the official's test. All Referees must score 90% to achieve a two-year certification; otherwise annual recertification is required.

Recertification Tests

Stroke and Turn Judge – Re-certification Stroke and Turn/Timer

Starter – Re-certification Starter

Deck Referee – Re-certification Referee, Timing Judge,

Clerk of Course

Admin Referee – Re-Certification Admin Referee, Timing Judge,

Clerk of Course

Meet Referee – Re-Certification Referee, Admin Referee, Timing Judge,

Clerk of Course

- Must renew Level 2 Background Check and Athlete Protection Training on the USA Swimming website

Recertification may be denied for failing to meet the Ozark Swimming annual and bi-annual certification requirements and/or unsatisfactory on-deck performance.



Ozark Swimming LSC Evaluators

Dale Andersen (YOSI)
Dan Dreiswerd (RSCA)
Bruce Dreyer (FAST)
Steve Grimm (RPLX)
Dana LeVassuer (EDWY)
Tom Lombardo (RSCA)
John Lynch (TCAY)
Dan Northem (RSCA)
Angie McLaughlin (RSCA)

Lori Metz (FAST)
Ernie Paskoff (RSCA)
Brian Perkins (RSCA)
Stephanie Petersen (PKWY)
Bill Rener (EDWY)
Mike Scott (FAST)
Jacques Thro (YOSI)
John Traube (FAST)
Kim Weiss (CSP)

Ozark Swimming Officials Committee

Brian Perkins- Officials Committee Chair
Bruce Dreyer
CeCe Etter – Athlete Representative
Steve Grimm
Mark Imig – Coach Representative
Lori Metz – Officials Coordinator
Bill Rener
Mike Scott
Jacques Thro
Kim Weiss