

Stroke & Turn Official Certification Process Overview

Thank you for your interest in becoming an official registered with GSC! As an official you can work at swim meets that GSC hosts and others throughout the state that we do not host. Officials are obviously very important to the running of swim meets, and your efforts are much appreciated by coaches, swimmers, and parents!

The following outlines the steps to become an official in Florida:

1. Attend a stroke & turn official clinic held by a certified clinic instructor (CCI). Clinics are listed on Florida Swimming's website. You can download a stroke & turn clinic packet from <https://www.teamunify.com/team/szfillsc/page/officials/officials-clinics>.
2. You have two options for registration forms, depending on the time frame in which you intend to apprentice. Your CCI can assist you in deciding whether to:

Complete and submit the current USA Swimming Apprentice Official Application form to Florida Swimming. This temporary one-time free 60-day apprentice membership complies with Safe Sport Regulations and is effective starting from the first day of apprenticing on deck. Before the expiration of the 60-day free membership, you would need to submit the current USA Swimming current Non-Athlete Registration Application form to the Florida Swimming office and pay the annual USA Swimming membership fee.

OR

Complete and submit the current USA Swimming Non-Athlete Registration Application form to the Florida Swimming office and pay the annual USA Swimming membership fee now.

3. Create a free USA Swimming account and complete the Stroke & Turn/Timer Certification Test. Do not use your child's account or anyone else's—it must be set up with your own user name and password so you are credited with your complete requirements. You must complete the open rulebook test with passing score of 80% as you are already beginning your apprenticeship. This test is recommended to be started soon after the clinic (or can be done before) as it will help you become familiar with the technical rules and their locations in the current year's USA Swimming rulebook.
4. APPRENTICE: Apprentice on deck as soon as you complete a Florida clinic! Apprentice Officials can sign in 1 hour prior to any session with the meet referee at any meet sanctioned by Florida Swimming, attend the briefing, bring your apprentice form, and be assigned with a certified official mentor. (No apprenticing at State LSC Championships—sorry!)
5. Within 60 days of your first apprentice session on deck, complete the USA Swimming Non-Athlete Registration Application (if you have not already), submit to a Level 2 background check, and complete the free Athlete Protection Training

online course. Complete the open book Stroke & Turn/Timer test if you are not finished.

NOTE: It is helpful and timely for you to complete these steps as you are going through your apprentice training of minimum 20 hours on deck with different mentors. Ask your area rep, clinic instructor or refer to your clinic packet if you are unclear on any of the steps.

6. Learn about OTS, the Officials Tracking System. OTS will show you your complete history, accomplishments, and contributions to the athletes of Florida Swimming & beyond and serves as a record if you take your volunteer expenses off on your taxes. More info on the OTS is available at USASwimming.org

Thank you for joining a great team of professional volunteer officials! Without you, the fast growing sport and organization of swimming cannot be successful!

Any questions can be sent to Florida Swimming's office at FLSOffice2@aol.com.