

An Open Invitation to You!

Thank you for taking a moment to read this open invitation to join the ranks of Georgia Swimming Officials.

The commitment of volunteers as Georgia Swimming officials creates opportunities for our athletes to compete, since a minimum number of trained officials are required to host each Georgia Swimming sanctioned/approved swim meet. Your choice to become an entry-level official: either as a **Stroke & Turn Judge**, who evaluates swims; a **Clerk of Course**, who deals with swimmers' entries and scoring, or a **Timing Equipment Operator**, contributes to the strength of your own team and to the success that USA Swimming athletes enjoy locally, nationally, and internationally. Officiating yields great friends and wonderful experiences to you.

How do I become a USA Swimming Official?

We have three entry level positions:

- Stroke & Turn Judge (S&T) -- The officials standing at either end of the pool or walking along the side of the pool observing the swimmers to ensure that the technical rules of the individual strokes are being followed. Progression for S&T include positions of Starter and Referee
- Administrator - Clerk of Course (CoC) -- The officials who deal with the paper work side of swim meets. They also serve as an information center answering general type questions from swimmers, coaches, other officials, and parents / spectators. Progression for CoC include Recorder/Scorer (Hy Tech operator), Timing judge, and Meet Directors.
- Automatic Timing Equipment Operator (ATO) -- The officials responsible for the automatic and semi-automatic timing equipment, including the electronic starting and scoreboard (if used).

What's required to be an official?

- You must be, or become a non-athlete member of USA Swimming in most cases. (current annual membership cost \$54)
- Complete designated training program for the entry level position of your choice. (current cost \$15).
- Serve as an apprentice official for a designated number of swim sessions.
- Complete the background check required by USA Swimming. (current cost either \$19 or \$39 — depending on position).

What is involved in the training programs?

- Stroke & Turn Judge (S&T) -- S&T training is primarily accomplished via a "Home School" program. After completing the necessary application, which will be provided, you will receive a USA Swimming rule book and a CD /

DVD containing our self paced training program. You study at home at your own pace, taking as much or as little time as you need. When you complete your studies and the "open book " exams, contact your training coordinator who sent you the Home School program and a mini express clinic will be scheduled, usually at a swim meet that you plan on attending. Following the clinic you need to complete an apprenticeship of 6 sessions accomplished at 3 separate meets working with a certified S&T judge to gain your certification. For those of you who do not like to work on a computer we do offer a full S&T training clinic that takes 4 'A to 5 hours to complete. This mega-clinic is followed by the apprentice described above.

- Clerk of Course (CoC) -- CoC training involves attending a training clinic (4 to 4 'A) hours. Following the clinic you need to complete a apprenticeship of 5 sessions accomplished at 3 separate meets working with a certified CoC to gain your certification.
- Automatic Timing Equipment Operator (ATO) -- ATO training involves attending a training clinic (3 to 4) hours. Following the clinic you need to complete an apprenticeship of 10 sessions working with a certified ATO to gain your certification.

How do I get started ?

- Talk to your swim coach, or the officials coordinator or any other official on your team or any official that you run into.
- Complete and print the application found at the following link:
<http://www.gaswim.org/regdocs/usaswimnonathlete.pdf>
- Mail the form and payment (two separate checks both payable to Georgia Swimming Inc, one for \$54 [USA Swimming Non-Athlete Membership fee, valid now until Dec 31, 2011] and one for \$15 [Clinic Fee] to **Rob Schreer, 1761 Milford Creek Overlook, Marietta Ga 30008** or Contact Georgia Swimming Officials Training Chair, Rob Schreer at (770) 333-0425 or h2oref@bellsouth.net if you have a lingering question or you just want to talk to someone

PS; If you make your decision to join after mid August 2011 call me about a special rate before submitting a 2011 application.