North Texas Swimming, Inc.
Officials Certification/Recertification Requirements

Starter

Purpose

Establish the requirements and guidelines for becoming and recertifying as a North Texas Swimming, Inc. (NTSI) Starter. This policy and the requirements are maintained by the NTSI Officials Committee.

Certification Requirements

Prerequisites

- Be at least 19 years of age.
- Be registered with USA Swimming as a non-athlete member.
- Have a current Level 2 Background Check.
- Have a current Athlete Protection Training certification.
- Must have worked as a certified Stroke and Turn Judge for a minimum of 10 sessions.
- Be accepted by the NTSI Officials Chair to begin the Starter apprenticeship.

Education

- Attend an NTSI Starter clinic. Currently scheduled clinics are posted on the NTSI website.
- Complete the following USA Swimming test with a score of 80% or better, prior to completing the apprenticeship:
  - Certification – Starter

Training

- Work a minimum of 6 sessions at no less than 3 NTSI sanctioned meets, with at least 2 different mentors and under at least 2 different Meet Referees.
  - The sessions must be completed at a minimum of 2 different pool locations.
  - At least 3 sessions shall be at a B/C (Level 3) or unclassified meet.
  - After each session, the Meet Referee and/or mentor shall conduct a review of the session with the apprentice and record their comments in the Apprentice Log.
- Present a timer briefing prior to the start of 1 NTSI sanctioned meet.
- When the apprentice believes that he or she is ready for certification, the apprentice should ask the Meet Referee to sign the Apprentice Log in the section titled, “Recommending Referees.”
  - The signing referee must be the acting Meet Referee for the meet at which the apprentice worked.
  - Signatures from two different Meet Referees, each at a different meet, are required for certification.

Certification

- Prior to certification, the apprentice must be certified as a Stroke and Turn Judge for a minimum of 1 year.
- Certification must be completed WITHIN ONE YEAR (12 MONTHS) of beginning the apprenticeship.
- When at least 2 Meet Referees recommend certification, the apprentice will send his or her Apprentice Log to the Officials Committee, which will then appoint an Evaluator to observe the apprentice at a checkout meet. The Evaluator cannot be one of the recommending Meet Referees.
- Following the checkout meet, if the Evaluator agrees that the apprentice is ready for certification, the Evaluator will send a recommendation to the Officials Committee for endorsement.
- Once the Officials Committee verifies that the apprentice has met all requirements, the Officials Chair will enter the official into USA Swimming’s Officials Tracking System (OTS) as a certified LSC Starter.
- The Officials Committee will notify the apprentice that he or she has completed the apprenticeship.

Revision Date: 09/02/2018

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Recertification Requirements

To recertify as an NTSI Starter, an official must complete the following **every** (calendar) year:

- Officiate at a minimum of 10 sessions at USA Swimming sanctioned meets, with at least 6 of those sessions at NTSI sanctioned meets. Out of the 10 sessions, 4 sessions must be as a Starter or higher capacity.
- These sessions must be conducted at a minimum of 2 different pool locations. Sessions completed during a calendar year as an apprentice will count towards the minimum requirement of sessions for that year.
- Renew USA Swimming registration as a non-athlete member.

Additionally, the official must complete the following once **every two** years:

- Attend the Officials Recertification Meeting.
- Complete the following USA Swimming test with a score of 80% or better:
  - Re-Certification – Starter
- Maintain a current Level 2 Background Check.
- Maintain current Athlete Protection Training requirements.

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