



Are you interested in being a USA Swimming or High School official?



As a parent of a child in USA Swimming you have the opportunity to be involved with your child and their sport in various ways. One very important way of contributing to the success of their swimming program is by volunteering your time and effort as a certified USA Swimming Official. All USA Swimming Officials are volunteers and contribute greatly to the development of the program at all levels. Officials are present at all competition to implement the technical rules of swimming and to ensure that the competition is fair and equitable to all competitors, giving the benefit of the doubt, in every instance, to the swimmer.

We are always looking for volunteers who are interested in becoming deck officials. Novice officials generally start as stroke and turn officials, and learn the ropes by attending clinics, using self-study materials to become certified by USA Swimming, and working on deck under the supervision of several experienced officials. Those who are interested in "moving up the ladder" to serving as a chief judge, then to refereeing and starting -- again, learn through a combination of clinics, self-study materials, and on-the-job training.

Is your swimmer in high school? Will they be on the high school swim team? The need for certified and trained officials at the high school level is even greater than the need for officials at the USA Swimming level. Many high schools do not even have *any* trained officials available to them. Get trained by USA Swimming – work as many, or as few USA meets as you want to – but contribute to your swimmer's high school by working as an official at those fast paced (2 to 2 ½ hour) meets in the spring.

Some of the "benefits" of becoming a USA Swimming official include:

- You are helping support your child in their chosen sport.
- Gain a fuller understanding of swimming and sports in general.
- On-going training and certification / advancement.
- Knowing that you helped ensure fairness at the USA and/or high school meets.
- Work at high level USA Swimming meets – Junior Olympics, Far Westerns, etc.
- Get your National Certification and have Olympians "swimming in your lane".
- Preferred "front row" parking at most of the very crowded pool parking lots.
- 10% discount on your PLS dues.
- Fulfill PLS volunteer obligations at meets you would attend anyway (home & away).
- If you work as an official at an away meet your family is excused from timing duties.
- Lunch, snacks and drinks all day long.
- Get an almost endless supply of white polo shirts <grin>.

Now is the time to get involved! If you have further questions or wish to take the first step to becoming involved, contact Alex Dourov for more information on getting started as an official. Leave a note in the Meet Director folder or send an email to meetdirector@pleasantonseahawks.org

Pacific Swimming will be holding an official's clinic in mid January, 2010. You will NOT be obligating yourself to being a full time, year round official by attending this FREE training. If you are even remotely interested in officiating for USA Swimming or just want to get some training to be an official at your high school, Pacific Swimming will teach you all you need to know!