



Primer for HSA Officials

HSA Officials

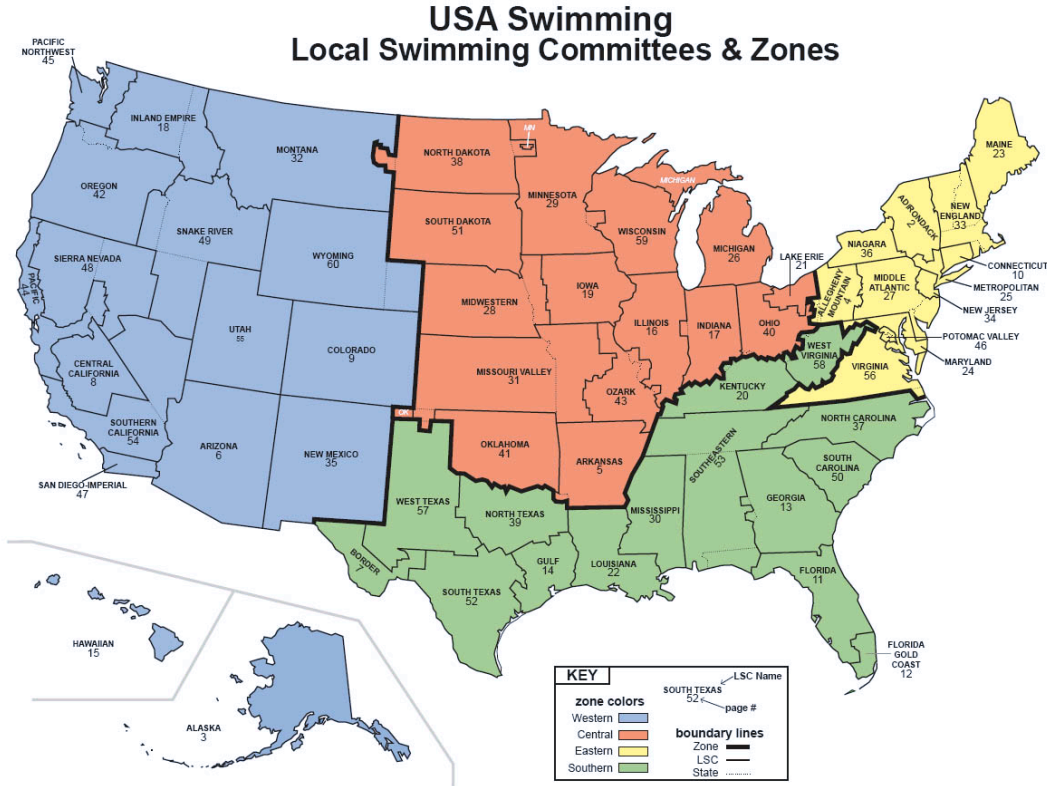
The HSA Officials Committee is authorized and obligated to recruit, train, test, certify, evaluate, retest, re-certify, promote and supervise officials for SES and such other activities as may be necessary or helpful in maintaining a roster of qualified, well-trained, and experienced officials of the highest caliber.

Why become an Official? In order to conduct a sanctioned USA Swimming (USA-S) meet and have swimmers receive official credit for times, certified USA-S officials must conduct meet. (Host team is responsible for providing officials.) ***Here are some other reasons:***

- ◆ You're at the meet anyway mate - why not officiate?
- ◆ Swimming is a family sport that is volunteer intensive - officiating **counts for your volunteer requirement** for our home meets.
- ◆ Best seat in the house!
- ◆ Club covers USA-S fee/registration which makes you a member of USA-S and provides additional insurance.
- ◆ Free food at meets - home and away.
- ◆ Possible Tax write-offs for away meets. Please consult your accountant and applicable State & Federal Tax laws.
- ◆ You become more educated/informed on the sport (and you **DON'T** have to be a former swimmer/current swimmer).
- ◆ **Camaraderie** plus you get to wear a cool "uniform" which consists of white shoes, tan slacks/shorts, and a white shirt.
- ◆ When you become a USA-S certified official, you are qualified to officiate for the Rocket City Swim League and High School swim meets.
- ◆ Opportunity to learn more from our coaches and also provide them feedback from a different perspective.

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[USA Swimming](#) is the National Governing Body (NGB) for competitive swimming in this country. It is sub-divided into 4 Zones and 59 Local Swimming Committees (LSCs) which maintain jurisdiction over local swimming competition.



Southeastern Swimming (SES) is one of these 59 LSCs with a geographic territory of the State of Alabama (except Chambers and Russell counties), the State of Tennessee, and the portion of the State of Florida west of the the Apalachicola River (excluding Gulf County). SES consists of over 60 USA Swimming registered member clubs. SES has over 7,600 swimmers and has a rich history of producing collegiate and Olympic athletes. Huntsville Swim Association (HSA) is part of SES. HSA offers competitive swim programs for the youth of



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this area from the novice to the Olympic competition level and a variety of training levels and training times.

USA-S MINIMUM STANDARDS Guidelines For Utilization By LOCAL SWIMMING COMMITTEE (LSC) OFFICIALS

MISSION: Our sport relies heavily on volunteers to work in the capacity of officials in order to conduct *fair and equitable competition* for our athletes. In order to achieve this stated goal minimum standards have been adopted by Resolution by the USA Swimming Board of Directors.

The goal of having all Local Swim Committees (LSC) adopt these minimum standards for certification of officials is to set standards, that when applied, will accomplish the following:

- ★ Assure a clear and consistent knowledge of the rules.
- ★ Provide sufficient time in training to assure familiarity with all levels of competition.
- ★ Provide opportunity to work on the deck and advance through the certification process.
- ★ Allow automatic acceptance at the Stroke & Turn level between all LSCs meeting the USA Swimming Minimum Standards Guidelines.
- ★ Maintain knowledge of the current rules.

The sessions referred to in the guidelines should be of duration to assure sufficient time to observe a significant number of swimmers and should contain a complete schedule of events to provide the opportunity to observe all strokes. LSC's may set minimum standards for additional positions such as Referee (Non-Starter), Administrative Referee (Non-Referee), Clerk of Course, Timing Judge, Equipment Operator, etc.



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Here are the SES minimum standards:



Southeastern Officials Minimum Standards				
<i>Position</i>	<i>Min. Age</i>	<i>Education and Training</i>	<i>Evaluation and Certification</i>	<i>Renewal</i>
Timer	11	None except pre-meet briefing.	The head timer monitors performance during the meet.	None
Stroke and Turn Judge / Relay Takeoff Judge	18	<p>Must attend a stroke and turn clinic. Must pass the USAS Timer and Stroke and Turn Judge Tests.</p> <p>A minimum of six (6) on-deck training sessions in at least two sanctioned meets.</p> <p>The apprentice shall not raise their hand nor disqualify swimmers.</p>	<p>Evaluation by trainer and/or Meet Referee. Certification approved and issued by the Officials Committee.</p> <p>Certification must be completed within one year of taking the USAS Stroke and Turn test.</p>	<p>Renewal requires:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attendance at one Stroke & Turn Clinic annually. 2. Pass a Stroke & Turn recertification test after one year and every third year thereafter. 3. Work a minimum of six (6) sessions as a Stroke and Turn Judge or in a higher capacity annually.
Chief Judge	19	Must be an EXperienced S & T Judge.	Must be a EXperienced S & T Judge.	Renewal is concurrent with recertification as Stroke and Turn Official.
Starter	21	<p>Must be an EXperienced S & T Judge, must attend a Starter clinic and must pass the USAS Starters' test.</p> <p>Must apprentice for a minimum of six (6) sessions in at least two (2) sanctioned meets.</p>	<p>Certification is based upon the recommendation of the trainer(s) and/or the Referee(s). The certification is approved and issued by the Officials' Committee.</p>	<p>Renewal requires:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attendance at one (1) Starter clinic annually. 2. Pass the Starter recertification test after one (1) year and every third year thereafter. 3. Work a minimum of six (6) sessions as a Starter or in a higher capacity annually.
Deck Referee	21	<p>Must be an EXperienced Starter. The apprentice must be familiar with the positions of Clerk of Course, Timer, Timing Judge, Meet Marshal, S & T Judge, Starter, and Admin Referee.</p> <p>Must pass all sections of the USAS Officials tests.</p> <p>The apprentice must attend a Referee clinic and apprentice for a minimum of eight (8) sessions at three sanctioned meets with at least two (2) different referees. At least two (2) sessions must be as an Assistant Admin Referee.</p>	<p>Certification is based upon the recommendation of the Referee trainers. The certification is approved and issued by the Officials' Committee.</p>	<p>Renewal requires:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attendance at one (1) Referee clinic annually. 2. Pass the Referee recertification test after one (1) year and every third year thereafter. 3. Work a minimum of six (6) sessions while serving in at least four (4) of those sessions as a Referee. 4. Renewal is based upon continuing evaluation by the Officials Chairperson or designee.
Meet Referee	21	Apprentice as a Meet Referee for at least all sessions of a multiple day meet.	The certification is approved and issued by the Officials' Committee and the Officials' Chair.	Once certified, renewal is concurrent with recertification as a Deck Referee and continued agreement of the Officials' committee.
<p>*Notes: No person may officiate at a meet in which he or she is competing. <u>A Qualified official has less than one year experience.</u></p>				
<p>Once initial training is complete or when recertifying, the official must send an email to their Officials' Committee member, attaching test results from USAS where appropriate, and in the body of the email listing their clinic date and approximate number of sessions worked each year. They will then be notified when their Certification card is available online through the OTS.</p>				



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How much time does it take to become a USA-S official?

Not much.

- 1) Sign up for an account on USA-S (3 minutes).
- 2) Download current USA-S Handbook and familiarize yourself with the content (60 minutes).
- 3) Take Stroke and Turn Test on-line (open book) (120 minutes).
- 4) The rest takes place on the pool deck when you're at the meet anyway.

That's it! The more you officiate at meets, the easier it becomes. HSA has access to additional video and other training materials/aids to assist in attaining your certification. Please contact any HSA official if you are interested or have any questions. See you on the deck.

HSA Officials Committee