

## How to become a Swim Official

*Officiating is a lot of fun! The people are friendly, great to work with, passionate about swimming and want to provide the best possible experience for our swimmers. We always need help! Many of our officials no longer have kids swimming- they do it because they love it and want to pay it forward! With officiating, you get a front row seat to see your child swim, fed, drink all the free water or soda you want, get paid and can wear white shoes after Labor Day!*

**USA Swimming:** Required for Club Swimming

1. Go to the Alamo Area Aquatic Association (referred to as “Quad A”) at [www.aaaa-sa.org](http://www.aaaa-sa.org)
2. On the left-hand side of the page, there will be a column for Club swimming and link for South Texas Swimming LSC (local swim club). There are links for the USA Swimming required training as well (Athlete Protection & Background checks- see 4c-e below for more information) [www.teamunify.com/Home.jsp?team=szstxlsc](http://www.teamunify.com/Home.jsp?team=szstxlsc)
3. Once on the South Texas site, click on the Officials link in the header bar. It will bring up a schedule of upcoming clinics- you must attend a stroke and turn clinic to be an official, USA Swimming or UIL (High School). If you have any questions, there is a contact listed for each clinic. It is typically a 1 ½ to 2-hour clinic for stroke and turn (which satisfies USA Swimming requirements, for UIL it is an additional hour or ~3 hours total).
4. Below the clinic schedule on that same South Texas page, the requirements for certification is in a chart with a red header and yellow boxes. The steps you need to follow are listed.
  - a. Click on the link for the South Texas registration Page to complete a Non-Athlete application. It is required annually and has a link to PayPal for the \$77 registration fee.
  - b. Complete the 2020 Club application, link is provided for documents.
  - c. Establish your USA-S website login and associate your login with your USA-S ID (may need to contact South Texas swimming registration for USA Swimming ID number). Once logged in, click on the “My Account” link in the upper right side and steps through the process to create your Deck Pass (USA Swimming account that tracks your training and meets). It is separate from your child’s account.
  - d. Complete a Level 2 Background check, \$38. Link from USA Swimming website to IntelliCorp, the agency that completes the background check <https://www.usaswimming.org/background-checks>
  - e. Once your background check has cleared, you are registered on USA Swimming and have your Deck Pass, then complete the online training for

Athlete Protection, Concussion management and take your Stroke and Turn open book test. Access thru STS or USA Swimming websites, both have links.

On the USA Swimming website main page, Athlete Protection course is found under the "Safe Sport" tab on the header bar. Concussion training and the online test for stroke and turn is found under the "For You" tab on the header bar, click on the section for Officials, it will have the links to concussion training, online test for stroke and turn as well as other helpful educational materials for you. DO NOT take the training courses until you are registered with USA Swimming and have your ID#, otherwise you **will not** get credit for those courses and will have to retake them.

Any issues or questions, you may contact [registration@stswim.org](mailto:registration@stswim.org) (Mindy Donofrio).

Once you have completed all those steps, send an email to Charles Yang ([hellaheat@yahoo.com](mailto:hellaheat@yahoo.com)) so that he may update your credentials.

STS will give you an official's shirt and name tag. The typical uniform is white shirt over khaki pants, shorts, skirt/skorts and white shoes. For championship meets, the shirt may be navy blue, but the Meet Ref will identify ahead of time the uniform/meet protocol.

The registration fee & background check are reimbursable once you have completed your 10 training sessions and begin to "officially" officiate. Email our Treasurer, Marc Digby [treasurer@stswim.org](mailto:treasurer@stswim.org) to submit.

USA Swimming will mail you a rule book, although it can take several weeks to a month. If you would like a USA Swimming rule book (different from UIL rule book), you can purchase one, pocket size \$6 or full size \$12 on [www.swimoutlet.com](http://www.swimoutlet.com)

### ***UIL (High School) Swimming:***

On the Quad A website ([www.aaaa-sa.org](http://www.aaaa-sa.org)) High school information is on the right side. Upcoming clinics will be posted in the middle of Quad A's main webpage. Click on the TISDO link (Texas Interscholastic Swimming and Diving Officials) [www.tisdo.org](http://www.tisdo.org)

On the TISDO main webpage, click on the link for Arbiter Sports Registration and complete registration, \$30. You will also have to take and pass a UIL rules test (some UIL rules differ from USA Swimming, which affects disqualifications re: swimming technique). The test is also open book and you will receive that book at a UIL stroke and turn clinic (see step 3 above). This registration period is **only open until Oct 31, 2019 11:59pm** so if you are interested don't wait to register! *You do not have to be a USA Swimming certified Official to officiate high school.*

For both USA Swimming and UIL, you will want to download the GroupMe app- it's how officials communicate in our South Texas LSC. Steve Mandacina is the contact, just email him ([SMandacina@hanger.com](mailto:SMandacina@hanger.com)) and ask to be added to the group once you are up and running.