

**Stroke and Turn Clinic**

**Florida Gold Coast**

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**How To Become an USA Swimming Official**

Topic: Stroke and Turn Clinic

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Welcome to the world of swim officiating! This page contains all the information you need to become an entry level swim official.

**Why Be an Official?**

There are lots of great reasons to become a swim official…

* We need you! Maybe it looks to you like we have plenty of folks on deck…but the fact is that at most meets we have about half the number of folks we need to effectively officiate!
* Contribute meaningfully to the sport! Sitting in the stands or in a lawn chair on deck is better than not showing up for your children, but becoming an official demonstrates to them the kind of parent you are --- caring and active.
* Great view! You are right there at the point of the action.
* Hospitality! At most all meets you are ‘fed and watered’ to your hearts content.
* Camaraderie! Meet and make friends with lots of other folks from all over your area and the state and enjoy the energy and spirit of the officials group.
* We are NOT little league…in swimming, unlike many sports, we pay for professional coaching, and rely on volunteer officials…that’s the way it should be, not the other way around!

**What do ‘Stroke and Turn Judges’ do?**

The officials help the coaches and swimmers by maintaining a fair competitive environment. Stroke and Turn Judges (S/T) will observe the swimmers after the start and report any violations of the stroke and turn rules to the Referee. Officials should never incorrectly report a violation of the rules, as it is expected that all reports are based on 100% certainty that what is reported as a disqualification is a violation of the rules. The swimmers ALWAYS get the benefit of the doubt!

**Officials—Levels**

Swimming officials are divided into several levels, and once you have become a S/T judge, you can choose to progress to additional levels if you wish. There is no level more important than the Stroke and Turn level, but you learn additional skills at each level. The additional levels are:

• Starter

• Deck Referee

• Meet Referee

• Clinical Instructor (someone who teaches clinics)

**How To Become an Official**

Certification at each level requires formal instruction (a clinic), testing, and supervised experience on deck. For Starter and Referee, experience at the preceding level is also required.

Here are the specific steps required:

1. **Become a USA Swimming non-athlete member**

a) [**60 day apprentice membership**](https://www.teamunify.com/szfgslsc/UserFiles/Image/QuickUpload/fgc---2022-application---apprentice-official_065640.pdf) – **Fill this form out NOW. You must complete your training in 60 days. You can wait for the full membership once you decide that this is how you want to volunteer.**

b) [**Full USA Swimming Non-Athlete Member registration**](https://www.teamunify.com/szfgslsc/UserFiles/Image/QuickUpload/fgc---2022-application---non-athlete_089054.pdf)**– For those who are sure!**

2. [**Create a login/password for USA Swimming / Deck Pass (if you don't have one already) and link it to your non-athlete membership**](https://www.usaswimming.org/register)

3. [**Complete a (level II) background check**](https://www.usaswimming.org/safe-sport/complete-a-background-check)

4. [**Complete the Athlete Protection Course**](https://www.usaswimming.org/utility/landing-pages/safe-sport/apt)

5. [**Complete Concussion Training**](https://www.usaswimming.org/officials/concussion-protocol-training)

6.  Attend a Stroke and Turn Clinic.

7. [**Take and pass the Stroke and Turn online test**](https://www.usaswimming.org/officials/popular-resources/online-testing)

8. Complete four sessions on deck as an apprentice official during which time you will shadow an experienced official.

The above steps can be completed in about any order, although step #6 must precede step #8.

**Officiating Videos from USA Swimming**

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| [**Butterfly**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ajQQQnSKQ0&list=PLJUznzZd1j8Urx4pxOW9gYFCzrWMb0jgx&index=6) |
| [**Backstroke**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v5IjKFBIY18&list=PLJUznzZd1j8Urx4pxOW9gYFCzrWMb0jgx&index=1) |
| [**Breaststroke**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ZXUEfP-Agc&list=PLJUznzZd1j8Urx4pxOW9gYFCzrWMb0jgx&index=5) |
| [**Freestyle**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=baQJzcnG3oQ&list=PLJUznzZd1j8Urx4pxOW9gYFCzrWMb0jgx&index=4) |
| [**Individual Medley**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6w452d_ZcAA&list=PLJUznzZd1j8Urx4pxOW9gYFCzrWMb0jgx&index=3) |
| [**Relays**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BV2dAE0VXTE&list=PLJUznzZd1j8Urx4pxOW9gYFCzrWMb0jgx&index=2) |
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Thank you for considering becoming an USA Swimming Official’

We will see you on DECK!!!!!!

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84432394447?pwd=bFJGZmdGR1dqTE1TdVBDWGdoZ25Cdz09

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Passcode: 610864

One tap mobile

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+13017158592,,84432394447#,,,,\*610864# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

 +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

 +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

 +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

 +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

 +1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

 +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

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