



**Florida Swimming**

**Meet Referee**

**Officials Clinic Packet**



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## THE REFEREE

The Referee must be a leader whose natural inclination is to serve; an inclination that may lead one to accept this leadership role in the sport of swimming. To serve others means to understand and be aware of the athletes, officials, coaches, parents and others in the sport. The Referee leads by example in showing respect, honesty, fairness, integrity and responsible behavior that characterize authentic sportsmanship.

The Referee is committed to:

- ensuring the integrity of the sport and the profession of officiating;
- conducting him/herself with dignity and good humor, while ensuring fair and equitable conditions for the competition;
- remaining impartial, while sustaining positive relationships and building trust in the swim community;
- maintaining a current understanding of the rules and their application;
- fostering the growth in expertise for all officials through teaching, providing workshops and working with officials on the deck. The Referee is the primary leader and educator for both new and experienced officials.

## MEET REFEREE

The Meet Referee is certified to be in charge of the operation of a USA Swimming sanctioned swim meet, being sure that the meet is run within the rules and spirit of the philosophies of USA Swimming. These ideals can be summarized with this statement from page 1 of the Technical Rules...

*"All competitive swimming events held under USA Swimming sanction shall be conducted in accordance with the following rules that are designed to provide fair and equitable conditions of competition and promote uniformity in the sport so that no swimmer shall obtain unfair advantage over another."*

It is the role of the Meet Referee to ensure that the above goal is attained.

In the capacity of being a Meet Referee, sometimes we don't fully realize the responsibility that we accept when we say "Sure I'll referee your meet".

By making that commitment, you have just agreed to administer, coordinate, and adjudicate that meet. That is a big responsibility and this document is intended to help you be Pro-active before and during the meet - instead of Re-active, because you did not anticipate or prepare.

The USA Swimming Officials committee states that the Meet Referee:

*May modify any rule for a competitive swimmer who has a disability. Such modification shall be in accordance with the USA Swimming Rules*

*The referee must be knowledgeable of:*

- *Timing procedures, equipment and the specific rules that apply to each type of equipment used.*
- *Across-the-board judging procedures.*
- *Check-in and seeding procedures.*
- *Starting procedures, rules and application.*
- *Recording and balloting procedures.*
- *Stroke and Turn Judging, stroke rules, jurisdiction, application and enforcement.*

*The referee must have mastered the application and use of the starting and stroke and turn rules, their fair enforcement and appropriate judging. She/he is responsible for the effective functioning of the meet and will monitor and assist, as necessary, all officials in performing their functions to ensure the participants are provided with a quality competitive swimming environment. The referee must have learned, acquired and possess: sound swimming leadership, positive swimming attitude and effective administrative skills.*

## REFEREEING GUIDELINES

The Referee has the most influence on the consistency and the quality of officiating. The referee makes sure the rules are applied equitably and fairly. The referee sets the standard for officiating and greatly influences the atmosphere of the meet. The nervous, unprepared, excitable referee can make other officials, coaches and swimmers feel that the meet is not under control and things can go wrong at anytime. A calm, confident and competent referee also imparts that feeling to those around them, and the whole meet reflects a secure, relaxed atmosphere where swimmers can compete to their full potential.

As a Starter and a Deck Referee you were part of the team running the meet and had an opportunity to understand much of what it is to be a Meet Referee.

If you have any concerns or questions in your efforts to complete the tests or Apprenticing on deck, it is in your best interest that you contact your Area Officials Representative to clear up the point of concern.

- As the Meet Referee, you need to think of yourself as the "manager" of the meet. You need to always be doing both your direct duties and as well be observing and managing the other officials on the deck. A good referee is using every moment of their time to observe everything that is happening in the pool and on the deck. Is anything or anyone in the pool that could interfere with the swimmers? Are the timers doing their job? Are the officials in position and observant? Have any DQ's been called?
- Always have your copy of the USA Swimming Rule book, Florida Swimming rules & regulations and a copy of the Meet Announcement. These items are to be used and followed *without exception* and referred to as needed.
- The rules are designed to provide a fair and equitable condition for all competitors. It is necessary that you enforce and interpret all applicable rules with total impartiality. A standard of ethics and demeanor dictates that you should assume a *protective* rather than a *punitive* attitude towards rule enforcement.
- Rules and their interpretations are established by the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee. That allows swimmers to compete under the same conditions, no matter where in USA Swimming they do compete.

## OFFICIAL TIME

No matter what the type or size of meet, there is one thing that all swimmers have in common...they want to know **"what was my time?"**. The rules state (102.24.1D) that *"It is the meet director's responsibility to provide the proper timing systems so that swimmers can expect to achieve official times that will satisfy the requirements of 102.24.1C."*

In other words, it is incumbent upon us as the **Meet Referees, working with Meet Management and , if assigned, the Administrative Referee** to ensure that every swimmer has an 'official time' for every swim they complete legally and to make **certain the time is accurate and correct** within the rules of section 102.24.

You must understand the rules of the timing section and absolutely must understand the process for determining an official time in the case of a possible 'system malfunction'.

As stated by the USA Swimming Officials Committee:

***"When automatic or semi-automatic officiating equipment is used and an apparent malfunction occurs it shall be his/her responsibility to make an immediate investigation to determine whether the swimmer finished in accordance with the rules and/or if there was an actual equipment malfunction."***

- Some of the items you need to understand from the rules are the 3 types of timing systems: Automatic, Semi-Automatic, and Manual (102.24.2). You need to know what primary, secondary and tertiary systems is (102.24.3). You should know what the responsibilities of the Chief Timer and the lane timers are (102.17). The Timing Equipment Operator is the person operating the Colorado/Daktronics console and you need to be sure that they know to notify you and/or the Deck Referee of any system problems as outlined in 102.17.4.
- It is critical that you discuss with the Administrative Referee or Scorer (normally the person operating the computer), because of this line in the rules (102.16.3E). *"Shall be responsible to the Referee for:...Determination and recording of official time."* (102.14 and 102.15)

- It is imperative that you be clear with the Scorer as to what “under the direction of the Referee” means...basically you are delegating to that person the responsibility to determine the official time for every swim...under your direction. What does that mean? It means that you may delegate to the Scorer the responsibility to determine, under the rules, what the official time of each swimmer is... and at the same time to tell them under what circumstances you want to be consulted in that process. Do you want to be consulted every time there is a possible timing system malfunction as defined in 102.24? Do you want to be consulted only when the possible malfunction cannot be easily overcome? Are you going to let them determine the official time in all situations and only ask you if a coach questions a time? In every situation, you should require that a backup watch time and an order of finish be used for the heat lane in question. These are questions and situations you need to know and be able to answer before the meet starts and communicate the 'rules of the road' to the timing system operator before the meet starts so everyone is clear on the procedures.
- Make sure the scorer knows to notify you or the Admin Referee if there is a possible swim-off in prelim/finals meets.
- Before you are certified as a Meet Referee, you need to have a full and clear understanding of the rules for determination of an official time and how to implement them. What do you do if a pad fails? What if the backup fails as well? And if there is no watch time for that lane either? And, what if there is no order of finish, or only a partial? What if multiple lanes have timing problems? Be sure you can answer these questions by the end of your apprenticeship.

## BEFORE THE MEET:

When you are asked to be the Meet Referee, you might want to ask to be involved in the process of review the Meet Announcement. While it is up to Meet Management to determine, within the rules, how a meet is to be run in terms of the items on the Meet Announcement, it will still be your job to run the meet. It is a good idea to review the document and make suggestions to assure that it is written in such a way that the meet will not be difficult to administer. If a host team does not want you involved in that process, you have the option of declining the invitation to be Meet Referee. Once the meet information has been finalized you can get a copy from Meet Management or from the FS Website.

- Give Meet Management your e-mail address, phone numbers, fax numbers, etc. so they can get in touch with you if needed.
- Determine what the host club is doing to solicit officials for the meet. Tell them you want the list of officials who will work the meet when you arrive for the meet.
- Several days before the meet starts, have the Meet director or the entry clerk send you the backup from the HyTek Meet Manager program (if you have a copy of the program available) or get a copy of the Heat Sheets, psych sheets and the time line to you in time to look it over. It is important to check over the heat sheets and timelines ahead of the meet, and preferably before they are published. If you spot a problem before the meet starts, it is much easier to come to a resolution early than it might be during the meet.
- Before the meet, make sure you have prepared for the running of the meet. Most Referees make up a "Meet Book". What is in each person's book varies, however most would have things such as the Meet Announcement, the list of teams entered for the meet, a tab for the heat sheets for each session, copies of the planned timelines for each session, Officials Sign-In forms, assignment forms, counting forms for distance events, coaches and officials briefing notes, forms for DQ logs, No Show logs, DQ Reports, early take off slips, deck entry forms, etc. Being prepared is both more professional as well as making it easier to be effective once the meet is rolling.
- Make sure you have the 'supplies' you might need during the meet, such as: 3 hole punch, plastic sheet protectors, stapler and staples, post-it notes, staple remover, highlighters, pens, paper clips, rubber bands, white-out, glue stick, scotch tape, scissors, ruler/straight edge and last, but not least, pain killers. 😊

## FIRST DAY OF THE MEET:

- Always dress in the proper uniform so that, as a Referee, you will portray a Professional image.
- Arrive at the meet about 2 hours prior to the start of the first session. Check in with the Meet Director. Keep in mind that as of this time you are now in charge and the one to take care of any problems until the meet is over. The Meet Dir. will appreciate that.
- Discuss with the Meet Dir. any questions or problems that may have been posed to them and you need to handle. Take care of this by giving your decisions on each problem and have them take care of notifying any coach or swimmer or host club staff. Any entry problems shall be resolved by the Proof of Entry Form. Resolve any issues from the Recon Report.
- Be sure that there is a table at the starting area for the deck referees and starters.
- Make sure that someone (scorer or clerk of course) will be posting any check-in or scratch sheets, being sure the sheets are out in time. Remind the Meet Dir. to have a system to check that all coaches on deck are currently certified. On the odd chance one is not certified, then his/her swimmers must be supervised by another coach for that session or the entire meet.
- Identify and talk to the Marshal about monitoring the warm-up area before and during the meet. Make them aware of what and where you want them to monitor in the pool and around the deck area. Any problems they cannot handle, they are to call on you to solve.
- Determine for future reference: Where and with whom are the Proof of Entries? Where is the Award table? Where is and who will be the announcer? Where will the results be posted?
- Check to be sure block and turn end of pool are cordoned off for swimmers, officials and timers only. Cordon off the side of pool to give access to officials from end to end. It is sometimes necessary to place signs on the roping to identify the restricted areas. Camera Zones can never be behind the blocks or starting

areas at any facility. Work with the Meet Dir. to identify areas for still and video photography.

- Check with the Automatic Timing Machine Operator to determine if the system is ready to go. Do we need pads on both ends for 50 meter or splits?
- Always do a 'walk around' to check the equipment and the pool area. Look at things such as the backstroke flags (correct distance from ends, tight enough, high enough above the water?), are the 15 meter lane lines well marked, are the starting blocks solid or do some need tightening, are they numbered right to left correctly, are they numbered clearly so the swimmers can tell what lane is what number? Are there enough chairs for the timers and the officials? Does the pool's circulation system need to be turned off for the meet? Are the lane lines tight? Is the warm up area set up correctly and lanes that will be unused properly closed off?
- Find out who will be the Head Timer for each session. Then talk to that person and alert them to get their timers together for the Starters Instructions at least 20 minutes before the start of each session. Does the Meet Dir. have runners lined up to take Automatic Machine slips to the Scoring room, awards room, post results, collect DQ slips, etc.?
- Have an official sign-in form available and ask all officials to sign in when they arrive. Study it to arrive at the assignment of your team. Remember the officials on deck in each spot will determine the quality of the meet for which you will be held responsible.
- If there are going to be Deck Entries in this meet, have the form ready and have someone assigned to deal with accepting the deck entries and assigning heats and lanes within the time frames and rules allowed on the Meet Announcement.
- In order for you to be available to solve problems and answer meet questions, it is best that you not be an on-deck working official. Assign competent officials for the deck positions and then you can "make yourself obsolete". Being obsolete means giving instructions so clear that folks will not have to come to you for every little thing, only with the unusual situations.
- Have an officials meeting before each session. This should be a minimum of 30 minutes before the start of each session, 45 minutes to an hour would be better if

you can. Make sure that you make all the officials feel welcomed and know that you appreciate their help. Introduce new folks or everyone and give a special welcome to apprentices, and welcome them to the group.

Give the group your general instructions for the meet and answer any rule questions or give any interpretations of rules. Review your list and make your assignments. Check for a current USA Swimming membership card & a Florida Swimming certification card, explain areas of jurisdiction, handling of DQ slips and any special instructions you feel are necessary for the meet. Use the officials meeting as an opportunity for education; all officials should feel like they learned something from your briefings at each meet.

- It is best, if possible, to have 2-3 deck referees and 2-3 starters, alternating with other duties. Make them aware of the pacing you wish for the meet- slow/fast - when next heat is to be called up, etc. It is important that your Deck Referees know what the Meet Announcement says so they may abide by it. The matching of a Referee and Starter is most important because they must be able to work together and be compatible. It is a partnership with each acting as the "eyes and ears" for the other.
- Remind them that you do not want them setting a precedent. -"Remember the decisions made the first day of the meet establish a precedent for the rest of the meet." You also leave the swimmers with the feeling that it will be accepted at other meets as well. Consistency in your meet will lead to consistency in other meets. Strive for it.
- Have the Starters give instructions to the Timers at least 20 minutes before the start of the meet. Let the starters know if there is anything you want emphasized.
- A Head Stroke and Turn Official or a Chief Judge should be assigned, if possible, to monitor and check accuracy of DQ calls, to be sure the swimmer and/or coach is notified and the DQ slip is delivered to Deck Referee to sign off on DQ's. If possible someone should be assigned to maintain a log of all DQ's.
- Assign S/T Judges in a manner you feel they have their best strength and knowledge. Also, use officials to balance the deck equally. Not all officials are equal in ability, attentiveness or experience.
- At this time, if you have any apprentice officials, assign them to instructors that you feel are the best at giving instructions and attention. This applies to apprentice

Starters and Referees. The quality of their instructors will determine the quality of their instruction and the resulting quality of their ability to be good officials for you at a later meet.

- If possible have one or more relief officials assigned to each course. Relief officials should not 'offer' relief...their job is to relieve...so as they make their rounds they would say "you are now relieved, please return in xx minutes". This does 2 things...it makes sure that relief officials have a job to do and it make sure that folks get off the deck for a few minutes. A rested official can do a better job of concentrating.
- If you are holding a coaches meeting before a session, have it announced so the coaches are aware of the plan.
- Have the announcer give a 5 minute warning and then clear the pool 10 minutes before the start or in accord with the meet information letter warm up schedule. This time is needed to get the officials and timers in place and to recheck the timing equipment. The Host club may use this time for any greetings and/or the National Anthem.
- A Coaches Meeting is a must for all meets. It is an opportunity to explain briefly any item that you feel that the coaches need to be aware of. It might be best to assume that the coaches have not read the Meet Announcement...as that is often the case. Explain things such as the Relay card system to be used, that swimmers must be "Ready To Swim at the Starting Platform" when called, alternates must be at the starting area and ready to swim when called, any facility restrictions, estimated time of finish for each session - approximate afternoon start time. Let them know what the penalties are for 'no shows', if any. If used, where the scratch table is and the scratch deadlines. Any problems should be brought to you. Simply put - there should be no surprises in the meet after the coaches meeting. The meeting should establish a good rapport with the coaches.
- If you have an Administrative Referee or a Chief Judge working with you at the meet, decide ahead of time which of the duties listed above that person will do. A meet will run better with a good assistant who is assigned and does some of the duties of running the meet. A good Meet Referee will delegate, and a good Admin Ref will solve many problems before they become issues.

## MEET HAS STARTED:

- Once the meet has started, concentrate on your key officials -Deck Referee and Starter to be sure they are pacing the heats as requested. Check the position of the Chief Judge to be sure they can view any and all DQ calls. Be sure the timers are alert fulfilling their role and are seated for the start. A lax timer or timers can create problem. Good timers have a soothing effect for all.
- Have each Deck Referee and Starter use the same Heat Sheet for each session and it is passed on to the next team, in case a question comes up about a particular swimmer. Have the Deck Referee and the Starter note the start and end time for the session and the start time for each event, that they note all no shows, DQ's and the order of finish for each heat.
- When possible, assign order of finish duties to "off duty" starters to free up the duty Deck Referee and Starter so they can concentrate on the swimmers and the next heat.
- Weather can be a problem at a meet. In some cases it is the facility director or lifeguards will make a "stop meet call", but in all cases you can stop the meet at your discretion in case of dangerous weather. Check with the Meet Director, so you will know your position if "lightning" or heavy rain does happen.
- Photographers should not be allowed behind the blocks - Flash bulb photos are out for all starts. Camcorder or camera parents should not interfere with the competition.
- May prohibit the use of any device that disrupts or interferes with the meet, such as a laser pointing device or artificial noisemaker.
- Behind the blocks should be clear of all except timers, officials and swimmers for that event. If not then have the announcer or use the starter's PA system to clear that area. The swimmers should not have any trouble getting to the blocks to compete. Help them.
- For other deck areas - is there free flow to go from one area of the deck to the other? Swimmers sometimes have it jammed up - Clear it up - It is a safety hazard and can be responsible for someone tripping or falling.

- Take care of any and all problems of DQ's, timing, scoring, questions, etc. as soon as possible so the coach or swimmer will be put at ease.
- If necessary, privately and politely correct any official or meet personnel that you feel is not doing the job right. It will fall on your shoulders if a mistake is made and not corrected. If the official still does not do an adequate job, consider replacing them. You have to choose between an incompetent official and a bruised ego and what is best for the competitors.
- Coordinate the lunch break with the event schedule and the hospitality group. Make sure that officials get adequate liquids from the hospitality folks. It is important that we make officials feel taken care of and not just left out there to do the job.
- On the occasion of having an irate coach, remember that they are not angry with you but are arguing a point that they do not agree with. Listen and find out what they are saying and trying to relate to you. First, explain the official rule point. Then, agree to check with the official involved, if it is not you. Check the rule, if necessary and then get back to them promptly with your explanation and final decision.
- If a parent approaches you with a complaint or question on a call, politely ask them to talk to their coach first. The coach can always come to you later if they haven't been able to answer the parent's question.
- In the event the coach is hostile or becomes hostile, politely cut off the conversation immediately and ask them to come back when they can discuss it in a calmer manner. Do not allow yourself to get angry or be drawn into an argument. It is not worth it.
- Disciplinary action for unsportsmanlike conduct is outlined in the Florida Swimming By-Laws. Although it is rare, when it is needed, use common sense and logic in dealing with it, whether it is a swimmer, a coach or a parent.

## MEET CONSIDERATIONS

- Starting procedures (pacing of the meet) should be the same as given at the coaches meeting.
- DQ calls must be recorded by S/T Judge and recorded and signed by the Deck Referee before being sent to the scoring room.
- Have all officials work various positions, within their certification, during the meet. It will keep them sharp in all positions and allows for a diverse experience at the meet.
- A Meet Committee can be formed to advise the Meet Referee in the case of unusual situations that occur during a meet that must be decided. In most cases, holding a coaches meeting to deal with these unusual situations (such as weather problems, having to cancel certain events, etc) is the most effective way to deal with these situations.
- The Protest procedure should be reviewed. Although they are very rare, they must be handled properly. Judgment calls of officials cannot be a subject for a Protest. Read the protest rules to be comfortable with your authority and responsibility.
- Remind all officials - No small talk on headsets. It gets out of hand sometimes and it is sometimes interpreted by coaches, who do watch us, as inattention, criticism or joke making about swimmers, etc. Caution officials that after a DQ call, their actions sometimes can be read as making fun of the swimmer if there is any inadvertent kidding or joking at that time.
- Caution all officials that when notifying a swimmer of a DQ or explain a DQ to a Referee or Chief Judge that they do not use body language or hand motion. Verbalize it, because a coach watching can misinterpret their motions as being not consistent with the DQ call or the explanation.
- DQ calls or other happenings on the deck should not be discussed by officials away from the deck, especially in the hospitality room. A coach or parent can pick it up and you can and would be criticized.

- At no time should DQ calls or other meet problems be discussed by officials over the headsets. A DQ call, good or bad, should not be discussed between officials over headsets. This does not mean that the Head S/T Judge or Referee cannot ask an official to repeat or make clearer a call they have made. All officials should use the language of the rule book or from the DQ slip so that it will be readily understood by all.
- Remember - our radios use public frequencies and can be heard by anyone, including coaches, parents and others at the meet!
- At no time should one official call attention for another official to observe whether the swimmer is doing the stroke correctly. Each official shall make their own calls or non calls based on their own knowledge and judgment.

## AFTER THE MEET

The referee must remain at the pool long enough after the last race to ensure that final results have been announced in case there is a problem or a protest. This time can be used to evaluate the meet with the meet director and to sign any referee forms pertinent to the meet.

Within three days of the conclusion of the meet, complete and submit the Florida Swimming Meet Referee Report to the designated person listed on the form. This report tracks the length of time it took to complete each session and in each course where the competition took place. If any session during which 12-Under events were held lasted more than four hours, the session timeline from HyTek showing 30-second intervals must also be submitted with the report.

The report also requires that the name of one referee, one starter and one stroke & turn judge be submitted for each session in from each course where the meet took place. FS Rule 223.4 requires that a minimum of those three certified positions be filled on each course and for each session for a meet to be sanctioned and the times achieved to be official.

The meet referee must also submit the names and sessions worked by each official who volunteered at the meet in the USA Swimming Officials Tracking System (OTS). Directions on completing OTS can be found on the Officials Page at the Florida Swimming website.

## **CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR MEET REFEREE**

1. Attend a clinic conducted by your Area Officials Representative.
  
2. Unless completed within the last 12 months, complete the online tests for
  - Referee
  - Administrative Referee
  - Timing Judge
  - Clerk of Course

Go on the web to: <http://www.usaswimming.org>

- Log in using the Account Name and Password created when you took the Stroke & Turn tests.
- Click on the "Members Resources" tab.
- Click on the "Officials" marker and then the "Testing and Certification" link.

Read the page that comes up. You will need to do item 1 to "Create an account" (click on the link). This will bring up a screen where you enter your name, an email address, an id (choose one you can remember) and a password(also one you can remember).

When you click the "Create an account" button the system will take you to a login screen. Enter your id and password and click "Login". This will take you back to the original screen. You will then do steps 1, 2 and 3 again. This time the system will take you to another screen where you will fill in your work and home phone numbers, Local swim committee (ours is "Florida Swimming"), address, city, state and zip and the club you are affiliated with. You must then select the test you will be taking. Scroll down to find the test you want. Then click "Start Test".

If you can't complete the test in one session you can Logoff and come back later and continue. ALWAYS logoff when you are exiting. To come back in, you just click on the "Sign In" link in the upper right corner of the screen and do steps 1, 2, and 3 and select the test. The test will resume where you left off.

3. Apprentice for a minimum of 25 hours; 3 different meets; 3 different Meet Referees; with at least one meet having novice or 'NT' swimmers. At least one full session with automatic timing operator and one full session with scoring/computer operator.

## Florida Swimming Officials Representatives

### Areas by County:

**Area 1** - Nassau, Duval, Clay, Columbia, Baker, Union, Bradford, St. Johns, Putnam, and Flagler

**Area 2** - Marion, Sumter, Lake, Orange, Seminole, and Osceola

**Area 3** - Citrus, Pasco, Polk, Pinellas, Hernando, and Hillsborough

**Area 4** - Gadsden, Leon, Madison, Levy, Gulf, Lafayette, Dixie, Jefferson, Hamilton, Liberty, Wakulla, Suwannee, Gilchrist, Taylor and Franklin

**Area 5** - Manatee, Hardee, Highlands, Sarasota, DeSoto, Glades, Charlotte, Lee, Hendry and Collier

**Area 6** - Volusia, Brevard, Okeechobee, Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin

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**FLORIDA SWIMMING**  
**MEET REFEREE CERTIFICATION APPLICATION**

Name of applicant \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_ Instructor \_\_\_\_\_ Cert. # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Completed: Referee Test \_\_\_\_\_ Administrative Test \_\_\_\_\_  
 Clerk of Course Test \_\_\_\_\_ Timing Judge Test \_\_\_\_\_

**APPRENTICE RECORD OF ON DECK TIME**

Date	Meet Name	Meet Referee		Referee Instructor		Hours
		Signature	Cert #	Signature	Cert #	

**APPRENTICE PROCEDURE**

1. On the day of the meet - Report to the Meet Referee.
  - (a) Present your Officials Certification Application form.
  - (b) You will be assigned to an Instructor for that session.
  - (c) As an apprentice you are limited in your authority as advised
  - (d) Instructor & Referee are to sign your form upon finish of session.

When all requirements are completed, send this form to your Area Representative.

**CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR MEET REFEREE**

1. Attend a clinic conducted by your Area Officials Rep.
2. Complete the online tests for Referee, Administrative Referee, Timing Judge, and Clerk of Course.
3. Apprentice for a minimum of 25 hours; 3 different meets; 3 different Meet Referees; with at least one meet having novice or 'NT' swimmers. At least one full session with automatic timing operator and one full session with scoring/computer operator. Have your Instructor and Meet Referee sign to verify the hours worked in all categories required, correctly documented on this form.
4. Apprentice Referees may not apprentice at LSC Championship meets.
5. Upon attainment of the above, Meet Referee's based on their judgment, are to complete and sign the recommendation given below.
6. When requirements above are met, and form completed, send it to the Area Officials Rep. for final approval.
7. Upon approval by Area Rep , a certification card will be issued, and both the Florida Swimming office and Officials Chairman notified.

**MEET REFEREE REVIEW**

	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Excellent</i>
1. Attentive--to everything occurring in/around the pool			
2. Alert--in observing swimmers/timers readiness to compete			
3. Knowledge--of rules and procedures			
4. Knowledge--of DQ terminology and procedures			
5. Demeanor--with coaches/swimmers/volunteers			
6. Observation--of all swimmers/officials during meet			
7. Professional--appearance			
8. Management--of the officials "team"			
9. Control--of the pool and during decision making			
10. Paperwork--properly notes event/meet start times, no shows, DQ's, technical delays, across the boards, etc.			

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Cert.# \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_