Becoming a USA Swimming Official

1. **Contact a board member of your swim team, your coach or the Border Swimming Officials Chair at** texallard@gmail.com **with your interest in becoming an official.**
2. **Attend Stroke and Turn Clinic for New Officials.**
	* This is the first step and must be completed before completing the other steps in order below.
	* Clinics are set up as needed or by request. Information on new classes, location and time will be sent to teams to distribute to their members. They may also be listed on Border Swimming website under the officials tab.
	* Clinics typically last under 3 hours. Clinic consists of a Power Point presentation and instructional video.
3. **Create an account at USA Swimming at** [USA Swimming](http://www.usaswimming.org)
	* Click the sign in tab at the top right corner of the page.
	* Create a user name and password. Select *USA Swimming Member* on the account creation page.
4. **Take Stroke and Turn/Timer Test**
	* This is an open book test. Most of the answers can be found in the Mini-Rulebook which will be giving to you at the completion of the Stroke and Turn Clinic. A few of the questions pertain to Masters Swimming and those answers can be found in the online rulebook. [USA Swimming Rulebook](http://www.usaswimming.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabId=1636&Alias=Rainbow&Lang=en)
	* Log in to your account at USA Swimming.
		1. Select MEMBER RESOURCES from the menu at top of page, then select OFFICIALS
		2. From the Official's page, select TESTING & CERTIFICATION from the menu on left
		3. Select ONLINE OFFICIALS TEST from menu on left
		4. Follow instructions to sign in; download Timing Judge Test Chart
		5. Select the STROKE & TURN/TIMER.
	* It is typically best to **SAVE** then **PRINT** the test and complete on paper then go back and answer the questions online.
5. **Apprentice a minimum of 4 sessions.**
	* Inform Meet Referee of your intention to apprentice or officiate, contact info found in the meet information.
	* Inform Deck Referee upon arrival of your intention to apprentice.
	* Attend stroke briefing 30 minutes prior to each session – SIGN IN
	* MUST have Apprentice Verification Form filled out for each session
	* Submit Completed Apprentice Verification Form.
		1. Scan and email to texallard@gmail.com
		2. -Or- turn in to Deck Referee after your last session.
6. **Complete Non-Athlete Registration Application.**
	* Form can be found on Border Swimming website under the Officials tab. [Border Swimming](http://www.borderswimming.org)
	* Form can be turned into your team official representative, a member of your team board, or Border Swimming Registration Chair.
	* There is a fee associated with the registration and is typically reimbursed by your swim club upon completion of the officials training. Check with your swim club.
7. **Complete the background check on the USA Swimming website.** [USA Swimming Background Check](http://www.usaswimming.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabId=1678&Alias=Rainbow&Lang=en)
	* There is a fee associated with the background check and is typically reimbursed by your swim club upon completion of the officials training. Check with your swim club.
8. **Complete Athlete Protection Training.** [Athlete Protection](http://www.usaswimming.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabId=2193&Alias=Rainbow&Lang=en)
	* This can only be completed after the Registration Chair has completed your registration.
9. **If you work a minimum of 12 sessions a year as an official, Border Swimming will pay for your Registration and Background check renewals.**