

**SOUTHEASTERN SWIMMING
OFFICIALS COMMITTEE REPORT**

APRIL 22-23, 2006

I would like to welcome John Molchan to the Officials Committee and will be attending the National Officials Meeting in Colorado Springs in May. John will be helping Dave Smith in the southern part of our L.S.C. Please feel free to call him for assistance. For a list of officials and their e-mails check our website.

NEW RULE CHANGE

All officials need to be aware of the change in the breaststroke rule. We have discussed this at Southeasterns and Sectionals. If you are confused by the addition of a butterfly kick after the start and after each turn, please contact your committee member.

CERTIFICATION CHANGES

There is a new certification program for officials at all levels of U.S.A. Swimming and their guidelines have changed. I have enclosed the new guidelines. Please be aware that there is still a lot of confusion about this program so we will wait for the problems to be ironed out.

***N1* is what we now refer to as local certification.**

We have 350 *N1* officials in our LSC.

***N2* is National Certification and we have 115 *N2* officials currently.**

***N3* is National Championship Certification and we have 19 currently.**

NEW TESTING

There have been many changes past year mandated by our head office. First you have to take the test online. Recently it seems that you need to be a member of United States Swimming to log on to the test. The Officials Committee has decided on a new procedure. If a volunteer is certain that they want to become an official then join USA Swimming through your club, take the test, attend a clinic and apprentice on the deck. If a volunteer is exploring the possibility of officiating then attend a clinic first, join USA Swimming, attend a clinic and apprentice.

Note: to apprentice you now must be a member of USA Swimming.

Your local Officials Committee will be glad to assist you.

TEST PROCEDURES

Becoming an official and upgrading:

1) Stroke and Turn Official

Take the timer and the stroke and turn exam and pass it with an 85%. After a clinic and your 6 apprentice session apply to your local official committee member for a badge and white card. This will be good for a year. We suggest that you officiate for a year before upgrading.

2) Starter

Take the Starter test and the Timing Judge test and achieve an 85% on both. You must attend a Starter Clinic and apprentice a minimum of 6 sessions and perhaps more if the evaluation of the committee in your area feels you are not ready to start solo. Upon receiving the white card it is good for one year and you will need to recertify at the conclusion of the next year. After that recertification will be every 2 years.

3) Referee

Be a Starter for a year. Take all elements of the Referee test and pass with a 90% grade. You must attend a Referee clinic and apprentice 8 sessions at 3 different U.S.A. sanctioned meets with at least 2 different referees. At least 2 of those sessions must be with an administrative referee approved by an official committee member. You will receive your certification by the local committee member upon successful evaluation.

RECERTIFICATION

1) Stroke and Turn Official.

Pass the recertification timer test and stroke and turn and pass with an 85% grade. Attend a stroke and turn clinic every year and work at least 6 sessions satisfactorily.

2) Starter

Take the timer, stroke and turn, starter and timing judge test and pass with an 85% grade. You need to attend a starter clinic every year and work satisfactorily at 6 sessions in that period. The committee member will send you a card if you have met all the criteria.

3) Referee

Take all levels of the test beginning with timer and pass with 90%. You need to attend one referee clinic a year and work 6 sessions preferably as a referee (at least 4 are mandatory). You will be recertified at this upon evaluation of your local committee member.