

Becoming a Stroke and Turn Judge

1. **Age** - Shall be twenty one (21) years of age.
2. **Registration** - Shall be currently registered member of USA Swimming.
(Registration, background check, and athlete protection course must be completed before third session of on-deck training.) Consult with team to become registered.
3. **Tests** - Shall take, and pass with eighty percent (80%) or better, the USA Swimming Stroke and Turn test available online at www.usaswimming.org.
4. **Mini-Express Clinic** – Shall participate in mini-express clinic prior to the beginning of on-deck training.
5. **Training** - Shall complete a minimum of 24 hours of on deck training under the supervision of a USI certified Stroke and Turn judge. The hours involved for observation can be included as part of the 24 hours.
Training to be accomplished in the following manner:
 - a. **Procedural Training** - The trainee shall shadow a trainer for 1 session, learning Deck Protocol, Jurisdiction, Stroke and Turn Disqualifications, Observation Techniques, etc. emphasis on listening and learning deck procedures. This can be completed at any level of meet – dual, developmental, invite, or prelims of championship meets.
 - b. **Technical Training** - The trainee shall serve the remaining training hours as a training partner with a certified Stroke and Turn official. While the trainer is ultimately responsible for disqualifications made on deck, the trainee will work in concert with the trainer, sharing jurisdiction, raising the hand upon seeing an infraction, and reporting it to the trainer partner for discussion. If the trainer did not raise his/her hand there will be no disqualification. The trainer will be acting as a personal Chief Judge for the trainee asking all the pertinent questions as a Chief Judge would do.
 - c. **Meet Selection** – Procedural and Technical Training should be completed at meets where “No Times” are allowed. No more than one session of total training shall be completed at meets in which qualifying times are required of swimmers.
 - d. **Trainer Guidance** – At the end of each session, the trainer shall make notes or discuss with the referee, to help in judging the trainee’s progress.
 - e. **Referee Guidance** - The Referee of the training meet shall be available to answer questions from the trainee at the conclusion of every session for a short Q & A period.
6. **Certification Challenge** – In certain circumstances, a trainee may have experience with swimming and have a strong background of the rules (ie. prior swimmer, swim coach/instructor, etc.). . This could also include a referee recommendation to the USI Officials Chairperson that the candidate is ready for final observation. A review of trainer and referee comments will be made by the USI Officials Committee to determine if certification challenge is appropriate. With approval of the USI Officials committee, such individuals can challenge certification and complete the observation phase prior to completing the minimum 24 hours of training
7. **Observation** -. During observation, the trainee will work on the deck as a stroke and turn judge, making all appropriate disqualification calls, with supervision of a certified Official who is approved by the USI Officials Committee to conduct observation. After the observation meet, the supervising official will make recommendations to the USI Officials Committee for one of the following: 1. certification, 2. a second observation, or 3. additional training. The observation must be completed at a meet where “No Times” are allowed and must be approved in advance by the USI officials committee.
8. **Paperwork** - After the final observation, the trainee shall return the required working hours history and final observation papers signed by the supervising Official to the USI Officials Chair.
9. **Time Limit** - The trainee has six months from the date of the first on-deck training to complete this training, unless hardship circumstances exist.