

The following USI Guidelines for Swimming Official Certification have been established by the Officials Committee of Utah Swimming. These guidelines adhere to the minimum standard guidelines required by USA Swimming.

A. Becoming a Stroke and Turn Judge

1. Age - Shall be eighteen (18) years of age.
2. Prerequisite experience – none required
3. Clinic – Shall participate in mini-express clinic prior to the beginning of on-deck training.
4. Tests - Shall take, and pass with eighty percent (80%) or better, the USA Swimming Stroke and turn test available online at www.usaswimming.org.
5. Registration - Shall be currently registered member of USA Swimming. (Registration, Level II background check, and athlete protection course must be completed before second session of on- deck training.) Consult with team to become registered.
6. 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: Training must 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. Training must be done under the supervision of at least two different trainers.
 - c. Meet Selection – 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 the trainee’s progress.
 - e. Referee Guidance - The Referee of the training meet shall be available to the trainee at the conclusion of every session for a short Q & A period.
7. Advancement Approval – Upon completion of required technical training hours the Trainee will submit a request for Observation to the Officials Chair who will coordinate arrangements with a Meet Referee. After the final observation, upon receipt of a recommendation for advancement from the

Referee, the trainee shall return the required working hours history and final observation papers signed by the supervising Official to the USI Officials Chair.

8. Time Limit - The trainee has six months from the date of the first on-deck training to complete training, unless hardship circumstances exist. B. 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 Meet Referee 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. another 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 Chair. C. Certification Challenge –In unusual circumstances individuals can challenge certification and complete the observation phase prior to completing the minimum 24 hours of training. This might be based on an individual having a strong background knowledge of the rules (i.e. prior swimmer, swim coach/instructor, etc.), or 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. D. Stroke and Turn Re-certification 1. Shall work a minimum of four (4) sessions per year in Stroke and Turn or higher capacity. 2. Shall take a USI Stroke and Turn Clinic at least once every two years or participate in a 3. National Certification Meet and attend all pre-meet briefings. (This is recommended every year.) 4. Shall take and pass with eighty percent (80%) or better, the online Stroke & Turn re-certification test every two (2) years. 5. Based on continuing USA Swimming membership and satisfactory performance.

E. Becoming a Starter:

1. Age – Shall be eighteen (18) years of age.
2. Prerequisite experience - Shall have worked as a certified stroke and turn judge for a minimum of twelve (12) sessions. The Officials Chairperson of USI Swimming shall recommend all Starter trainee candidates to the USI Officials Committee for acceptance into the training program.
3. Clinic - Shall take a USI Referee/Starter Clinic (note requirement waived until the clinic is prepared).
4. Tests - Shall take and pass with eighty percent (80%) or better, the online version of the USA Swimming Starter Test.
5. Registration - Shall be currently registered with USA Swimming in good standing with valid Level II background check and Athlete Protection Training.
6. Training - Shall begin training on deck at meets where "No Times" are allowed. There shall be a certified starter and referee present. Shall serve a minimum of five (5) sessions in at least three (3) separate meets under the direction of two (2) different trainers who are approved by the Officials Chair.
7. Advancement Approval - The trainee will be certified as a level 1 Starter at the recommendation of the USI Officials Chair and acceptance of the USI Officials Committee. (Note:

S1 starters may start for all non-scored meets). A starter will be certified as a level 2 starter upon the recommendation of the USI Officials Chair and acceptance of the USI Officials Committee after the level 1 starter has shown the skills and knowledge of all the rules pertaining to the position of starter. Level 1 starters shall not be allowed to start at scored meets.

F. Starter Re-certification 1. Shall work a minimum of four (4) sessions per year in at least three (3) separate meets each year in the position of starter or higher capacity. 2. Shall take and pass with eighty percent (80%) or better, the online Starter re-certification test every two (2) years.

3. Shall attend Referee/Starter training update clinics at least once every two (2) years. 4. Based on continuing USA Swimming membership and evaluation by the USI Officials Chair and Committee.

G. Becoming a Referee (R1, R2, R3)

1. Age - Shall be twenty-one (21) years of age.

2. Prerequisite experience - Shall have worked as a certified Stroke & Turn Judge or Starter for a minimum of one year. Shall have worked as a certified S1 Starter. The Officials Chairperson of USI Swimming shall recommend all Referee trainee candidates to the USI Officials Committee for acceptance into the training program.

3. Clinic - Shall take a USI Referee/Starter Clinic (note requirement waived until the clinic is prepared).

4. Tests - Shall take and pass with eighty percent (80%) or better, the online version all of the USA Stroke & Turn/Timer, Timing Judge, Clerk of Course, Administrative, Starter and Referee tests

5. Further background requirements - must be familiar with the positions of Administrative Official, Announcer, Clerk of Course, Starter, Stroke & Turn Judge, Timer, Timing Judge and Meet Marshall.

6. Registration - Shall be currently registered with USA Swimming in good standing with valid Level II background check and Athlete Protection Training.

7. Training - On-deck training shall be done under the supervision of an R3 Referee. Must work a minimum of 2 sessions (may be under a single mentor) to be considered for certification as a R1 Referee. (Note: Our R1 level Referee certification is for a Referee who is expected to obtain further training but who is certified to gain the experience of being the "Referee in charge" by acting as Meet and Deck Referees running intrasquad and dual level meets). Must train a minimum of 4 additional sessions to be eligible for consideration for advancement to the R2 Referee level. These six (6) sessions must be done with at least three (3) different training Referees. (Note: R2 level Referees are certified to act as Meet and/or Deck Referee for non-scored meets.) 8. Advancement Approval - Referee certification and advancement requires the recommendation of the USI Officials Chair and acceptance of the USI Officials Committee after the candidate has shown the skills and knowledge of the rules and responsibilities pertaining to that position. (Note: R3 level Referees are certified to act as Meet and/or

Deck Referee for any meet. Any R3 Referee may act as a Referee-trainer for those approved for training.)

H. Referee Re-certification 1. Shall work a minimum of six (6) sessions per year, in at least three (3) separate meets in Starter or higher capacity with at least one session as Referee. 2. Shall take and pass with an eighty percent (80%) or better, the online re-certification tests pertaining to the position of referee every two (2) years. 3. Shall attend Referee/Starter training update clinics at least once every two (2) years. 4. Based on continuing USA Swimming membership and evaluation by the USI Officials Chair and Committee.

I. Becoming an Administrative Official:

1. Age - Shall be eighteen (18) years of age.
2. Prerequisite experience - none required
3. Clinic – Shall take the Administrative Official Clinic
4. Tests – Shall take and pass with eighty percent (80%) or better, the online version of the USA Swimming Timer, Timing Judge, Clerk of Course and Administrative tests prior to apprenticing.
5. Registration – Shall be currently registered with USA Swimming in good standing with valid Level II background check and Athlete Protection Training. Consult with team to become registered.
6. Training – a minimum of 4 sessions with 2 different certified Administrative Officials (may include one session as Timing Equipment Operator). Certification after satisfactory performance at one meet.

J. Administrative Official Recertification: 1. Based on continuing USA Swimming membership and satisfactory performance.

K. Becoming an Administrative Referee: 1. Must obtain certification as an R2 Referee and have also certified as an Administrative Official.