

***Becoming a USA Swimming Certified
Starter/Referee
Wisconsin Swimming, Inc***



There are two levels of certification for Officials within Wisconsin Swimming, Stroke and Turn, and Starter/Referee. Wisconsin Swimming requires dual certification as a Starter and Referee, and independent certification as a Starter or Referee is not allowed. The rationale for this requirement is to ensure that there are at least two individuals at every meet that can serve as either a Starter or Referee (not just two Starters or two Referees).

After serving 10 months as a certified Stroke and Turn Judge and having completed ten sessions as a Stroke and Turn Judge, officials may begin the process of advancement to USA Swimming certification at the Starter/Referee level.

Prerequisites

1. Current USA Swimming Non-Athlete membership.
2. Prior completion of Criminal Background Check
3. Prior completion of the USA Swimming online Athlete Protection education module.
4. Completion of ten sessions as a certified Stroke and Turn Official.
5. Completion of one year as a certified Stroke and Turn Official.

Requirements for Stroke and Turn Judge Certification

1. Take a Training Clinic

- Attend a “Starter/Referee Training Clinic.” The Wisconsin Swimming Officials Committee conducts Clinics periodically in various locations. Clinics may occur in a classroom setting only or with a classroom setting and in conjunction with a sanctioned swim meet.
- Clinic announcements are located on the Wisconsin Swimming website, the Officials page.
- The Clinic consists of:
 - 3-4 hour education session.
 - Discussions of Chief Judge position, Starter Protocols, Referee Protocols
 - Review of the USA Swimming-produced DVD “The Start- Philosophy and Protocol”
- Club sponsored Clinic: If a Club has volunteers interested in becoming Officials, a clinic can be arranged at the Club’s preferred location. To request a Clinic, please contact one of these Wisconsin Swimming Officials’ Committee members:

Michael Patton (mcseclp@yahoo.com), Training Coordinator,

or

Paul Roehr (pdroehr53527@yahoo.com), Training Coordinator

NOTE: The Wisconsin Swimming Officials’ Committee provides a trainer and training materials, and the USA Swimming DVD “The Start-Philosophy and Protocol.”

2. Take the USA Swimming Online Tests: The tests may be started as soon as the Training Clinic has been completed. **All tests must be completed prior to the 2nd starter or 2nd referee apprentice sessions.**

1. Starter
2. Referee
3. Administrative Referee
4. Timing Judge
5. Clerk of Course
6. Stroke and Turn/Timer

3. Fulfill On-Deck Apprentice Session Requirements

- Serving as an Apprentice on-deck for 11 sessions (5 as Starter, and 6 as a Referee) at three or more different meets (**apprentice sessions cannot occur until after completing one year as a certified Stroke and Turn Official.**)
- Contact the Meet Referee or Meet Director prior to the Meet for permission to attend as an Apprentice and to ensure one-on-one mentoring.
- Attend the Pre-Meet Officials Briefing, 45-60 minutes prior to the start of the meet session (or at the time determined by the Meet Referee).

4. Other Requirements

- Minimum age of 21 years
- Attire: Solid navy blue skirt, shorts or pants, white collared polo shirt and white athletic shoes
- Attitude: Positive attitude, willingness to volunteer, and dedication

5. Certification

- Achieved after successful completion of the Training Clinic, USA Swimming on-line tests, and the Apprentice sessions.
- Submit the completed and signed apprentice card to Michael Harbert, Officials Chair, 204 Brown Blvd., Rothchild, WI 54475, or via email: aquaymca@yahoo.com (photo or scanned copy)
- Wisconsin LSC Certified officials will use their current year USA Swimming Membership Cards as their primary credentials to verify they may be permitted on deck for USA Swimming Sanctioned, Approved, or Observed meets or events.
- Wisconsin LSC officials will use a copy of their OTS generated USA Swimming Official Certification Card as a supplement to their USA Swimming Membership Card as a means of verification of their LSC and National official certification levels needed for serving in assigned positions. These Official Certification Cards also show the expiration dates of the official's USA Swimming registration, Criminal Background Check, and Athlete Protection Training.

After Certification as a Starter/Referee

1. On Deck

- Attend the Pre-Meet Officials Briefing, usually starting 45-60 minutes prior to the beginning of each meet session or at the discretion of the Meet Referee
- Accept deck assignment from the Meet Referee or his/her designee
- Encouraged to volunteer at any meet attended

2. Maintenance of Certification

- Recertification required every even numbered year
- Options for Recertification: attend a Wisconsin Swimming Recertification Clinic, take the USA Swimming on-line Recertification Tests, successful evaluation at the N2 or N3 level, or completion of 75% of the sessions of a National Qualifying Meet without evaluation in that calendar year, such as NIKE, Zone, Speedo or above.
- Must officiate a minimum of six (6) sessions, at two or more different meets **each** year in Starter or higher capacity, with at least one session as Referee.
- Must complete the Criminal Background Check and the online Athlete Protection Training module every 2 years.

3. National Certification

- i. N1-LSC Certification: May officiate at any LSC level meet in any USA Swimming LSC
- ii. N2- National Certification: recognizes that an official is experienced and has been evaluated as capable of working the position at Sectional, Zone, Grand Prix and similar higher profile meets. One evaluation required.
- iii. N3- National Championship Certification: recognizes that an official has the experience, skills, and knowledge to be considered for selection to work National Championship level meets in the position certified. Two evaluations required.

Fees

1. Starter/Referee Training Clinic Fee: Usually \$15.
2. Clubs may reimburse participants for their Training Clinic fee.

For More Information:

Please contact:

- Michael Harbert, Wisconsin Swimming Officials' Committee (aquaymca@yahoo.com)
or
- Michal Patton, Member and Training Coordinator, Wisconsin Swimming Officials' Committee (mcseclp@yahoo.com)
or
- Paul Roehr, Member and Training Coordinator, Wisconsin Swimming Officials' Committee (pdroehr53527@yahoo.com).

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