



Becoming a USA Swimming Certified Official ***Wisconsin Swimming, Inc*** (February 13, 2007)

Benefits of Becoming an Official

1. Help support an excellent sport for children and promote a healthy lifestyle for children.
2. Gain a more thorough understanding of swimming in particular, and sports in general.
3. Fulfill volunteer obligations at Club Meets.
4. Get closer to the action; know what's happening on deck with the "best seat" in the pool.
5. Get mentally and physically engaged during the Meet rather than merely "spectating."
6. Be cooler on deck than in the stands.
7. Receive free admission and great hospitality during sessions officiated.

Getting Started as a Stroke and Turn Judge

1. Training Clinic

- Attend a "New Officials Training Clinic - Stroke and Turn Judge." 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.
- Look for Clinics announced on the Wisconsin Swimming website.
- Participate in a Clinic that requires about four hours and includes discussions and a USA Swimming produced video on judging strokes, turns, and relay take exchanges.
- Sponsor a Club Clinic: If a Club has persons interested in becoming Officials, to request a Clinic at the Club's preferred location, a Club representative contacts:

George Geanon (gdgeanon@wi.rr.com)

or

Patty Kramer (pakramer@chorus.net).

NOTE: The Wisconsin Swimming Officials Committee provides a trainer and training materials, including a current "Wisconsin Swimming Officials Manual" and a USA Swimming mini Rule Book.

2. USA Swimming Test: Complete USA Swimming's on-line, open book test. USA Swimming non-athlete membership is required to take this test.

3. On-Deck Apprentice Sessions

- A Stroke and Turn Judge Apprentice works a minimum of four sessions of at least two different Meets with USA Swimming certified Officials.
- An Apprentice should 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.

- An Apprentice must 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 Expectations

- Age: Minimum of 18 years
- Attire: Solid navy blue skirt, shorts or pants, white collared shirt and white shoes.
- Attitude: Positive attitude, willingness to volunteer, and dedication.

5. Certification

- Occurs after successful completion of the Training Clinic, USA Swimming on-line test, and Apprentice sessions
- Receives USA Swimming “Officials” Membership Card from Chair, Wisconsin Swimming Officials Committee.

After Certification as Stroke and Turn Judge

1. On Deck

- Welcomed and encouraged to volunteer any Meet they attend.
- Attend the Pre-Meet Officials Briefing, usually starting 45-60 minutes prior to the beginning of each Meet session or at the time established by the Meet Referee.
- Accept pool jurisdiction assigned by Meet Referee of his/her designee.

2. Annual Recertification

- Attend a Wisconsin Swimming Recertification Clinic or take the USA Swimming on-line Recertification Test or participate in other alternative provided by the Wisconsin Swimming Officials Committee.
- Volunteer to officiate for a minimum of four sessions, at two or more different Meets each year.

3. Promotion

- Starter/Referee: After one year as a certified Stroke and Turn Judge and having volunteered to officiate at least ten session, an Official may seek advancement to the USA Swimming certification as a Starter/Referee. Requirements include: attending a Starter/Referee Training Clinic; completing the on-line USA Swimming Starter/Referee tests; and serving as an Apprentice on-deck for 11 sessions of at least three different Meets.
- USA Swimming’s three levels of Certification
 - i. N1-LSC Certification: May officiate LSC level Meets, including LSC Championships
 - ii. N2- National Certification: May officiate Central Zone or Speedo Meets, etc.
 - iii. N3- National Championship Certification: May officiate US Open, Olympic Trials Meets, etc.
- For the N2 and N3 Certifications, the positions of Stroke and Turn Judge, Starter, and Deck Referee, as well as Chief Judge, Administrative Referee, and Meet Referee are available.

III. 2007 Fees

1. New Officials Training Clinic Fee: Usually \$25.
2. Re-Certification Annual Fee: Usually \$10.
3. USA Swimming Annual Non-Athlete Member Registration:
 - \$48 dollar (amount increases annually by \$1 through 2010).
 - Registration after September 1 is valid through December of the following year. Membership includes:
 - i. USA Swimming insurance.
 - ii. USA Swimming Rule Book.
 - Most Clubs reimburse participants for their Training Clinics, annual USA Swimming registration fees, and Re-Certification Clinics.
 - *Exception:* If a person already is a member of USA Swimming as an athlete, coach, Club Safety Coordinator, Meet Marshal, Board President, or other Board position, the registration fee paid for any of these positions also applies to becoming an Official.

For More Information:

Please contact:

- George Geanon, Chair, Wisconsin Swimming Officials Committee (gdgeanon@wi.rr.com)
- or
- Patty Kramer, Member and Training Coordinator, Wisconsin Swimming Officials Committee (pakramer@chorus.net).