



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.
- Clinic announcements are located on the Wisconsin Swimming website.
- The Clinic consists of:
 - 3-4 hour session
 - Discussions of rules, strokes, turn and relay exchanges.
 - Review of the USA Swimming produced DVD "Officiating Swimming"
- 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 contact:
George Gannon, Officials' Committee Chair (gdeanon@wi.rr.com)

or

Patty Kramer, Training Coordinator (pakramer@chorus.net).

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

2. USA Swimming Registration:

Complete the current year USA Swimming Non-Athlete Registration (form provided at the clinic, or located on the Wisconsin Swimming website) and submitted along with the fee to the Registration Chair, Carol Graham.

3. USA Swimming Test: Complete USA Swimming's on-line, open book test, "Stroke and Turn/Timer Certification Test".

4. On-Deck Apprentice Session Requirements

- Complete a minimum of four sessions at two or more meets under the supervision of USA Swimming Certified Officials.
- 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 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

- Achieved after successful completion of the Training Clinic, USA Swimming on-line test, and Apprentice sessions
- Certified Officials receive a laminated credentials card from the Chair, Wisconsin Swimming Officials Committee.

After Certification as Stroke and Turn Judge

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 every even numbered year
- Attend a Wisconsin Swimming Recertification Clinic, take the USA Swimming on-line Recertification Test or participate in other alternatives provided by the Wisconsin Swimming Officials Committee.
- Must officiate a minimum of four sessions, at two or more different Meets **each** year.

3. Advancement

- Starter/Referee: After one year as a certified Stroke and Turn Judge and having completed ten sessions as a Stroke/Turn Official, Officials may seek advancement to the USA Swimming certification as a Starter/Referee. Requirements include: attending a Starter/Referee Training Clinic; serving as an Apprentice on-deck for 11 sessions at three or more different Meets; and completing the following USA Swimming on-line tests: Starter, Referee, Administrative Referee, Timer, Timing Judge, Clerk of Course and Stroke and Turn.

- Must officiate a minimum of 6 sessions, at two or more different Meets each year to maintain certification.
- 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.

2010 Fees

1. New Officials Training Clinic Fee: Usually \$25.
2. USA Swimming Annual Non-Athlete Member Registration:
 - 2010: \$53
 - Registration after September 1 is valid through December of the following year. Membership includes:
 - i. USA Swimming insurance.
 - ii. USA Swimming Rule Book.
 - Clubs may reimburse participants for their Training Clinic fee, annual USA Swimming registration fee, and/or Re-Certification Clinic fee.
 - *Exception:* If a person already is a member of USA Swimming as an athlete, coach, Club Safety Coordinator, 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).

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