



Become a USA Swimming Official

Join thousands of parents around the country who support their children in competitive swimming by becoming a certified Stroke & Turn Judge.

What are some of the benefits of being a Stroke & Turn Judge?

1. You are helping support a great sport for your children.
2. You are closer to the action.
3. It is frequently much cooler on deck than in the stands.
4. You get free meals and refreshments.
5. Fulfill club volunteer obligations at meets you would attend anyway.
6. Gain a fuller understanding of swimming and sports in general.

What is required to become a Stroke & Turn Judge?

1. Sign up with the MWS Officials Chair, Debra Pearson. You may contact her either via email – dhpjrp@gmail.com - or by calling her at 402-880-6885.
2. Become a Non-Athlete Member of USA Swimming. Rulebook will be available on the USA Swimming website.
 - Background check (BGC) is required every two years.
 - Athlete Protection Training Course (APT) is required every year.
 - Concussion Protocol Training (CPT) is required.
3. Attend an officials training clinic.
4. Take and pass an open-book test.
5. Work as an apprentice with experienced Officials on deck at four sessions of sanctioned or approved competition.

What is required once you are certified?

1. To maintain your certification, you must work a minimum of four sessions at MWS-sanctioned swim meets every 12 months, maintain your USA Swimming and MWS membership, and take an open-book test or attend a clinic every 2 years.
2. The dress code is a white collared shirt, black slacks or shorts and black footwear.
3. Regularly review the rules just before a meet to maintain your knowledge.

Common Questions:

1. When will you work? When you choose to! Clubs hosting swim meets are required to ensure there are at least two Stroke & Turn Judges on deck at each session of a meet. When your club hosts a meet, you may be expected to fulfill your share of the work by working the meet as an Official. All MWS Officials are encouraged to work any session of any meet that they might normally be attending anyway.
2. Do you need to know how to swim? No.
3. How do you start? Contact your club coach, the MWS office at 402-462-5941 or the current Officials Chair.

As the swimmers grow and develop, you can too, by choosing to train to become a Starter and then a Referee. You must be an Official for one year before you can certify at the next level.

Interested? Contact the MWS Officials Chair: Debra Pearson at 402-880-6885 or email dhpjrp@gmail.com