

How do I become an official?

There is a process to becoming a USA Swimming Official. There are two sides to being an official - a deck (wet) official and an admin (dry) official.

No matter what USA Swimming official position you are applying for, the process is the same. If you are interested in becoming a USA Swimming Official, just reach out to Christine at christinemrolka@gmail.com or chris.rolka@swimdc.com for more details.

Below is a very brief overview of the process for certification:

- **Notify a DCS Official or Coach Jrod** that you would like to become a USA Swimming Official.
- **Notify GA Swimming training coordinator**
- **Register with USA Swimming**
- **Pass a background check**
- **Complete the Athlete Protection Training**
- **Take a virtual class** led by the GA Officials Training Coordinator.
- **Take a comprehensive rules test**
- **Work as an apprentice official** for a set number of sessions.

Every year a USA Swimming Official must recertify the following in order to remain a certified USA Swimming Official:

- Renew their USA Swimming Membership
- Renew their Athlete Protection Training
- Renew their background check (every 2 years)

What does it mean to be an apprentice?

Since there is a lot to learn, we pair you with a “mentor” official before being certified by GA Swimming. You will work side-by-side with your mentor and will be able to talk with them about certain calls and procedures. The more sessions you work, the more you will be able to see and understand what is going on in the meet.

All this sounds complicated, but it’s not. It is an especially rewarding volunteer role!

Key Positions:

A USA Swimming Official must start as either a Stroke and Turn or an Admin Official. As an individual gains experience and wants to continue advancing as an official, there are always new positions to learn.

	Wet Side	Dry Side
Entry Level Positions	STROKE & TURN: Observes swimmers’ strokes, turns, and	ADMIN OFFICIAL: Manages the behind-the-scenes work and data

	finishes to ensure that each athlete swims the stroke according to the rules.	entry related to a swim meet, which includes processing athletes' times, scratches, and disqualifications.
1 Year Experience	STARTER: The starter works together with the deck referee to begin each race and to ensure that all races begin fairly.	
2 - 3 Years Experience	DECK REFEREE: The official in this position is in charge of all aspects on the deck.	ADMIN REFEREE: This person is in charge of all the admin positions at the larger meets. You typically will not see them.
4+ Years Experience	MEET REFEREE: This is the official who is in charge of the entire swim meet while the meet is in session. The deck referee and meet referee may be the same person at smaller meets.	