



Stroke and Turn Judge Apprentice (XJ)

Name _____

Club _____

Email _____

Date _____

Prior to 1st Apprentice Session:

- Have a log-on to usaswimming.com
- Have an Apprentice Official Membership with USA Swimming*
 - If have Official Membership – It must be in Good Standing
- Complete the Foundations of Officiating and Stroke and Turn Judge Course on usaswimming.com FREE if a member of USA Swimming**

*Apprentice Membership is free for 60 days, Contact your club for membership link

**Online Courses are free to members, there is no reimbursement if paid for course

For your Apprentice Sessions:

- Contact the Meet Referee prior to the scheduled session.
- Wear the Officials attire. (*White polo over black bottoms*)
- Bring your Apprentice paperwork with you to each session.
- Attend the sessions' Officials Meeting (*Requirement*).
- You will be assigned a Mentor for each session.
- As an Apprentice you may not a disqualify a swimmer.

Requirements for Certification:

- Apprentice a minimum of 4 Training Sessions***
- Show that you meet the Certification Performance Requirements for Certification on the back of this document
- Meet with the Meet Referee at your final session (when you feel you are ready) and ask for a review for recommendation of certification
- Gain an Official Membership**** with USA Swimming in Good Standing (must have athlete protection training, background check and concussions protocol training)
- Submit your Apprentice paperwork to your Officials Area Representative.

Session	Meet Name	Date	Mentor xx	Meet Referee	Always Make Comments
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

*** - Freestyle only sessions do not count / **** Official membership has a yearly fee

xx-Mentors, please review the performance requirements with Apprentice.

During your apprenticeship you must maintain your USA Swimming Apprentice Membership or Official Membership in Good Standing. Failure to have a current USA Swimming Membership will exclude you from working on deck.-

Bring your Apprentice paperwork with you to each and every sessions that you work. This is documentation to show sessions completed and notes from your Mentors/Meet Referees. Your sessions in this log needs to match your OTS report. If there is a difference we will work with you to get this corrected.

Remember that requirement for completing the apprenticeship is a min of 4 sessions and showing you meet the performance requirements listed on the next page of this document. If after your 4th session you feel that you need more time, you are welcome to continue apprenticing. When you feel that you are ready for certification, talk with your Meet Referee, during the Officials breifing, at your final meet and ask to review the performance requirements and recommendation for certification. If it is determined that after your requested review that more time is needed, the Meet Referee and you will develop an Action Plan on what needs to be worked on so that you can be successful in gaining this certification.

Once a Meet Referee signs the Performance Requirements, this is your recommendation for certification. You will need to make sure that a scan of the log sheet and the completed Performance Requirements forms are submitted to your Officials Area Rep. (Contact information is below.) The Area Rep will review the paperwork and submit it to the Official Chair for certification. You should see your new certification in your OTS record within a week of submission. If you do not see that certification please feel free to reach out to the Area Rep and Officials Chair.

Area 1 Rep	John Dupee	johndupee@bellsouth.net
Area 2 Rep	Bart Smith	bls9714@yahoo.com
Area 3 Rep	Deanna Kaufman	deanna.kaufman@outlook.com
Area 4 Rep	Carl Moore Jr	camoore@fsu.edu
Area 5 Rep	Jen Seluk	tribeseluk@comcast.net
Area 6 Rep	Dave Nesper	dnesper68@gmail.com

	OFFICIAL'S NAME	
CERTIFIER'S NAME		
STROKE AND TURN JUDGE CERTIFICATION		
DEFINITIONS		
Certifier: An official designated by the LSC OC to certify training is complete.		
Clinic: Formal in person or online training clinic, recorded in Officials Tracking System (OTS).		
Certification: Stroke & Turn able to officiate at all LSC meets.		
Satisfactory Performance: Able to demonstrate Performance Requirements. Deficiencies must be provided by LSC OC or designee in writing to the affected official with an Action Plan to success.		
Sessions: At USA Swimming sanctioned or approved meets, recorded in OTS.		
Trainer: Designated by the Referee at a meet or LSC OC, an official who has been USA Swimming certified in the position for 1+ year. If a 1+ year experienced official is not on deck, the Referee may select the most experienced certified official(s) to be a trainer(s).		
Training Sessions: Meet sessions that include strokes and/or relays. Time Trials and Freestyle Only sessions may not count toward training session requirements. Sessions shall be recorded in OTS.		
USA Swimming Member: Completed all USAS member associated requirements before on deck apprenticeship. (apprentice or non athlete membership)		
Apprenticeship Requirements		
	USA Swimming Member	
	Attend a Stroke and Turn clinic	
	Apprentice as a Stroke and Turn Judge for at least 4 training sessions at a minimum of 2 meets with a trainer. OR Coach or Athlete members with 5+ years USA Swimming experience shall apprentice as a Stroke and Turn Judge for at least 2 training sessions with a trainer.	
	Pass the USA Swimming ST Certification test with an 80%	
Certification Performance Requirements for Certification May be evaluated during last apprentice session and use MR sign-off for each session. Y-Yes, N-No, ND - Not Demonstrated		
	Arrives on time, prepared with necessary personal equipment, in proper and professional uniform.	
	Is respectful of other officials, coaches, meet volunteers, spectators, and athletes.	
	Understands and applies proper positioning on deck.	
	Understands and applies communicated jurisdictions and protocols.	
	Understands and applies the rules for the start, stroke, kick, turn, and finish for butterfly.	
	Understands and applies the rules for the start, stroke, kick, turn, and finish for backstroke.	
	Understands and applies the rules for the start, stroke, kick, turn, and finish for breaststroke.	
	Understands and applies the rules for the start, stroke, kicks, turn, and finish for freestyle.	
	Understands and applies the rules for relays.	
	Understands and applies the rules for individual medley.	
	Is comfortable making calls as appropriate and also understands when a call is not appropriate.	
	Can correctly communicate a disqualification and what was observed using USA Swimming rulebook language.	
	Always gives the swimmer the benefit of the doubt.	
	Understands performance criteria as outlined in Stroke & Turn Judge Professional Document.	
	Understands USA Swimming Safe Sport and MAAPP rules.	
Comments (if needed)		
Signature of MR (Final)		
Recommend Certification as Stroke & Turn Judge		
<i>Certification must be complete within one year of the S&T clinic.</i>		
<i>Understands need to return completed checklist form to the official's LSC Officials Chair or designee.</i>		
STROKE AND TURN JUDGE RECERTIFICATION EVERY 3 YEARS		
	Be a current non-athlete member of USA Swimming in good standing.	
	Worked a minimum of 8 sessions, within a 3 year period, at a minimum of 2 different meets in Stroke & Turn or higher capacity.	
	Attend clinic every 3 years.	
	USA Swimming recertification test every 3 years for the highest certification held.	
	Satisfactory performance.	

The “Professional” Stroke & Turn Official -or- The Eyes of the Referee

The “Professional” Stroke & Turn Official should:

- **Know the Rules** and the official interpretations
- **Read and understand** the information in the Meet Announcement prior to the meet or session beginning
- **Attend the Officials Briefing to:**
 - Sign-in on the assignment sheet
 - Review the technical rules
 - Listen to and review protocols for the meet
 - Listen to and review jurisdiction for the meet
 - Be given an assignment by the Meet Referee or the Chief Judge team
 - Cover relief rotation
 - Discuss any other specific instructions or duties for the meet
 - Meet team members, including the Chief Judge for your assigned location
- **Develop your own “mental check list”** of things to do before, during, and after the duty session
- **Before the session:**
 - Know when and where the stroke briefing will take place
 - Locate where officials should sign-in
 - Be prompt to the meeting and dress appropriately and professionally
 - Be attentive during the stroke briefing
 - Have a positive attitude regardless of the assignment
 - Turn off (or if absolutely necessary – mute) cell phone. If you will need access to your cell phone for a compelling reason during the meet, let the Meet Referee and Chief Judge know before the meet so that plans can be made.
 - Be ready and in position 5-10 minutes before the session starts or as requested by either the Meet Referee or Team Lead Chief Judge
- **Before each event:**
 - Visualize the stroke
 - Run through the rule requirements of a legal stroke and any transitions
 - Recall the best and recommended ways to observe the stroke and the turns. Always use “benefit of doubt” observation protocol
- **Before each race:**
 - Do not block the stroke at the start
 - Follow the meet protocol for each stroke
 - Stand in the correct location, 15m mark, flags, etc. if walking stroke
- **After the start:**
 - Walk briskly to the edge of the pool if working the start end as a Turn Judge
 - Observe swimmers until they depart your jurisdiction (usually heads up)
 - If walking stroke:
 - determine if all heads broke the surface prior to or at the 15m mark for non-breaststroke events
 - Walk wall-to-wall, if possible, or as instructed
 - Give equal observation to all lanes in your jurisdiction, even the empty ones
 - Raise hand promptly to signal a possible disqualification if an infraction is observed (unless utilizing FINA protocols)
 - Keep the hand raised until it is acknowledged by a Chief Judge or Referee
 - Do not discuss the infraction with another official or any other individual, including a coach, before reporting it to the designated official. (Do not discuss it afterwards unless asked to by the Deck Referee)
 - Immediately communicate the lane number to the Chief Judge or Deck Referee (if a Turn Judge covering more than one lane or a Stroke Judge)
 - Visualize the infraction before communicating it to the Chief Judge or Deck Referee

The “Professional” Stroke & Turn Official -or- The Eyes of the Referee

- Describe what you observed
- Watch all lanes while reporting the disqualification, unless relieved by a reserve judge
- Retract a call if there is any doubt, by simply stating, “No call”
- Check to make sure the DQ slip is correct before PRINTING your name on the slip
- **Relays:**
 - During relay exchanges, observe the toes departing from the platform and then look for the touching fingers
 - Do not raise a hand for an early relay take-off when dual confirmation is being used
 - Circle the lane and swimmer number on the take-off slip for a good exchange, and X for an early take-off
- **After each event:**
 - Reset to the correct position for the next stroke or event
 - Transition between heats for relief, not during a race
 - When being relieved, return promptly as directed in the pre-session briefing
 - Take a break OFF DECK or in the designated officials’ break area. Do not congregate with other officials on deck
- **If assigned to invigilate controlled warm-up:**
 - Coordinate with the assigned partner to observe the pool and politely enforce compliance with warm-up rules
 - Open pace lanes at the designated time and racing start lanes as requested (open additional sprint lanes if demand warrants). Coordinate with the Announcer and Marshalls
 - Review deck set-up in general – notify Meet Referee of deficiencies or safety issues
- **Other Important Items:**
 - Consider your body language when on duty and at all other times when you are accessible. Always assume you are “on camera”
 - Be alert, attentive, focused, calm, professional, and approachable
 - Always be “friendly” and helpful to coaches, swimmers, and other officials
 - Avoid coaching, cheering or fraternizing with coaches or swimmers
 - Questions should be directed to the appropriate official. Do not engage in discussions regarding a disqualification
 - Take discussions and emotional issues off-deck
 - Do not abuse your credentials. If you are not working the meet, you are a spectator and should act as such
 - Maintain a sense of humor
- **Remember, Professional Stroke & Turn Officials:**
 - Make sure the BENEFIT OF DOUBT GOES TO THE SWIMMER - ALWAYS
 - Adapt to meet conditions and needs, and help out wherever requested
 - Use common sense
 - Don’t read more into the rules than is written
 - Observe the swims but do not scrutinize
 - Exhibit confidence
 - Dress professionally and neatly in the designated uniform
 - Are willing to learn, and frequently work as a Stroke and Turn Judge
 - Never take advantage of credentials to gain deck access when not working in an official capacity
 - Self-evaluate after all shifts, sessions and meets and ask, “What can I do better?”
 - Enjoy the volunteer work, and opportunity to work with coaches, officials, and most importantly, swimmers of all levels

Please refer to the Certification Requirements for Stroke & Turn for information on N2 and N3 evaluations, certification, and recertification.

<https://www.usaswimming.org/officials/national-certification-evaluation>