

OFFICIALS – STROKE AND TURN JUDGE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Purpose:

Establish the requirements and guidelines for becoming and recertifying as a North Carolina Swimming Stroke and Turn Judge. This policy and the requirements are maintained by the North Carolina Swimming Official's Committee.

Requirements to become a Stroke and Turn Judge:

- **Prerequisite**
 - Be at least 18 years of age
 - Register with USA Swimming as a non-athlete member within 60 days of your first on deck apprenticeship. (USA membership is a requirement to officiate on deck)
 - Complete a Level II background
 - Complete the Athlete Protection Training Course
- **Education**
 - Attend a North Carolina Swimming stroke and turn judge clinic. Current scheduled clinics are posted on the North Carolina Swimming website.
 - Satisfactorily complete the USA Swimming Stroke & Turn/Timer certification test (not the Re-certification) with a score of 80% or better, prior to completing the apprenticeship.
- **Training**
 - ALL CERTIFICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN ONE YEAR (12 MONTHS) OF THE CLINIC DATE.
 - Work a minimum of 6 sessions at no less than 3 USA sanctioned or approved swim meets with at least 2 different mentors assigned by the Meet Referee. Each session shall include each of the strokes; relay events if applicable.
 - After each session, the meet referee and/or mentor shall conduct a review of the session with the apprentice and discuss the ratings and/or comments provided on the On Deck Apprenticeship Record (attached).
 - Each session must be documented on the On Deck Apprenticeship Record and signed by the mentor and meet referee.
 - After all 6 sessions in the apprenticeship are completed; the apprentice will email a copy of their On Deck Apprenticeship Record(s) to trainingcoordinator@ncswim.org.
 - Once the NCS training coordinator verifies that the apprentice has met all requirements satisfactorily, including the reviews, he/she will enter the official into OTS as a certified S&T judge. The NCS certification card will be available at www.usaswimming.org.
 - The NCS Training coordinator will notify the apprentice that he/she has completed the apprenticeship and is certified and will order a name badge for the new official.

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Recertification Requirements:

To recertify as a North Carolina Swimming Stroke and Turn Judge, the official must complete the following:

- **Annually (calendar year)**
 - Officiate at a minimum of 10 sessions at USA sanctioned, approved, or observed meets (see bullet below for further clarification on observed meets that qualify).
 - Sessions completed during a calendar year as an apprentice will count towards the minimum requirement of sessions for that year.
 - If you are also an Administrative Official, 2 of your 10 sessions must be at the Administrative Official level.
 - No more than 3 sessions may be at a pre-approved observed meet. Pre-approved meets will appear in OTS and will include high school regional and state championship, specified college conferences and college champs, master meets, and special Olympic meets.
 - Renew their USA Swimming registration as a non-athlete member.
 - Maintain a current Level II background check
 - Maintain current athlete protection education requirements
- **Tri-annually (every 3 years)**
 - Along with the annual requirements, satisfactorily complete the USA Swimming Stroke & Turn/Timer re-certification test with a score of 80% or better
 - Apprentices completing their initial certification test in a testing year will be exempt from taking the re-certification test in that year.

Attachments:

On-Deck Apprenticeship Record



JUDGE - ON DECK APPRENTICESHIP RECORD

APPRENTICE NAME: _____ TEAM: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

CLINIC DATE: _____ CLINIC INSTRUCTOR: _____

It is advisable for apprentices to contact meet referees prior to attending their meets to ensure a mentor judge will be available. Information is found on www.ncswim.org under the Meets Tab.

Rating System: Rating System: **P**= Proficient to perform unsupervised
I= Improved during session but still needs more training/experience
N= Needs More Training/Experience
X=Failed to satisfactorily perform the necessary function
N/A=Not observed or not applicable to this meet

Session #1										
Date: _____	In Position to observe starts, turns and swim	Can properly describe and write-up a DQ and report to referee	Professional manner on deck	Understands Jurisdiction	Knows Backstroke Rules	Knows Breaststroke Rules	Know Butterfly Rules	Knows Freestyle Rules	Knows IM Rules	Knows Relay Rules
Meet: _____										
Referee: _____										
Mentor: _____										
Comments:										

Session #2										
Date: _____	In Position to observe starts, turns and swim	Can properly describe and write-up a DQ and report to referee	Professional manner on deck	Understands Jurisdiction	Knows Backstroke Rules	Knows Breaststroke Rules	Know Butterfly Rules	Knows Freestyle Rules	Knows IM Rules	Knows Relay Rules
Meet: _____										
Referee: _____										
Mentor: _____										
Comments:										

Session #3										
Date: _____	In Position to observe starts, turns and swim	Can properly describe and write-up a DQ and report to referee	Professional manner on deck	Understands Jurisdiction	Knows Backstroke Rules	Knows Breaststroke Rules	Know Butterfly Rules	Knows Freestyle Rules	Knows IM Rules	Knows Relay Rules
Meet: _____										
Referee: _____										
Mentor: _____										
Comments:										

Session #4										
Date: _____	In Position to observe starts, turns and swim	Can properly describe and write-up a DQ and report to referee	Professional manner on deck	Understands Jurisdiction	Knows Backstroke Rules	Knows Breaststroke Rules	Know Butterfly Rules	Knows Freestyle Rules	Knows IM Rules	Knows Relay Rules
Meet: _____										
Referee: _____										
Mentor: _____										
Comments:										

Session #5										
Date: _____	In Position to observe starts, turns and swim	Can properly describe and write-up a DQ and report to referee	Professional manner on deck	Understands Jurisdiction	Knows Backstroke Rules	Knows Breaststroke Rules	Know Butterfly Rules	Knows Freestyle Rules	Knows IM Rules	Knows Relay Rules
Meet: _____										
Referee: _____										
Mentor: _____										
Comments:										

Session #6										
Date: _____	In Position to observe starts, turns and swim	Can properly describe and write-up a DQ and report to referee	Professional manner on deck	Understands Jurisdiction	Knows Backstroke Rules	Knows Breaststroke Rules	Know Butterfly Rules	Knows Freestyle Rules	Knows IM Rules	Knows Relay Rules
Meet: _____										
Referee: _____										
Mentor: _____										
Comments:										
FINAL EVALUATION:										
Approved for certification? YES/No Referee Signature: _____										

VERY IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ BELOW

- Apprentices are required to attend an approved Stroke & Turn training clinic hosted by a USA Swimming referee prior to beginning their on deck apprenticeship.
- Apprentices are responsible for seeking written feedback from their mentor judge after each learning session.
- Once a meet referee has recommended an apprentice for certification, the apprentice is responsible for scanning this completed record and emailing it to the training coordinator at trainingcoordinator@ncswim.org or send a copy to Training Coordinator, 113 Deepwoods Drive, Marion NC 28752