

Michigan Swimming Officials Advancement Requirements

Revised May 25, 2010

USA Swimming Officials Mission Statement

“ To develop officials who are competent, current, and consistent from the LSC level meet to the highest level in our sport through a progressive training program based on an accumulation of experience acquired by specific meet attendance, mentoring, and constructive evaluation.”

Levels of Certification

There are four (4) levels of certification for swimming officials within the Michigan Swimming LSC:

- ☆ Stroke and Turn Judge**
- ☆ Starter**
- ☆ Deck Referee**
- ☆ Referee**

Progression of Levels

Progression to each successive level starting as an Apprentice Stroke and Turn Judge, is summarized on the following pages. “Prerequisites” need to be in place prior to starting the apprenticeship to the next level. The steps necessary to maintain your certification at your current level are listed at the end of this document. If you are interested on learning more about becoming an official within the Michigan LSC, please contact an official at the next swim meet you attend or contact Scott Appleyard, the Michigan LSC Officials Chair whose contact information can be found at michswim.org.

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Stroke & Turn Judge (New Official)

Prerequisites:

- 1. Must be a minimum of nineteen (19) years of age.**
- 2. Must become a current member of Michigan Swimming.**

Becoming a Stroke & Turn Official: (Should be completed in this order)

- 1. Complete the online test series for Timer, Stroke & Turn, Relay Take Off Judge, and Chief Judge. Must receive a minimum passing grade of 80%.**
- 2. Attend a New Officials training clinic.**
- 3. Apprentice on deck for a minimum of six (6) sessions under at least two (2) Different Meet/Deck Referees. Apprentices cannot make disqualification calls unless accompanied by and confirmed by a certified official. At least four (4) of these sessions must involve twelve and under swimmers, swimming at a BC level.**
- 4. Receive written recommendations from three (3) Meet/Deck Referees approving certification as a Stroke & Turn Official.**
- 5. Receive the Officials Committee Evaluator's approval for certification to Stroke & Turn Judge. The Evaluator cannot be one of the three (3) Meet/Deck Referees who has written a recommendation.**
- 6. This process must be completed within a one (1) year period from the date of the clinic the candidate attends or they must restart the process over.**

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Stroke & Turn Advancement to Starter

Prerequisites:

- 1. Must be a minimum of twenty (20) years of age.**
- 2. Minimum of one (1) year served in the position of Stroke & Turn Judge with an average evaluation rating of 2 or higher for all sessions worked.**
- 3. Attend the annual Officials Clinic.**
- 4. Notify the Officials Committee Chair of your desire to start apprenticing as a Starter.**
- 5. Receive written recommendations from three (3) Meet/Deck Referees that the candidate is ready to start apprenticing as a Starter.**

Advancing to Starter: (Should be completed in this order)

- 1. Complete the online test series for Starter and receive a minimum passing score of 80%.**
- 2. Apprentice on deck for a minimum of six (6) sessions under two (2) different Deck Referees. The candidate cannot apprentice on deck until the test is completed.**
- 3. Receive written recommendations from three (3) Meet/Deck Referees the apprentice is ready for certification as a Starter.**
- 4. Receive the Officials Committee Evaluator's approval to be certified as a Starter. The Evaluator cannot be one of the three (3) Meet/Deck Referees who has written a recommendation.**

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Starter Advancement to Deck Referee

Prerequisites:

- 1. Must be a minimum of twenty one (21) years of age.**
- 2. Minimum of one (1) year served in the position of Starter with an average rating of 2 or higher for all sessions worked.**
- 3. Attend the annual Officials Clinic.**
- 4. Notify the Officials Committee Chair of your desire to start apprenticing as a Deck Referee.**
- 5. Receive written recommendations from three (3) Meet/Deck Referees that the candidate is ready to start apprenticing as a Deck Referee.**

Advancing to Deck Referee: (Should be completed in this order)

- 1. Complete the online test series for Referee with a minimum passing score of 80%.**
- 2. Shadow a Deck Referee for one (1) full meet.**
- 3. Work at least three (3) full meets as an unpaid apprentice in the Deck Referee position, mentored by a Deck Referee, under two (2) different Referees. The apprentice cannot work other positions when apprenticing as a Deck Referee.**
- 4. Receive written recommendations from three (3) Referees that the candidate is ready to be certified as a Deck Referee.**
- 5. Receive the Officials Committees Evaluator's approval to be certified as a Deck Referee. The Evaluator cannot be one of the three (3) Meet/Deck Referees who has written a recommendation.**

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Deck Referee Advancement to Referee

Prerequisites:

- 1. Must be a minimum of twenty two (22) years of age.**
- 2. Minimum of one (1) year served in the position of Deck Referee with an average evaluation of 2 or higher for all sessions worked.**
- 3. Attend the annual Officials Clinic.**
- 4. Notify the Officials Committee Chair of your desire to start apprenticing as a Referee.**
- 5. Receive written recommendations from three (3) Referees that the candidate is ready to start apprenticing as a Referee.**

Advancing to Referee: (Should be completed in this order)

- 1. Complete the online test series for Referee.**
- 2. Shadow a Referee for one (1) full meet.**
- 3. Work at least two (2) full meets as an unpaid apprentice Referee with one of the meets being a State level or higher caliber meet, i.e. Grand Prix, Zone, etc.**
- 4. Work at least one (1) additional State level meet in the position of Administrative Referee under the mentoring of a Meet Referee Evaluator.**
- 5. Receive the written recommendation from three (3) Referees**
- 6. Receive the approval of a simple majority of the Officials Committee to become certified as a Referee. The Officials Chair must be one of the members of the majority.**

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Maintaining Certification within Michigan Swimming, Inc.

	Stroke & Turn	Starter	Deck Referee	Referee
Sessions on Deck	4 per year	4 per year	4 per year	4 per year
Minimum Evaluation	2	2	2	2
Clinic	1 per year	1 per year	1 per year	1 per year
Recertification Test	Every 2 years	Every 2 years	Every 2 years	Every 2 years

Michigan LSC Evaluators:

Scott Appleyard - Officials Chair/Referee

Denny Bronkema - Officials Committee/Deck Referee

Adam Hopkins - Officials Committee/Referee

Paul Jones - Referee

John Loria - Officials Committee/Referee

Dan Meconis - Referee

Pete Olson - Referee

Steve Potter - Officials Committee/Referee

Ron Reinke - Officials Committee/Referee

Holly Woonton - Officials Committee/Deck Referee