

National Officials Certification Summary

The National Officials Certification Program is administered by the USA Swimming Officials Committee. Its primary goal is to expand the education of officials through mentoring, participation and evaluation as well as recognizing those officials who have demonstrated their knowledge of swim officiating at each level and position.

There are two levels of National Certification – N2 and N3 – for each of 5 positions:

- Stroke and Turn Judge – ST
- Chief Judge – CJ
- Starter – SR
- Deck Referee – DR
- Administrative Referee – AR

N2 The first National level for a position – recognizes that an official is experienced and has been evaluated as capable of working the position at Sectional, Zone, Grand Prix and similar higher profile meets.

N3 The second National level for a position – recognizes that an official has the experience, skills and knowledge to be considered for selection to work National Championship level meets in the position.

Certification

Certification at any level requires a combination of several things including evaluations, local participation at meets, continuing education, and the training and mentoring of other officials. Tables on the following pages outline the requirements for certification and recertification.

NOTE: An application for National Certification is required after all requirements are met. See "[National Certification Application](#)" in Officials Tracking System and FAQs in "Testing & Certification – [National Certification](#)" on the USA Swimming website.

Length of Certification

Initial certification for a position will extend the expiration for all certified positions to either June 30th or December 31st for a minimum of three years. If, as part of an initial certification, the official has satisfied all re-certification requirements for all other certified positions, the expiration date of all positions will be extended for a minimum of three years from the date of application.

Evaluation

Evaluations can only be done at Officials Qualifying Meets (OQMs). An OQM may be approved for N2 evaluations or N3 evaluations or a combination of N2 and N3 by position. For example, an OQM may be approved for N3 Stroke & Turn but only N2 for the other positions. The level of evaluations permitted at a given OQM is determined by the capabilities of the assigned evaluators along with the level of the meet and the procedures and protocols to be used at the meet. Note: When satisfactory Initial and Final N3 evaluations are required for a position, they cannot be by the same evaluator or done at the same meet. Except for N3 *initial* AR evaluations, all satisfactory advancement evaluations (N2, N3 ST, N3 initial and N3 final) are valid for two years (plus 3 months) after the meet at which they were done. A satisfactory N3 *final* evaluation must be completed before the *initial* evaluation expires. N3 *initial* AR evaluations are valid for 4 years.



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Requirements to Receive an Evaluation at an OQM

To be eligible for an N3 ST or N3 initial evaluation you must work at least 8 sessions in the position at USA Swimming sanctioned meets after N2 certification and prior to the request. To be eligible for an N3 final evaluation, or another N3 initial or N3 final evaluation, you must work at least 8 sessions in the position at USA Swimming sanctioned meets after the last N3 evaluation and prior to the request.

To be evaluated at an OQM you must work at least 4 sessions as an official at the meet. Sessions in excess of those required for evaluation need not be worked in the evaluated position.

N2 Evaluations

N2 Positions	Evaluation Requirements
Stroke & Turn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LSC certification as Stroke & Turn Judge Satisfactory evaluation as stroke and turn judge over at least three (3) sessions at an OQM
Chief Judge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N2 certification as Stroke & Turn Judge Satisfactory evaluation as chief judge over at least three (3) sessions at an OQM
Starter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LSC certification as Starter Satisfactory evaluation as starter over at least three (3) sessions at an OQM
Deck Referee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N2 certification as Stroke & Turn Judge and LSC certification as Referee Satisfactory evaluation as deck referee over at least three (3) sessions at an OQM
Administrative Referee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LSC certification as Deck Referee or LSC certification as Administrative Referee Satisfactory evaluation as administrative referee over at least three (3) sessions at an OQM

N3 Evaluations

N3 Positions	Evaluation Requirements
Stroke & Turn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N2 certification as Stroke & Turn Judge Satisfactory evaluation as stroke and turn judge over at least four (4) sessions at an OQM
Chief Judge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N3 certification as Stroke & Turn Judge and N2 certification as Chief Judge or Referee Satisfactory evaluation as chief judge over at least four (4) sessions at an OQM
Starter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N3 certification as Stroke & Turn Judge and N2 certification as Starter Satisfactory evaluation as starter over at least four (4) sessions at an OQM
Deck Referee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N3 certification as Stroke & Turn Judge and N2 certification as Referee Satisfactory evaluation as deck referee over at least four (4) sessions at an OQM
Administrative Referee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N3 certification as Stroke & Turn Judge and N2 certification as Deck Referee or Administrative Referee Satisfactory evaluation as administrative referee over at least four (4) sessions at an OQM

Note: The number of evaluations required for a position is included in [N3 Certification Requirements](#).



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N2 Certification Requirements

Position	Certification Requirements
Stroke & Turn ST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfactory evaluation as an N2 Stroke & Turn Judge over 3 sessions at an Officials Qualifying Meet • Participation in at least 12 sessions in a minimum of 4 LSC meets over the past 24 months • Continuing Education • One (1) year of LSC level S&T experience prior to applying for advancement
Chief Judge CJ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfactory evaluation as an N2 Chief Judge over 3 sessions at an Officials Qualifying Meet • Participation in at least 12 sessions in a minimum of four 4 LSC meets over the past 24 months • Continuing Education and Mentoring of officials • One (1) year of LSC level experience (any position) prior to applying for advancement
Starter SR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfactory evaluation as an N2 Starter candidate over 3 sessions at an Officials Qualifying Meet • Participation in at least 12 sessions in a minimum of 4 LSC meets over the past 24 months • Continuing Education and Mentoring of officials • One (1) year of LSC Starter experience prior to applying for advancement
Deck Referee DR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfactory evaluation as an N2 Deck Referee candidate over 3 sessions at an Officials Qualifying Meet • Participation in at least 12 sessions in a minimum of 4 LSC meets over the past 24 months • Continuing Education and Mentoring of officials • One (1) year of LSC Deck Referee experience prior to applying for advancement
Admin Referee AR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfactory evaluation as an N2 Admin Referee candidate over at least 3 sessions at an Officials Qualifying Meet • One (1) year of LSC Deck Referee or Admin Referee experience • Participation in at least 12 sessions in a minimum of 4 LSC meets over the past 24 months • Continuing Education and Mentoring of officials



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N3 Certification Requirements

Position	Certification Requirements
Stroke & Turn ST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One (1) satisfactory evaluation as an N3 Stroke and Turn Judge • Participation in at least 12 sessions in a minimum of 4 LSC meets over the past 24 months • Work at least 4 sessions as an official* at <u>each</u> of 2 Officials Qualifying Meets in the 24 months prior to applying for advancement • Continuing Education, Mentoring and Training • One (1) year as an active N2 Stroke and Turn Judge or N2 Deck Referee prior to applying for advancement
Chief Judge CJ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two (2) satisfactory evaluations (one Initial and one Final) as an N3 Chief Judge • Participation in at least 12 sessions in a minimum of 4 LSC meets over the past 24 months • Work at least 4 sessions as an official* at <u>each</u> of 2 Officials Qualifying Meets in the 24 months prior to applying for advancement • Continuing Education, Mentoring and presenting Seminars or High Level Briefings • Work at a minimum of 1 National Championship Meet as an official* in the 5 years prior to the first N3 CJ, SR, DR or AR application • One (1) year as an active N2 Chief Judge or N2 Deck Referee prior to applying for advancement.
Starter SR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two satisfactory evaluations (one Initial and one Final) as an N3 Starter • Participation in at least 12 sessions in a minimum of 4 LSC meets over the past 24 months • Work at least 4 sessions as an official* at <u>each</u> of 2 Officials Qualifying Meets in the 24 months prior to applying for advancement • Continuing Education, Mentoring and presenting Seminars or High Level Briefings • Work at a minimum of 1 National Championship Meet as an official* in the 5 years prior to the first N3 CJ, SR, DR or AR application • One (1) year as an active N2 Starter prior to applying for advancement
Deck Referee DR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two satisfactory evaluations (one Initial and one Final) as an N3 Deck Referee • Participation in at least 12 sessions in a minimum of 4 LSC meets over the past 24 months • Work at least 4 sessions as an official* at <u>each</u> of 2 Officials Qualifying Meets in the 24 months prior to applying for advancement • Continuing Education, Mentoring and presenting Seminars or High Level Briefings • Work at a minimum of 1 National Championship Meet as an official* in the 5 years prior to the first N3 CJ, SR, DR or AR application • One (1) year as an active N2 Deck Referee prior to applying for advancement
Admin Referee AR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two satisfactory evaluations (one Initial and one Final) as an N3 Administrative Referee <u>or</u>, • One satisfactory N3 Final evaluation as Head Admin Referee for all sessions at an OQM <u>or</u>, • Assistant Admin Referee at a National Championship Meet – Evaluation must be done by a qualified National Evaluator <p>And</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in at least 12 sessions in a minimum of 4 LSC meets over the past 24 months • Work at least 4 sessions as an official* at <u>each</u> of 2 Officials Qualifying Meets in the 24 months prior to applying for advancement • Continuing Education and Mentoring or training others • Work at a minimum of 1 National Championship Meet as an official* in the 5 years prior to the first N3 CJ, SR, DR or AR application • One (1) year as an active N2 or N3 Deck Referee or N2 Admin Referee prior to applying for advancement

* official means ST, CJ, SR, DR, AR, Meet Referee, Administrative Official and Head Timer for these purposes.

