

Advancement Criteria and Minimum Expectations for Pacific Swimming Officials

STROKE AND TURN (S&T)			
To become a TRAINEE	L1 (QUALIFIED)	L2 (EXPERIENCED)	Expectations for Working Major Meets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Register with USA Swimming as a non-athlete member Official. Complete and pass the online S&T Certification Test. Pass Level 2 background check. Complete Athlete Protection Training (APT). Complete Concussion Protocol Training. Complete Child Abuse Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA). <p>For details on how to complete the above criteria, see USA Swimming.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work at least 4 days (no fewer than 2 meets) working under direct supervision and prior to requesting an evaluation. Friday evening sessions do not qualify. (Exceptions apply; check with your CJ.) 2 successful evaluations¹ (*) at C/B/A-level type meets. Have attended a clinic for S&T. <p style="text-align: center;">Knowledge of Rules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has basic working knowledge of the rules. <p style="text-align: center;">Positioning / Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates basic understanding of the best place for positioning. <p style="text-align: center;">Stroke/Turn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to identify and call flagrant violations. Able to complete a DQ slip with minimal errors. Beginning ability to observe more complex stroke violations (may need to think). Able to focus on one or more parts of the body. Able to fully observe at least one lane. Gives benefit of the doubt to the athlete. Works well with others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> L1 S&T for at least one year. Worked at least 8 sessions after obtaining L1 S&T and worked at least 2 meets within one year. 2 successful evaluations at C/B/A-level type meets (*). Some experience as either CJ or ACJ. <p style="text-align: center;">Knowledge of Rules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knows the rules thoroughly and applies them accurately. <p style="text-align: center;">Positioning / Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintains the proper positioning for most situations. Understands when not to make a call due to weak positioning and benefit of doubt. <p style="text-align: center;">Stroke/Turn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to observe the whole body most of the time. Shows confidence making calls. Able to fill out DQ slips accurately. Participates when needed to mentor/train Officials. Judges multiple lanes equally. Works well with others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 & Under Champs, Zone Challenge, Senior Open: L1 S&T. Age Group Champs, Far Westerns, Senior 2: L2 S&T is preferred (L1 will be considered). Application is required for some Major Meets; preferred if submitted at least two weeks in advance. Approval needed from Zone Officials Chair and/or LSC Officials Chair. <p style="text-align: center;">Knowledge of Rules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applies the advanced and nuanced aspects of the rules and unique situations accurately. <p style="text-align: center;">Positioning / Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Familiar with responsibilities for all deck positions. Maintains proper positioning for all situations. <p style="text-align: center;">Stroke/Turn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makes accurate calls. Able to observe multiple lanes accurately. Works well with all Meet Personnel. Takes the initiative to seek opportunities to mentor Officials. Able to work under pressure and handle unexpected events properly. Shows leadership and leads by example. <p>** NOTE: An Official who has received an L2 and an N3 S&T will be reclassified as L3 (Highly Experienced).</p>
Evaluation Form includes above criteria and “Attentiveness; Attitude/Poise; Reliability; Works well with all meet Officials and Club Personnel.”			
Recertification Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend an Officials Clinic once every 2 years. Pass USA Swimming’s Stroke & Turn Recertification test every 2 years. Shall work at least 8 sessions per year. Keep USA Swimming credentials current and “in good standing” (Athlete Protection, Background Check, and Annual Registration). 		

¹ (*) Evaluation shall be performed by an Officials Committee approved Evaluator. Evaluated and recommended for advancement over 2 days of the meet with each evaluation occurring at a different meet. Each evaluation will be signed off by a different Meet Referee, if possible, (or their designee); evaluation shall be approved by the Zone Officials Chair.

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Chief Judge (CJ)			
To become a TRAINEE	L1 (QUALIFIED)	L2 (EXPERIENCED)	Expectations for Working Major Meets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S&T L2 preferred. Works well with others and is open to mentoring other Officials. “Good Standing” on USA Swimming: Registration, Background Check and Athlete Protection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have attended a CJ Clinic. Worked at least 2 sessions (no fewer than 2 meets) within one year working under direct supervision. 2 successful C/B/A-level type meets evaluations² (*) <p style="text-align: center;">Knowledge of Rules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands current rules and how to apply them at a beginning level. Understands jurisdictions, protocols, and mentoring responsibilities. <p style="text-align: center;">Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to evaluate and manage DQ slips. Able to create basic rotations. Understands the basics of running an Officials meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked at least 8 sessions as L1 CJ and a minimum of 1 year after obtaining L1 CJ. 2 successful C/B/A-level type meets evaluations (*) <p style="text-align: center;">Knowledge of Rules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands current rules and how to apply them in all standard situations. Understands more advanced jurisdictions and protocols e.g.-lead lag, relay take-off. <p style="text-align: center;">Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to perform the CJ or ACJ duties at any C/B/A-level type meet. Runs the Officials meeting effectively. Creates rotations that are balanced and well suited for the S&T Officials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 & Under Champs, Zone Challenge, Senior Open: L1 CJ. Age Group Champs, Far Westerns, Senior 2: L2 CJ is preferred (L1 will be considered). Application is required for Major Meets. Approval needed from Zone Officials Chair and/or LSC Officials Chair. <p style="text-align: center;">Knowledge of Rules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands current rules and how to apply them in more advanced situations. Understands Radio Protocols and able to explain them. Familiar with responsibilities for all deck positions. <p style="text-align: center;">Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitors proper positioning for all situations. Shows confidence with CJ briefings and delegating duties. Able to create effective rotations for all situations. <p>** NOTE: An Official who has received an L2 and N3 CJ will be reclassified as L3 (Highly Experienced).</p>
Evaluation Form includes above criteria as well as “Positioning/Control; S&T Training and Mentoring; Attentiveness; Attitude/Poise; Communication; Reliability; Works well with all meet Officials and Club Personnel.”			
Recertification Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend an Officials Clinic once every 2 years. Shall work at least 8 sessions per year (with at least 2 sessions as CJ when possible). Keep USA Swimming credentials current and “in good standing” (Athlete Protection, Background Check, and Annual Registration). 		

² (*) Evaluation shall be performed by an Officials Committee approved Evaluator. Evaluated and recommended for advancement over 2 days of the meet with each evaluation occurring at a different meet. Each evaluation will be signed off by a different Meet Referee, if possible, (or their designee); evaluation shall be approved by the Zone Officials Chair.

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Starter (STR)			
To become a TRAINEE	L1 (QUALIFIED)	L2 (EXPERIENCED)	Expectations for Working Major Meets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass USA Swimming Starter Certification test. Achieved minimum Level 2 S&T Official or has approval from a Zone Officials Chair if still an L1 S&T. “Good Standing” on USA Swimming: Registration, Background Check and Athlete Protection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have attended a Starter Clinic. Worked at least 2 Sessions (no fewer than 2 meets) working under direct supervision. 2 successful C/B/A-level type meets meet evaluations³ <p style="text-align: center;">Knowledge of Rules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has beginning understanding of current USA Swimming rules for Starting procedures and responsibilities of a Starter. <p style="text-align: center;">Positioning / Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to obtain the best position for Starter for forward/backstroke starts. Able to maintain a relaxed demeanor. Shows beginning awareness of the entire field. <p style="text-align: center;">Starts / False Starts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning ability to allow for stationary position; delivers effective "Stand Please;" creates fair starts for all athletes. Conveys a calm, conversational tone fairly consistently. Able to call flagrant false starts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked at least 8 sessions as Starter and a minimum of 1 year after obtaining L1 Starter. 2 successful C/B/A-level type meet Evaluations.* <p style="text-align: center;">Knowledge of Rules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has a thorough understanding of procedures at C/B/A-level type meets. Able to handle more advanced situations. Able to perform Head Starter duties at C/B/A-level type meets. <p style="text-align: center;">Positioning / Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to maintain a relaxed demeanor. Able to set-up and troubleshoot minor problems with the Colorado Starting System. Able to assist Deck Referee as needed. <p style="text-align: center;">Starts / False Starts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows time for Athletes to achieve a stationary position without delaying the start. Shows strong ability to maintain a calm, conversational “take your mark” tone. Able to distinguish between "stationary," and "non-disqualifiable motion." Ability to judge less obvious false starts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> L2 STR is preferred, but L1 STR will be considered. Application is required for Major Meets. Approval needed from Zone Officials Chair and/or LSC Officials Chair. Preferred L2 S&T <p style="text-align: center;">Knowledge of Rules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands procedures at a Trials and Finals meet. Knows the intent of the rules and applies them uniformly. Able to perform the Head Starter functions at C/B/A-level type meets. Understands most aspects of running a meet and is familiar with responsibilities for all deck positions. <p style="text-align: center;">Positioning / Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to work under pressure, anticipate problems, and handle unexpected events properly. Shows leadership capabilities at C/B/A-level type meets. Always takes the initiative to seek opportunities to mentor Officials on deck or at Clinics. <p style="text-align: center;">Starts / False Starts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to maintain a professional, calm, conversational tone when saying “take your mark” and all other necessary communications on mic. Advanced ability to judge false starts and the difference between "a false start," "stationary," and "non-disqualifiable motion." <p>** NOTE: An Official who has received an L2 Starter and N3 Starter will be reclassified as L3 (Highly Experienced).</p>
Evaluation Form includes above criteria as well as “Attentiveness; Attitude/Poise; Reliability, Works well with all meet Officials and Club Personnel.”			
Recertification Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend an Officials Clinic once every 2 years. Pass USA Swimming Starter Recertification test every 2 years. Shall work at least 8 sessions per year (with at least 2 sessions as Starter when possible). Keep USA Swimming credentials current and “in good standing” (Athlete Protection, Background Check, and Annual Registration). 		

³ (*) Evaluation shall be performed by an Officials Committee approved Evaluator. Evaluated and recommended for advancement over 2 days of the meet with each evaluation occurring at a different meet. Each evaluation will be signed off by a different Meet Referee, if possible, (or their designee); evaluation shall be approved by the Zone Officials Chair.

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Deck Referee (DR)			
To become a TRAINEE	L1 (QUALIFIED)	L2 (EXPERIENCED)	Expectations for Working Major Meets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass USA Swimming Deck Referee Certification test. Achieved minimum L2 S&T Official or has approval from a Zone Officials Chair if still an L1 S&T. “Good Standing” on USA Swimming: Registration, Background Check and Athlete Protection. Strongly suggest AO certification before becoming a DR. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have attended a DR Clinic. Worked at least 2 Sessions within one year as a DR under direct supervision. 2 successful C/B/A-level type meet evaluations** Must be familiar with Starter, AO, CJ, Clerk of Course, Marshal, and Timers. <p style="text-align: center;">Knowledge of Rules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knows current USA Swimming rules for procedures and responsibilities of a DR. Shows beginning consistency in the application of rules and procedures. Familiar with the Meet Announcement. <p style="text-align: center;">Position / Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to focus on the deck and pool; maintains control. Able to call a flagrant false start. Able to complete a DQ slip while on deck. Able to maintain a sense of flexibility. <p style="text-align: center;">Meet Operation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Willing to work where needed. Able to focus on the immediate situation at hand. Familiar with Meet Personnel responsibilities and general operations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked at least 8 sessions as L1 DR and a minimum of 1 year after receiving L1 DR. 2 successful C/B/A-level type meets meet evaluations* <p style="text-align: center;">Knowledge of Rules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knows current USA Swimming rules for procedures and responsibilities of a DR. Accurately and consistently applies rules and procedures. Has thorough understanding of the Meet Announcement. <p style="text-align: center;">Position / Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shows more experience in taking control of the deck; able to handle many different situations. Well organized and able to maintain consistent focus on the deck and pool. Able to see mistakes made by S&T Officials on disqualification slips most of the time. Able to complete multiple DQ slips while on deck and process all paperwork accurately. Participates in the mentoring/training of Officials. <p style="text-align: center;">Meet Operation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relaxed and poised at all times; sees most of what is occurring on deck. Consistently helps keep the meet running smoothly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> L2 DR is preferred, but L1 DR will be considered. Application is required for Major Meets. Approval needed from Zone Officials Chair and/or LSC Officials Chair. <p style="text-align: center;">Knowledge of Rules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Familiar with responsibilities for all deck positions. Knows the intent of the rules and applies them uniformly. Has thorough understanding of the more advanced Meet Announcement. <p style="text-align: center;">Position / Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shows advanced awareness of officials and maintains control of the entire deck. Works under pressure and handles unexpected events properly. Able to complete multiple DQ slips while on deck and process all paperwork accurately. Shows leadership capabilities at C/B/A-level type meets. Mentors Officials on deck and/or at Clinics. <p style="text-align: center;">Meet Operation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands most aspects of running a meet. Has a thorough understanding of procedures at a Trials and Finals meet. <p>** NOTE: An Official who has received an L2 Deck Referee and N3 Deck Referee will be reclassified as L3 (Highly Experienced).</p>
Evaluation Form includes above criteria and “Attentiveness; Attitude/Poise; Reliability; Overall Performance; Works well with all meet Officials and Club Personnel.”			
Recertification Requirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend an Officials Clinic once every 2 years. Pass USA Swimming DR Recertification test every 2 years. Shall work at least 8 sessions per year (with at least 2 sessions as DR when possible). Keep USA Swimming credentials current and “in good standing” (Athlete Protection, Background Check, and Annual Registration). 		

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Admin Official/Admin Referee (AO/AR)			
To become a TRAINEE	L1 (QUALIFIED)	L2 (EXPERIENCED)	Expectations for Working Major Meets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass USA Swimming Administrative Referee Certification test. For Admin. Official: S&T certification not required. For Admin Referee: Achieved minimum L1 Deck Referee. “Good Standing” on USA Swimming: Registration, Background Check and Athlete Protection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have attended an AO/AR Clinic. At least 2 Sessions working under direct supervision within the first year prior to requesting an evaluation. 2 successful C/B/A-level type meet evaluations.⁵ <p style="text-align: center;">Knowledge of Rules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knows the functions and responsibilities of an Administrative Official at a timed final meet. Understands current USA Swimming rules and procedures. Is familiar with Meet Announcement. <p style="text-align: center;">Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to communicate accurate information in a clear and precise manner with fellow officials, athletes, coaches, meet personnel, and spectators. <p style="text-align: center;">Record Keeping, Forms, and Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to handle some unexpected events, such as splitting a heat, and heat failures. Understands how to manage basic time reviews and time adjustments. Able to manage paperwork at age-group meets. Manages Clerk of Course and Runners. <p style="text-align: center;">Meet Operation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to review and approve all paperwork under the guidance of the Meet Referee. Able to focus on immediate situations. Able to prioritize work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked at least 8 sessions as an L1 AO/AR and a minimum of 1 year after receiving L1 AO/AR. Worked a minimum of 2 sessions in the previous year as L1 AO/AR prior to requesting an evaluation. 2 successful C/B/A-level type meet Evaluations. <p style="text-align: center;">Knowledge of Rules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands more advanced situations. Able to perform AO/AR functions at all C/B/A-level type meets. For AR: Must be familiar with MR and DR responsibilities. <p style="text-align: center;">Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to communicate accurate information in a clear and precise manner with fellow officials, athletes, coaches, meet personnel, and spectators. Participates in the mentoring of Officials. <p style="text-align: center;">Record Keeping, Forms, and Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handles most unexpected events. Understands all times and adjustments at C/B/A-level type meets. Well-organized and able to maintain focus. Able to train the Clerk of Course and Runners. <p style="text-align: center;">Meet Operation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to review and approve all paperwork under the guidance of the Meet Referee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> L2 AO/AR is preferred, but L1 AO/AR will be considered. Application is required for Major Meets. Approval needed from Zone Officials Chair and/or LSC Officials Chair. <p style="text-align: center;">Knowledge of Rules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anticipates problems and takes appropriate actions. Adapts to all meet conditions and needs. Knows intent of rules and applies them uniformly. Does not over interpret procedural rules. Familiar with all Officials positions and their responsibilities. <p style="text-align: center;">Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mentors Officials on deck or at clinics. Leads by example at C/B/A-level type meets. Keeps Meet Referee informed of non-routine decisions. Works well with all meet Personnel. <p style="text-align: center;">Record Keeping, Forms, and Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands completely the rules and procedures as outlined in the Meet Announcement. Able to check times for accuracy and make any adjustments as needed. <p style="text-align: center;">Meet Operation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistently keeps the meet running smoothly. Understands most aspects of running a meet. Works well under pressure; handles unexpected events. Able to develop a post-scratch timeline. <p>** NOTE: An Official who has received an L2 AO/AR and N3 AO/AR will be reclassified as L3 (Highly Experienced)</p>
Evaluation Form includes above criteria and “Knowledge of Timing Equipment and Programs; Attitude/Poise; Reliability; Works well with all meet Officials and Club Personnel.”			
Recertification Requirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend an Officials Clinic once every 2 years. Pass USA Swimming’s AO or AR Recertification test every 2 years. Shall work at least 8 sessions per year (with at least 2 sessions as AO/AR when possible). Keep USA Swimming credentials current and “in good standing” (Athlete Protection, Background Check, and Annual Registration). 		

⁵ (*) Evaluation shall be performed by an Officials Committee approved Evaluator. Evaluated and recommended for advancement over 2 days of the meet with each evaluation occurring at a different meet. Each evaluation will be signed off by a different Meet Referee, if possible, (or their designee); evaluation shall be approved by the Zone Officials Chair.

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Meet Referee (MR)			
To become a TRAINEE	L1 (QUALIFIED)	L2 (EXPERIENCED)	Expectations for Working Major Meets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass USA Swimming AR, DR, STR, and S&T Certification tests. Achieved Level 2 DR. “Good Standing” on USA Swimming: Registration, Background Check and Athlete Protection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have attended a MR Clinic. L2 DR. Shadow at least 4 Sessions (no fewer than 2 meets) with 2 different MR within one year. 2 successful C/B/A-level type meet evaluations*⁶. Must be familiar with all meet positions. Experience with Admin is preferable. Must have approval of Zone Officials Chairs. <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Knowledge of Rules</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knows current USA Swimming rules for procedures and responsibilities of all meet positions. <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Position / Control</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to work well with all meet officials and club personnel. Familiar with the Meet Announcement for C/B/A-level type Meets and how to review and revise as needed. <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Meet Operation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to focus on the immediate situations at hand. Familiar with all Meet Personnel responsibilities and general operations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked at least 8 sessions with no fewer than 4 meets as an MR, and a minimum of 1 year after receiving L1 MR. Worked 2 Trials & Finals-level type meets. Must have AR experience and must have worked at least 1 meet with AR at a Trials & Finals Meet. Must receive recommendation for advancement by the Zone Officials Chair(s) and LSC Officials Chair. <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Knowledge of Rules</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knows current USA Swimming rules for procedures and responsibilities of all meet positions. <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Position / Control</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to work well with all meet officials and club personnel. Familiar with the Meet Announcement for a Trials & Finals Meet and how to review and revise as needed. Familiar with all nuanced aspects of running a meet and has gained some experience with the specific expectations for a Trials & Finals Meet. <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Meet Operation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to focus on the immediate situations at hand. Familiar with all Meet Personnel responsibilities and general operations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates exceptional understanding of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> USA Swimming rules all Officials Positions the Meet Announcement Demonstrates an exceptional ability to work well with everyone (Officials, Coaches, Athletes, Meet Director, Parents, etc.). <p>An Official prepared to Meet Referee at this level will have been invited to officiate one of the following Meets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Far Westerns Senior 2 Sectionals Futures Junior Nationals Pro Series National Championships <p>** NOTE: An Official who has been invited to MR a meet at this level will be reclassified as L3 (Highly Experienced)</p>
Recertification Requirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend an Officials Clinic once every 2 years. Pass USA Swimming's AR, DR, STR, and S&T Recertification test every 2 years. Shall work at least 8 sessions per year (with at least 2 sessions as MR when possible). Keep USA Swimming credentials current and “in good standing” (Athlete Protection, Background Check, and Annual Registration). 		

⁶ (*) Evaluation shall be performed by an Officials Committee approved Evaluator. Evaluated and recommended for advancement over the course of the entire meet each evaluation. Each evaluation will be signed off by a different Meet Referee, if possible. Evaluation shall be approved by the Zone Officials Chair.