

STROKE AND TURN JUNIOR OFFICIAL FAQ

- Q. The Officials Certification Standards require that a Stroke and Turn Junior Official must be a member of USA Swimming. Does registration as an Athlete Member satisfy this requirement or will there be an additional category in which the athlete must register?**
- A. A 16-17 year-old Athlete Member who desires to become a Stroke and Turn Junior Official must select that role when registering. When registering as an Athlete Member, a 16-17 year-old will see the following “roles:” Premium Athlete, Seasonal Athlete, Junior Coach, and Junior Official. The athlete will be able to multi-select Premium Athlete and either or both of the Junior Coach or Junior Official roles.
- Q. How should an individual aged 16-17 and who is not an Athlete Member of USA Swimming register with USA Swimming if they desire to become a Stroke and Turn Junior Official?**
- A. The individual would need to go through the registration process just as if they were registering to be an athlete, but they would only select the Junior Official role.
- Q. When a Stroke and Turn Junior Official turns 18 years old, do they need to upgrade their membership to Non-Athlete Official member?**
- A. When the athlete turns 18 years old, they will automatically be switched to Official on their birthday. They will immediately be shown to be “not in good standing” because their background check cannot be completed before their eighteenth birthday. They will then need to complete their background check and Athlete Protection Training before they are again in good standing.
- Q. Are LSCs required to offer the Stroke and Turn Junior Official membership category/role?**
- A. No, although LSCs are encouraged to do so.
- Q. Are the member clubs of an LSC required to offer the Junior Official membership category/role?**
- A. No, although clubs are encouraged to do so.
- Q. If an LSC and/or a club does not offer the Junior Official membership category/role, is there any recourse for the 16-17 year old who desires to become a Stroke and Turn Junior Official?**
- A. Not at this time.
- Q. Does a Stroke and Turn Junior Official apprentice need to complete *Concussion Protocol Training (CPT)* either prior to beginning on-deck training or before certification?**
- A. Yes, apprentice must complete CPT.

- Q. Is a *Background Check (BGC)* required for 16-17 year-old Stroke and Turn Junior Officials?**
- A. No, but a BGC is required once the individual turns 18 years old.
- Q. Is *Athlete Protection Training (APT)* required for 16-17 year-old Stroke and Turn Junior Officials?**
- A. No, but *Safe Sport for Youth Athletes (13-17)* training is required prior to beginning on-deck training. APT is required once the individual turns 18 years old.
- Q. What type of sessions can a Stroke and Turn Junior Official officiate at?**
- A. Stroke and Turn Junior Officials may only officiate at sessions that are limited to events for 12&Under athletes. Stroke and Turn Junior Officials may not officiate at sessions that include 13&Over athletes or at sessions that include Open events.
- Q. What types of meets can a Stroke and Turn Junior Official officiate at?**
- A. Stroke and Turn Junior Officials may only officiate at competitions below the LSC Championship level.
- Q. Is there a limit as to the number of Stroke and Turn Junior Officials who may officiate at a session?**
- A. No, but there shall be at least one adult official (in any capacity: DR, SR, ST, AO) for each Stroke and Turn Junior Official on deck.
- Q. Do Stroke and Turn Junior Officials need to be paired with an adult Stroke and Turn official on deck?**
- A. No, a certified Stroke and Turn Junior Official is a certified official and should be treated no differently in that respect from any other Stroke and Turn official. Pairing an adult official and Junior Official together would lead to over officiating within that pair's jurisdiction.
- Q. Will Stroke and Turn Junior Officials be trackable in OTS?**
- A. Yes, once an athlete registers in the Junior Official role, that athlete will appear in OTS just as any other adult official or apprentice official. The Junior Official's registration status, *Concussion Protocol Training*, *Safe Sport for Youth Athletes (13-17)* training, and certification status will all be displayed.
- Q. When a Stroke and Turn Junior Official is officiating at a 12&U session, are they allowed to use the restrooms/bathrooms designated as "athletes only" or must they use the public or single-use facilities?**
- A. Per MAAP, a Junior official would be able to use an athletes locker room as long as they are not over 18. If they are over 18 they must use the designated locker room for 18 & over participants at the meet. Bathroom usage is not restricted by role rather than by age as dictated in MAAP.

- Q. When communicating electronically (eg, email) with an apprentice or certified Stroke and Turn Junior Official, do the Junior Official's parents/legal guardians need to be copied on the communication? Do all electronic communications need to take place between the hours of 5:00am and 9:00pm?**
- A. Per MAAPP, all electronic communication from adult participants to minor athletes must be professional in nature. One-on-one communications with a minor athlete (including a Stroke and Turn Junior Official) require that the minor athlete's parent/legal guardian must be copied. Communications with a group of individuals (eg, all possible officials for a meet, officials working a particular meet) do not require that the minor athlete's parent/legal guardian be copied. All communications must only be sent between the hours of 5:00am and 9:00pm local time for the location of the minor athlete (emails written after 9:00pm should be scheduled to send at 5:00am the following day).
- Q. When working with apprentice or certified Stroke and Turn Junior Officials, must all interactions between the Junior Official and an adult official be both observable and interruptible by another adult as per MAAPP?**
- A. Yes, MAAPP still applies.
- Q. Is there any Safe Sport language for Stroke and Turn Junior Officials regarding the interactions between the Junior Official and other swimmers?**
- A. The *Power Dynamic Supplementary Resource* describes this in detail; however, all interactions once in the Junior Official capacity must be professional and observable.
- Q. If a club objects to the use of Stroke and Turn Junior Officials, can they bar a Junior Official from officiating at a meet that they are hosting?**
- A. No. Certified Stroke and Turn Junior Officials should be treated just like adult certified Stroke and Turn Officials.