

NATIONAL OFFICIALS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM – CERTIFICATION LEVELS

There are three levels of National Certification for each of 5 positions:

- **Stroke and Turn Judge,**
- **Chief Judge,**
- **Starter,**
- **Deck Referee and**
- **Administrative Referee.**

Note: The positions of “Referee (non Starter)” and Timer, Clerk of Course, Announcer, etc. are not included in this program.

N1 The first level in a position - remains with, and is administered by, the LSC and recognizes that the official:

- meets “minimum standards,” and
- reliably and competently performs in the position at LSC level meets with minimal supervision.

In some LSC’s this may be when the official is certified. In others it may be a number of meets after certification.

LSC’s may decide if they want to use the designation **N1** or not, however, advancement to higher National Levels requires a year of experience at the equivalent of the “**N1**” level.

Please **DO NOT** apply to the National Officials Committee for certification or re-certification at the **N1** level. IF your LSC chooses to use the **N1** designation, it will be part of their normal certification and re-certification process.

N2 The second level in a position – is administered by the National Officials Committee and 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.

Advancement to N2 Certification requires:

- At least one year of experience in the position at the N1 level, or equivalent,
- At least 12 sessions at 6 or more LSC meets as an N1 official in the position in the 24 months prior to application,
- Participation in the training of other officials as a mentor or as a clinic or deck instructor,
- Participation in LSC or higher-level clinics or briefings, and
- Reading the current edition of the USA Swimming Officials Manual as published on the USA Swimming website.

The applicant attests to all of the above requirements.

Also required is:

- A recommendation from The LSC Officials Chair, and
- A report from a “National Evaluator” indicating that the candidate has demonstrated the appropriate qualities and skills over several sessions and recommending advancement.

Evaluations should be over about 3 sessions for each position. Evaluations may be at Officials Qualifying Meets or, preferably, at a higher-level meet that meets most of the requirements of an Officials Qualifying Meet (e.g. prelims and finals, senior swimmers, meet deck protocol approaches National Championship standards, etc.).

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N3 The **third level** in a position – is administered by the National Officials Committee and recognizes that an official has the experience, skills and knowledge to be considered for selection to work National Championship level meets.

Advancement to N3 Certification requires:

- At least one year of certification in the position at the N2 level, and in the 24 months before application for advancement,
- At least 12 sessions at 6 or more LSC meets,
- Participation in the training of other officials as a mentor or as a clinic or deck instructor,
- Participation in LSC or higher-level clinics or briefings, and immediately prior to application,
- reading the current edition of the USA Swimming Officials Manual published on the USA Swimming website.

The applicant attests to all of the above requirements.

Also required are:

- Recommendation from The LSC Officials Chair, and in the 24 months before application for advancement:
- At least 4 sessions at each of 2, or more, “Officials Qualifying Meets”. To receive an evaluation and credit for the meet, the candidate must work 4 sessions in the position and at least 80% of sessions at the meet. Sessions not being evaluated do not have to be in the position. *
- Reports from “National Evaluators” at each of the Qualifying Meets indicating that the candidate has demonstrated the appropriate qualities and skills and recommending advancement to the position.
- For Stroke and Turn Judge one (1) satisfactory evaluation report is required from one of the two Officials Evaluation Meets. For Chief Judge, Starter and Deck Referee, satisfactory evaluations are required from two Officials Evaluation Meets: an Initial Evaluation and a Final Evaluation.
- For Deck Referee and Starter – completion of the “Final Evaluation” requirements for those positions.
- For advancement to N3 Chief Judge, Starter, Deck Referee or Administrative Referee the candidate must also have N3 certification as a Stroke and Turn Judge and National Championship experience as an official.

* Note: For an N3 evaluation to be valid and for the meet to be used for advancement credit (N3 Stroke and Turn Judge 2nd meet) the official must work at least 80% of the total number of sessions in the Qualifying Meet. The minimum session requirement is capped at 6 sessions. For example - work 4sessions at a 4 or 5 session meet; work 5 sessions at a 6 session meet; 6 sessions at a 7 or more session meet. Time trials DO NOT COUNT as sessions at Officials Qualifying Meets and cannot be used for evaluations at any level.

A national database for officials will show at least the highest level **above N1** for each position.