

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Officials applying for positions at USA Swimming national championship meets will find a new selection process in use based upon the new certification standards. The standards were drafted and adopted by the National Officials Committee to improve and ensure the quality and professionalism of USA Swimming Officials at all levels.

The process requires all officials to pre-qualify before they will be eligible to serve in any position at National Championship meets. Three levels of certification - N1, N2 and N3 - can be earned for Stroke and Turn Judge, Chief Judge, Starter, Referee and Administrative Referee.

Initial certification in a position is N1. At this level, Local Swimming Committees (LSC) establish that the official is knowledgeable, reliable and has base level experience. LSC's may choose, but are not required, to use this designation for officials who meet this standard.

N2 certification requires at least one year of N1 level experience in the designated position and a passing evaluation by a National Evaluator before it is granted. N2 certifies that the official has the qualities, experience and knowledge to perform at any USA Swimming national level meets.

N3, the highest certification in a position, is a prerequisite for selection to the National Championship Deck, and has more stringent requirements. An official must complete at least one year of active service at the N2 level at the position; continue officiating at the LSC level; serve as a mentor to developing officials; and receive passing evaluations in the position by National Evaluators at two Officials Qualifying (national level) Meets. For the positions of N3 Referee, Starter and Chief Judge the evaluations are on two levels: an Initial evaluation prior to a more rigorous Final evaluation. Certification and National Championship meet experience as an N3 Stroke and Turn Judge is also required before N3 certification in any other position.

A number of Officials Qualifying Meets will be approved each year around the country to give officials ample opportunity to qualify at the N3 level in a position, and to recertify at the N2 and N3 levels. USA Swimming officials with previous National and National Championship certifications will find transitioning provisions for their certifications extending them for 2 years. New certificates will be issued to those officials who are still active.

Essential to the program is a group of experienced National Championship officials who will serve as National Evaluators to provide uniform, consistent and objective evaluation of each official and who will protect the integrity of the N2 and N3 designations so they can be relied on at all meet levels.

The new certification process is designed to provide a clear and achievable path for advancement based upon knowledge, experience, and ability and to produce well-trained N2 and N3 Officials who continue to apply the rules consistently and fairly for the benefit of our partners, the swimmers and coaches of USA Swimming.

There is a considerably more detail regarding the entire program available through links on the Certification Page. [Click here](#) to go to the Certifications page.