

NATIONAL OFFICIALS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM - DEFINITIONS:

Officials Qualifying Meets ... Similar to previous "National Certification Meets". May include Regional, Zone, Sectional, Grand Prix, and other meets approved by the National Officials Committee. A "National Evaluator" will also have to be present at those meets. Some "Officials Qualifying Meets" may be assigned "National Evaluators" specifically to make final evaluations of N3 Starter and N3 Deck Referee candidates. National Championship Meets are also Officials Qualifying Meets for the purposes of re-certification evaluation, however only 1 National Championship Meet may be used to satisfy part of the participation requirements for re-certification or advancement. Time trials at National Championship meets may be available for evaluation of candidates N3 Starter. See "Guidelines for Evaluation of N3 Starters at Time Trials of National Championship Level Meets."

Mentoring ... Working one on one with officials to help train them, appointment as a "mentor" at a meet (LSC through Officials Qualifying Meets and, possibly, Time Trials at National Championship Meets), etc.

Seminars and High Level Briefings ... could include "swimposiums," pre session briefings at National Championship meets, presenting training clinics for new or advancing LSC officials, attending pre meet meetings of assigned officials at National Championship meets (recommended for N3 CJ, Starter, Deck Referee and Admin Referee candidates – make a request to the meet referee in advance), etc.

National Evaluators ... Very Experienced Officials qualified by the National Officials Committee to evaluate officials for advancement and re-certification.

Minimum requirement - several years as a N2 Referee and N3 S&T certification, preferably with deck experience at several National Meets. Evaluators meeting the minimum requirement may evaluate for advancement to all N2 positions and to N3 Stroke and Turn Judge. Evaluators with other N3 certifications may perform Initial N3 evaluations in positions they have N3 certification and for all N2 and N3 re-certifications.

Certain **National Evaluators** are appointed to make Final Evaluations of candidates for N3 Chief Judge, Starter, Deck Referee and Administrative Referee. Generally - they are N3 Officials with National Championship experience in the positions that they evaluate.

National Evaluators **may** participate in the officiating of meets where they are evaluating officials. If they do, it is suggested that the number of candidates for advancement be limited to allow fair and objective evaluation. Evaluators are most effective when they do not have other meet duties and interact with and mentor candidates before, during and after evaluations.

All National Evaluators will be:

- aware of current national officiating procedures, and
- be available for clinics, briefings, presentations, clarification of issues and mentoring related to the art of USA Swimming officiating.

Qualified National Evaluators may get re-certification evaluation credit if they perform their duties, including timely submission of all required reports, as "full time" evaluators at Officials Qualifying Meets.