

# Becoming a USA Swimming Official

Thank you for your interest in becoming a USA Swimming official in Lake Erie Swimming (LES). Our officials cordially invite you to join our team. The list of steps to become an official may seem long and intense. However, we anticipate that you will have an enjoyable and fun experience while in the process of becoming more involved.

Following is a summary of the requirements necessary to become an official in Lake Erie/USA Swimming. They can be found in the *Lake Erie Swimming Handbook* and in the *Lake Erie Swimming Officials Committee Manual*. The LES handbook is available on LES's website - [www.lakeerieswimming.com](http://www.lakeerieswimming.com).

1. You must be at least 18 years of age and be a non-athlete member of USA Swimming.
2. You must pass the USA Swimming officials, open-book test for the position in which you are seeking certification (**Note: for stroke and turn, you must take the stroke and turn test and the timer's test only**). All testing is now done online at the USA Swimming web site. The test can be printed out and taken off line and then when you are done; you go back on line and fill in the answer sheet. Official's positions in which Lake Erie Swimming certifications may be earned include stroke and turn, starter, administrative, and referee.
3. You must serve an on-deck apprenticeship meeting the following criteria for stroke and turn certification. The certification processes for the other positions also are detailed in the officials manual.
  - a. Apprentice at no fewer than 2 different meets,
  - b. Apprentice at no fewer than 8 sessions at meets that are not limited to swimmers who are equal to or faster than B time standards, and 5 of these must be at sessions scheduled for younger swimmers, and
  - c. Apprentice a minimum of 2 sessions at a developmental meet.

Ongoing evaluations will be provided by your mentor (an experienced official assigned to guide and assist you through the certification process), the officials training coordinator, the meet referees for the meets at which you serve your apprenticeships, and the observing officials.

4. After successful completion of all requirements you may request certification observation by contacting the Lake Erie Swimming Officials Chairman – Chuck Kunsman. Upon successful completion of the observation process you would be certified as a Lake Erie/USA Swimming stroke and turn official.

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