

Maryland Swimming Stroke and Turn Official

New Official Introduction



Why be an official?

There are lots of great reasons to become a swim official...

- * We need you
- * Support :
 - * Your Swimmer
 - * Your Club
 - * Your Fellow Officials
- * Great view! Best seat in the house!
- * Comradery



The role of ‘Stroke and Turn Official’?

Responsible for maintaining a fair and equitable competitive environment

- * Observe the swimmers
 - * After the start
 - * During the swim
 - * Through the turns
 - * At the finish
- * Report any violations of the rules



It is **IMPORTANT** to **REMEMBER!**

The **SWIMMERS**

ALWAYS get the benefit of the doubt!

Call What You See!

And

See What You Call!



Are Officials Paid?

NO!

We Are Volunteers!

BUT

We are considered

Professional



PROFESSIONAL

What does it mean?

We Take Our Role Seriously

We Dress Professionally

The Coaches and Swimmers Expect It

We Do Are Best

We Give the Swimmers the

“Benefit of the Doubt”

We conduct ourselves on and off the deck professionally!!!





But We Have Fun!





Steps to Becoming a Certified Official

1. Attend Clinic
2. Complete Background check
3. Send in registration
4. Complete Athlete Protection Training
5. Begin apprenticing at meets
6. Arrange an evaluation session
7. Receive recommendation to take tests from Referee
8. Send email to Maryland Swimming Officials Chair-(Greer Verheyen)requesting to take tests.
9. Take and pass tests with a average score of 90%

[MDSI Officials Certification Matrix](#)



Process Details for First Time Registrants

First – Complete Background Check.

- * A Level 2 USA Swimming Background Check.
- * Every certified official must pass a Level Two background check prior to volunteering as an official on the pool deck.
- * You will be initiating the coach/official BGC - the cost is \$38.00. If you have ever been a resident of New York the cost is \$80.00
- * For more information on the background check and to initiate the background check (BGC) process, go to <https://www.usaswimming.org/Home>



Process Details for First Time Registrants

Second – Send in Registration Application with correct fee

- * Go to the Maryland Swimming website for a copy of the current **USA Swimming Non- Athlete Membership Application**. All Certified Officials are required to be Non-Athlete Members. You can find the application under “**Forms**” on the MD Swimming home page. www.mdswim.org
- * Registration provides you insurance while working the deck as an official or apprentice, or when volunteering for other meet duties for your club
- * A USA Swimming Rule Book
- * A membership card (can be printed from the USA Swimming Web page) showing you have met the requirements to be an apprentice official.



Process Details for First Time Registrants

Third - Upon notification of completed registration from MD Swimming Registrar

- * Complete the Athlete Protection Training
 - * Athlete Protection Training
- * For new Officials - Must be completed within 10 days of notification of registration! For more information go to <https://www.usaswimming.org/Home>

Until Background Check and Athlete Protection Test are complete, and current, an Official may not be on the pool deck for any reason.



Additional Thoughts on Training Process

1. During Apprenticeship ask questions and keep asking questions until you understand the rule
2. Practice describing what you see with your mentor – Practice = Proficiency
3. Do not be concerned if additional apprentice sessions are recommended
4. Take and pass tests with a average score of 90%
5. Do not be concerned about the tests = Training Tool
 - a. Print the Tests and take your time
 - b. The tests are open book
 - c. Hints are given regarding what rule gives you the answer
 - d. Once the test is taken – immediate feedback is given



Additional Thoughts on Professionalism

1. Be Professional
 - a. Do not discuss disqualifications or criticize other officials in the presence of coaches or swimmers
 - b. If a coach or swimmer has a question about a call – please refer them to the Deck Referee
 - c. If a parent has a question – please refer them to their coach
 - d. Be respectful of each other, coaches, parents, and swimmers
2. Work Meets Regularly
 1. Improves Proficiency
 2. Develops Respect



Questions

