

## Advancing to Deck Referee

Before you begin the advancement process to Deck Referee (minimum age 21) complete at least one full year as a qualified Starter. You must also complete the following requirements within one year of attending the DR clinic date or the process starts over. Advancing to Deck Referee requires you do the following:

1. Maintain USA/CT requirements and 'Catch the Wave':
  - Registration for membership annually
  - APT every two years
  - Background check level 2 every two years in Dec
2. Attend a Connecticut Swimming clinic for New Deck Referees (for re-certs attend a clinic or officials annual meeting every two years during the re-cert periods Oct-Dec)
3. Take the following online *certification* tests in any order: Referee, Clerk of Course, Timing Judge and Administrative Official — four tests in all — at [usaswimming.org](http://usaswimming.org). 80% is required to pass each test; you can retake any test, if necessary. (for re-certs take re-cert tests every two years during the re-cert periods Oct-Dec)
4. Send '*certify me as Trainee*' email upon completion of the above to start on-deck training (*NOTE: it takes approximately one [1] week for the change in status to be processed & recorded do NOT anticipate it sooner*)
5. Print out your Trainee Deck Referee Card from OTS (your OTS work code is: 'XR')
  - Train at the Deck Referee position for a minimum of six (6) sessions under the supervision of at least three (3) USA/Connecticut Swimming meet referees at a minimum of three (3) meets.
  - The training (shadowing) sessions break out as follows: four (4) as Deck Referee, and, two (2) as Administrative Official (AO). One of the AO sessions should be at a prelims/finals meet at the prelims session. NOTE: The requirement for two (2) AO sessions is waived for those with AO certifications.
  - The last Deck Referee session requires a final evaluation submitted by the Meet Referee to the Officials Chair. Please let the MR know it is your last session and have them contact the Officials Chair for the evaluation check list prior to the final meet. If this does not occur the session will need to be done again. The evaluation is required to advance.
  - Referee trainees can only train at USA/Connecticut Swimming sanctioned meets and cannot train at freestyle only meets.
  - Throughout your training you must assume all the tasks and duties required of a Deck Referee, including but not limited to whistle commands, manage start quadrant, work with Starter as partners, manage on-deck needs for disabled swimmers, verify false start protocol, invigilate during warm ups, work with Chief Judges (if available), possibly assigning and conducting officials meeting and stroke briefing, debriefing S&T Judges about DQs and informing coaches and meet with AO to resolve any issues, and reconcile DQs. Training sessions CANNOT occur at any Championship meets.
  - Six (6) sessions is the minimum, you may feel you need more, or you may be asked to do additional training sessions. (for re-cert. work 8 sessions annually; 1 S&T, 1 Championship plus 6 additional)
  - Your OTS trainee work codes are: Deck Referee XR and Admin Official YA
6. Send '*certify me as Deck Referee*' email to the officials chair upon completion of all of the above for training (*NOTE: it takes approximately one [1] week for the final certification to be processed & recorded do NOT anticipate it sooner*)
7. Print out your Official Deck Referee Certification card from USA Swimming