

Advancing to Meet Referee

Before you begin the advancement process to Meet Referee (minimum age 21), you must have been certified as a Deck Referee and worked a min of 6 sessions at three meets as Deck Ref and 1 session as AO. The advancement process must be complete within 12 months of the date of the MR clinic. Advancing to Meet 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 Meet Referees whenever one is available after becoming a DR (for re-certs attend a clinic or officials annual meeting every year 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 Referee — four tests in all — at 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) *NOTE: If you just took these tests for Deck Referee certification and you are still within the 2 year test cycle you do not need to re-take the tests. See the Officials Chair, if needed, to understand timing.*
4. Send 'certify me as Meet Ref 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 Meet Referee Card from OTS
 - Train at the Meet Referee position for a minimum of six (6) sessions under the supervision of at least three (3) USA/Connecticut Swimming meet referees at a min. of three (3) meets.
 - Referee trainees can only train at USA/Connecticut Swimming sanctioned meets and cannot train at freestyle only meets. This includes working two (2) sessions with the administrative referee at a prelim and finals session of a Senior or Age Group Championship meet, or similar format meet (cannot train as deck referee at any Championships).
 - One of the training sessions the trainee must run the FULL session. Be sure to contact the Officials Chair PRIOR to the meet so they can discuss the training with the host Meet Referee and assign a Meet Referee Evaluator to the session. You must assume all the tasks and duties required of a Meet Referee, including but not limited to recruiting officials, reviewing the meet announcement, approving heat sheets, assigning officials, conducting officials meeting and stroke briefing, debriefing S&T Judges about DQs and informing coaches, setting meet protocol, overseeing trainees, supervising AOs/ARs, verifying results, utilizing radios for radio protocol, managing coaches, resolving any meet issues. This full session CANNOT occur at a Championship meet.
 - Six (6) sessions is the minimum, you may feel you need more, or you may be asked to do additional training sessions to insure success. (for re-cert. work 8 sessions annually: 1 S&T, 1 Championship plus 6 additional)
 - Your OTS trainee Meet Referee work code is: XM (Meet Ref) or XA (Admin role)
6. Be recommended to the Officials Chair by a designated Meet Referee Evaluator at your full session. You must ask them to contact the Officials Chair prior to the meet for planning and then after the meet with their recommendation.
7. Be familiar with OTS and complete an exercise assigned by the Officials Chair involving giving credit to officials in OTS for working at a meet.
8. Send 'certify me as Meet 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*)
9. Print out your Official Meet Referee Certification card from USA Swimming – CONGRATULATIONS!