

Advancing to Deck Referee

Before you begin the advancement process to Deck Referee (minimum age 21) you must complete at least one full year as a certified Starter. Advancing to Deck Referee requires you do the following, in order, and you must be complete within one year from the clinic date or the process starts over:

1. Maintain USA/CT requirements:
 - Registration for membership annually
 - APT every year
 - Background check level 2 every two years
2. Attend a Connecticut Swimming clinic for New Deck Referees
3. Take the following online *certification* tests in any order: Referee, Clerk of Course, and Timing Judge — three tests in all — at usaswimming.org. 80% is required to pass each test; you can retake any test, if necessary.
4. Send ‘*certify me as Deck Referee 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 Deck Pass on USA Swimming, ‘Membership Card’
6. Train at the Deck Referee position for a minimum of eight (8) sessions under the supervision of at least three (3) Connecticut Swimming meet referees at a minimum of three (3) meets over a minimum of 10 weeks. Eight (8) sessions is the minimum; you may feel you need more, or you may be asked to do additional training sessions to insure success. These training sessions must be completed prior to requesting a final evaluation.
 - Referee trainees can only train at USA/Connecticut Swimming sanctioned meets and cannot train at freestyle only meets. Cannot train as DR at any CT Championship 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 reconcile DQs.
 - The last Deck Referee session requires a final evaluation by an approved Deck Referee Evaluator. At least one week prior to the final meet, the trainee must email both the Meet Referee and the Officials Chair to let them know you would like to do your final evaluation session at the meet. The Officials Chair will review the training, and, if necessary based on staffing, assign an approved Deck Referee Evaluator to the session. If at least one week notification is not provided, the session will need to be done again. The trainee should bring the evaluation checklist (available on ctswim) to their final session. The Deck Referee Evaluator will review the evaluation with the Trainee at the conclusion of the final session.

- Your OTS trainee work code is: Deck Referee XR
7. Send 'certify me as Deck Referee' email to the officials chair, officials@ctswim.org upon completion of all of the above for training. This email must include a scanned copy of the signed final evaluation form. *(NOTE: it takes approximately one [1] week for the final certification to be processed & recorded; do NOT anticipate it sooner)*
 8. Print out your Official Deck Referee Certification card from Deck Pass on USA Swimming, 'Membership Card'
 9. CONGRATULATIONS!