

## Advancing to Starter

**Before you begin the advancement process to Starter, you must complete at least one full year as a certified Stroke & Turn Judge.** Advancing to Starter 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:
  - a. Registration for membership annually
  - b. APT every year
  - c. Background check level 2 every two years
2. Attend a Connecticut Swimming clinic for New Starters
3. Take the online Starters *certification* test at [usaswimming.org](https://usaswimming.org). 80% is required to pass; you can retake the test, if necessary.
4. Send 'certify me as Starter Trainee' email to the officials chair, [officials@ctswim.org](mailto:officials@ctswim.org) 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 Official Starter Trainee card from Deck Pass on USA Swimming, 'My Certification Card'
6. Train at the Starter position for a minimum of six (6) sessions under the supervision of at least three (3) Connecticut Swimming meet referees at a minimum of three (3) meets over a six (6) week period before requesting final evaluation.
  - Starters can train only at USA/Connecticut Swimming sanctioned meets and CANNOT train at freestyle only or championship meets.
  - The last Starter session requires a final evaluation by an approved Starter 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 Starter 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 Starter Evaluator will review the evaluation with the trainee at the conclusion of the final session.
7. Send 'certify me as Starter' email to the officials chair, [officials@ctswim.org](mailto:officials@ctswim.org) upon completion of all of the above for training. This email must include a scanned copy of the 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 Certification card from Deck Pass on USA Swimming, 'My Certification Card'