

Nine Steps to Becoming a Maryland Swimming Official

- 1. *Get information from the Maryland Swimming web site – www.mdswim.org – or other source regarding stroke and turn official's clinic dates, times and locations.***

- 2. *Participate in an official's stroke & turn clinic.***

Ask questions; receive apprenticeship information and an Apprentice initial work record card. Note: If the clinic is held in conjunction with a Maryland Swimming sanctioned competition, apprentices will be allowed to work the session following the clinic.

- 3. *Immediately complete and mail the USA Swimming non-athlete membership form with appropriate fees to the address on the form.***

Officials, including apprentices, must be members of USA Swimming. Registration is valid for one calendar year. Apprentices register by checking the box, '**Other**', not the box marked 'Official'. Registration is required to begin the apprenticeship program.

- 4. *Review and become familiar with the USA Swimming rules.***

- 5. *Volunteer and work a minimum of five (5) complete sessions with certified officials.***

Work includes the pre-session briefing and the Maryland Swimming sanctioned competition. Work as many sessions (no less than 5 complete sessions) as necessary to become comfortable watching the competition, preparing a disqualification slip, operation of the two-way radios, etc. Carry your Apprentice initial work record card and USA Swimming registration card on deck with you. Have your Apprentice initial work record card signed by the deck or meet referee for each session worked.

- 6. *Arrange with a training referee to work one session under observation (preferably the 4th or 5th).***

The list of training referees is available on the MD Swimming web site. Be prepared to apply your knowledge of the rules to various real-life situations.

- 7. *Receive recommendation from the training referee to take the open book exam.***

- 8. *Send email to the Maryland Swimming Official's Chairman requesting permission to take the exam.***

The message should list the sessions worked and which referee recommended you take the next step (the referee must also send a statement confirming the recommendation). The exam is available on-line or you can request a paper copy whichever is more convenient. Instructions to access the on-line version will be supplied.

- 9. *Take and pass the open book examination elements with a combined score of 90%.***

There are two tests required to become a Stroke & Turn Official – a 50-question Stroke & Turn exam and a 30-question Timer exam (both tests require you to identify the source paragraph or paragraphs from the rule book). Upon successful completion, you will receive a confirmation of passage as well as a new Maryland Swimming Certification card, a replacement USA Registration Card stamped 'Official' and welcome gift.

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Maryland Swimming Official