

NATIONAL OFFICIALS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM - CERTIFICATION LEVELS

There are three levels of National Certification for each of 5 positions:

- Stroke and Turn Judge
- Chief Judge
- Starter
- Referee
- Administrative Referee

National records for officials will show the highest level above N1 for each position.

Level N1

The first level – National 1 or N1 - remains with, and is administered by, the LSC and recognizes that the official:

- meets “minimum standards,” and
- reliably and competently performs in the position at LSC level meets with minimal supervision.

In some LSC’s this may be when the official is certified. In others it may be a number of meets after certification.

LSC’s may decide if they want to use the designation N1 or not, however, advancement to higher National Levels requires a year of experience at the equivalent of the “N1” level.

[Please DO NOT apply to the National Officials Committee for certification or re-certification at the N1 level. IF your LSC chooses to use the N1 designation, it will be part of their normal certification and re-certification process.](#)

Level N2

The second level – National 2 or N2 – is administered by the National Officials Committee and recognizes that an official is experienced and has been evaluated as capable of working the position at Sectional, Zone, Grand Prix and similar higher profile meets.

Advancement to N2 Certification requires:

- At least one year of experience in the position at the N1 level,
- At least 12 sessions at 6 or more LSC meets as an N1 official in the position in the 24 months prior to application,
- Participation in the training of other officials as a mentor or as a clinic or deck instructor,
- Participation in LSC or higher-level clinics or briefings, and
- Reading the current edition of the USA Swimming Officials Manual as published on the USA Swimming website.

The applicant attests to all of the above requirements.

Also required is:

- A recommendation from The LSC Officials Chair, and
- A report from a “National Evaluator” indicating that the candidate has demonstrated the appropriate qualities and skills over several sessions and recommending advancement.

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Level N3

The third level – National 3 or N3 – is administered by the National Officials Committee and recognizes that an official has the experience and has been evaluated to have the skills and knowledge required to be considered for selection to work National Championship level meets.

Advancement to N3 Certification requires:

- At least one year of certification in the position at the N2 level and,
- in the 24 months before application for advancement,
 - At least 12 sessions at 6 or more LSC meets,
 - Participation in the training of other officials as a mentor or as a clinic or deck instructor,
 - Participation in LSC or higher-level clinics or briefings and,
 - Immediately prior to application, reading the current edition of the USA Swimming Officials Manual published on the USA Swimming website.

The applicant attests to all of the above requirements.

Also required are:

- Recommendation from the LSC Officials Chair.
- At least 4 sessions in the position at each of 2, or more, "Qualifying Meets". The candidate must work all sessions at the Qualifying Meet, not necessarily in the position, to receive credit for advancement.
- Reports from "National Evaluators" at each of the 2 Qualifying Meets indicating that the candidate has demonstrated the appropriate qualities and skills and recommending advancement to the position.
- For Referee and Starter – completion of the "Final Evaluation" requirements for those positions.
- For advancement to N3 Chief Judge, Starter, Referee or Administrative Referee the candidate must also have National Championship experience as an official.