

Additional Resources

- USA-Swimming
 - www.usa-swimming.org
- Virginia Swimming, Inc.
 - www.virginiaswimming.com
- Potomac Valley Swimming
 - www.pvswim.org

USA Swimming Officials Certification

- Overview of International/National/Local Swimming
- Swim Meet Structure and Staffing
- Certification and re-certification requirements
- Working meets
- Timer Certification

Swim Organizations

- FINA-International governing body of swimming
- United States Aquatic Sports, Inc. (USAS)
 - USA-Swimming
 - Local Swim Committees (LSC) (59)
 - Virginia Swimming, Inc. (VSI)
 - » Local Teams
- AAU
- YMCA
- NCAA
- NFHS
- Summer Leagues

USA Swimming Rules

- USA Swimming Rules and Regulations
- VSI Policies
- Meet Invitation
- (YMCA uses NCAA rules (because YMCA meets are USA Swimming sanctioned in Virginia, we use the stricter of the two sets of rules which means we default to USA Swimming rules))

Philosophy of Officiating

“All competitive swimming events held under USA Swimming sanction shall be conducted in accordance with the following rules ***which are designed to provide fair and equitable conditions of competition and promote uniformity in the sport so that no swimmer shall obtain unfair advantage over another.***”

Meet Organization

- Major responsibilities divided between:
 - Meet Director
 - Meet Referee

Meet Director

- Responsible for:
 - Pre-meet planning
 - Meet Invitation
 - Organizing volunteers
 - Running the non-technical aspects of the meet
 - Post-meet reports

Meet Officials

- Referee
 - Responsible for running the meet
 - In charge of all officials
 - May have particular responsibilities
 - Meet Referee
 - Administrative Referee
 - Deck Referee

“Wet Deck” Officials

- Starter
 - Ensures that all swimmers receive a fair start
- Stroke and Turn
 - Ensures that the swimmers comply with the technical rules of swimming including:
 - Stroke and kick
 - Turns
 - Finish
- Chief Judge
 - Assigns/supervises Stroke and Turn officials
 - Reports DQs from S&T officials to the Referee

“Dry Deck” Officials

- Clerk-of-Course
 - Seeds swimmers by time into appropriate lanes and heats
 - “Shepherds” swimmers to the blocks
- Timing System Operator
 - Runs the electronic timing system
 - Colorado Timing System (CTS) or Daktronics (NOVA)
- Timing Judge
 - Under the supervision of the Referee, determines the official time for each swimmer
- Recorder
 - Records and publishes the results of the meet

Timers

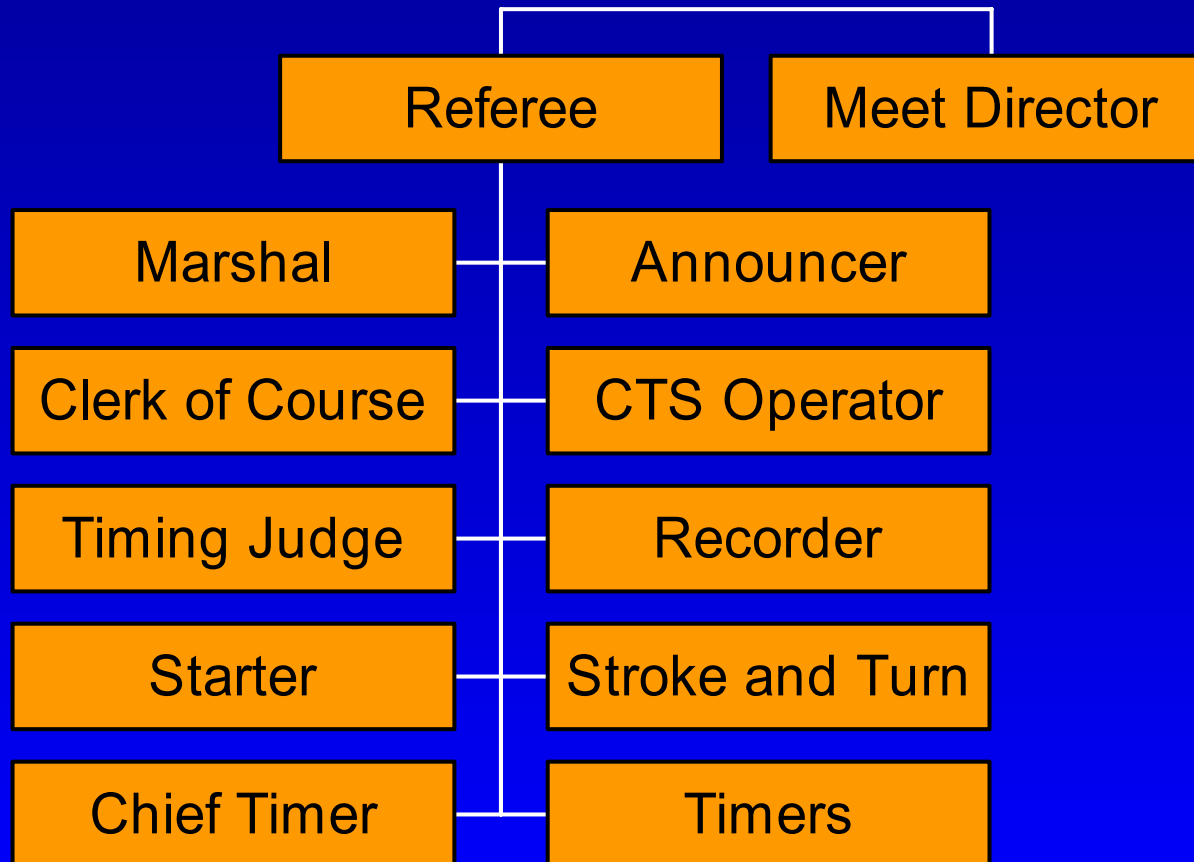
- Chief Timer
 - Organizes Timers before session
 - Assist Starter with Timers' briefing
 - Starts extra watches for each heat
- Timers
 - Time swimmers
 - Additional duties as indicated below

Other Officials

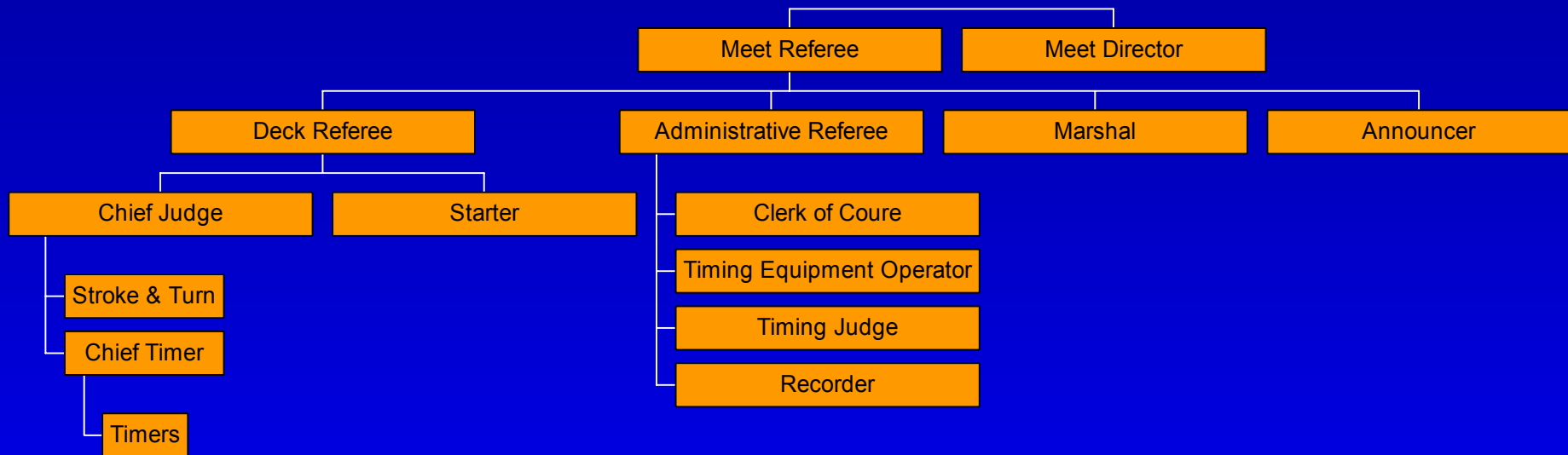
- Marshal
 - Responsible for maintaining a safe and orderly swim venue
- Announcer
 - Announces events and heats
 - Announces pertinent meet information
 - Introduces swimmers in finals

Organization of Officials at a “Typical” Swim Meet

“Organized Chaos”



Organization of Officials at a Championship Swim Meet



Certification Requirements

- For details, see *VSI Officials Certification Requirements*
- Differ by position
- General summary
 - Attend clinic
 - Become certified as a timer
 - Pass position certification test if required
 - Work required minimum number of sessions
 - Work final session 1 (or 2) sessions “in charge”
 - Positive recommendation from Referee and Trainer
 - Certified for one year probationary period by Regional Officials Chairperson

Re-Certification Requirements

- New requirements for 2003 (coming soon)
- Summary of 2003 requirements
 - Work minimal # of sessions (differs by position)
 - Pass re-certification test

Working/Training at a Meet

- Host club will contact invited clubs to solicit officials (usually done through Officials Chairs)
- Officials Chair from invited club contacts club officials for session availability
- Officials Chair informs host club of the availability of officials
- Working requested sessions is usually not a problem

Responsibilities of Officials When Agreeing to Work

- Work sessions that were agreed to
- Arrive on time for pre-session officials briefing
- Work the entire session (distance events sometimes excepted)
- Maintain current technical and philosophical understanding of the rules

Paperwork

- VSI/USA-S membership required to be on deck (trainees and certified officials)
- Trainees receive training cards which are signed by the referee after each training session
- Certified officials receive a certification card which is also used to track sessions worked

Training Cards

- Issued following clinic and passed test
- Used to track process at each training session
- Referee will sign-off each session
- Referee will recommend certification when the trainee has mastered the position responsibilities
- Return to Regional Officials Chairperson who will issue certification (or require additional training)

Dress

- White shirt/blouse with collar
- Blue shorts/pants/skirt
- White socks and shoes
- Badge
- VSI Registration Card

Thank you!