

Want the best seat in the house at swim meets? Want to know the finer details of your child's swimming? Become a swim official!! Anyone can. See our website for details how!

BECOMING AN OFFICIAL

So you want to become an official? GREAT. It's an awesome way to see your children swim and understand the sport as well as they do! Here's what you need to do:

What you will need:

1. A USA Swim Card that DeWitt Swim Club will acquire and pay for you-please talk with a coach or board member about how to get this started.
2. Blue shorts/slacks and a White shirt....so you can look official.

What you will have to do:

1. Attend a clinic - there is one at Liverpool High School, Friday, Dec 11, 2009, 7-9pm, Room 110. If you cannot attend this one, keep your eyes open on niagaraswim.org for other clinics posted in our area.
2. Take the Stroke & Turn Test and Timer Test online through USA swimming.
3. Shadow 4 swim meet sessions.

It's really pretty easy!! Here is what Niagara has posted on their website if you want to read more: <http://www.niagaraswim.org> click on Officials link on left and scroll down!

OR

The Road To Officiating:

We are always looking for new recruits to officiating. The steps are easy. Locate your local Clinic Director or myself indicating your interest in becoming an official. He/she will put you on their e-mailing list so you will be notified of up-coming clinics. Prior to attending a clinic you may log onto www.usaswimming.org, go to the volunteers, then officials, finally to Rules and Regulations. While waiting to attend a clinic you may take this time to become familiar with the rules. You may even take your Stroke & Turn and Timers test online prior to attending your clinic. A clinic must be attended and you must have a USA Swimming insurance card. Upon completion of the above steps you will receive an Apprentice Officials Card (the Blue Card) and begin officiating as an apprentice.

After The Clinic:

USA Swimming Membership

Make sure that your club sends in your application for USA Swimming membership. You cannot be on deck without it!!

Official's Test

1. The official's test is an open book on-line test. The following tests must be completed for each level:

a. Stroke & Turn

New Official - stroke & turn and timer tests

Recertifying - stroke & turn and timer recertifying tests.

b. Starter

New Starter - starter, stroke & turn, timer, clerk of course and timing judge tests

Recertifying - starter, stroke & turn and timer recertifying tests.

c. Referee

New Referee - admin, referee, referee, starter, stroke & turn & timer tests.

Recertifying - re-cert, admin, referee and referee recertifying test

2. Make sure that you select the appropriate answer and list the correct number of technical reference numbers.

3. Make sure you mark that you belong to the Niagara LSC (NI) so that a copy of the results go to the LSC's Officials' Chairperson.

The minimum score expected is 80% on both the letter answer and the references. If this is met, you will receive a blue Certified Swimming Official's card for use while you are completing your apprenticeship. Upon completion of the apprenticeship, mail the blue card to me and a permanent white card will be issued (along with a LSC Official's patch for new officials). Your name will be added to the LSC Officials' list. The test and apprenticeship must be completed within one year from the clinic date.

APPRENTICESHIP:

All new officials are required to complete an on deck apprenticeship for a minimum of four sessions, during these sessions the new official must work with an experienced official (one year), and cannot make disqualifications.

It is preferred that the new official work no more than two sessions per meet during the apprenticeship, the length of the apprenticeship is at the discretion of the local officials chairperson, and can be waived for experienced officials with the approval of the LSC officials chairperson.