

NVSL OFFICIALS' QUALIFICATION PROCEDURES

To work as an NVSL Official, an individual shall have attended the NVSL clinics listed below in the current or previous year:

Stroke & Turn Judge - Stroke & Turn Clinic or current USA Swimming Certification as a Stroke & Turn Judge

First Year Starter – New Starter Clinic or current USA Swimming Certification as a Starter and New/Recertification Stroke and Turn Clinic or current USA Swimming Certification as a Starter and Stroke and Turn judge

Returning Starter – Referee/Starter Clinic or current USA Swimming Certification as a Starter and New**/Recertification Stroke and Turn Clinic or current USA Swimming Certification as a Starter and Stroke and Turn judge

First Year Referee – New Referee Clinic, New Starter Clinic, and Stroke & Turn Clinic

Returning Referee – Referee/Starter Clinic and Stroke & Turn Clinic

** The qualification procedures for starters have changed as of 3/1/2025. Some returning starters will need to certify as a stroke and turn judge for the first time and should attend the New Stroke and Turn clinic.

Notes:

- In lieu of the NVSL Stroke & Turn Clinic, current certification as a USA Swimming Stroke & Turn Judge may be substituted. High School clinics will not count. Attendance at a Stroke & Turn clinic in the current or previous year is required by the NVSL. Certified USA Swimming Stroke & Turn Judges who wish to substitute their USA Swimming certification for attendance at an NVSL Stroke & Turn Clinic should notify their Team Representative and the Clinic Attendance Recorder, Michelle Hale michelle.hale.swim@gmail.com.
- In lieu of attending the NVSL Starter Clinic, current certification as a USA Swimming Starter may be substituted. High School clinics will not count. Certified USA Swimming Starters who wish to substitute their USA Swimming certification for attendance at an NVSL Starter Clinic should notify their Team Representative and the Clinic Attendance Recorder, Michelle Hale michelle.hale.swim@gmail.com.
- NVSL Officials' Clinics last about two hours. Those arriving more than 10 minutes late or leaving early will NOT receive credit for attendance. Officials MUST have five years or more of experience in order to attend a virtual recertification clinic. No exceptions will be granted.
- The New Referee and New Starter Clinics will NOT meet the requirement for Returning Referee or Starter qualification.
- There is NO Reciprocity with USA Swimming for NVSL Referees. All NVSL Referees must be a Current Stroke & Turn Judge and must attend either a) the NVSL New Referee and New Starter Clinics, or b) the NVSL Referee-Starter Clinic in the current or previous year.

CERTIFIED REFEREE

To be awarded the Certified Referee Patch, an individual shall:

- a. **be currently qualified** as an NVSL Referee as outlined above; and
- b. **have completed** the following deck requirements: (1) worked two NVSL 'A' meets as a Referee and (2) worked at least two additional NVSL "A" meets in a judgment capacity (Referee, Starter, or Stroke & Turn); *and*
- c. **have been recommended** by (1) his/her Team Representative; and (2) by the Division Coordinator, who requests an evaluation by the NVSL Observation Committee as part of his/her recommendation; and
- d. **have been evaluated** while serving as a Referee during an NVSL meet by a member of the NVSL Observation Committee, AND earned a positive patch recommendation from the Observer. (Note: deck requirements listed above in part b. should be completed before an evaluation is requested.)

To remain entitled to wear the Certified Referee Patch, a Referee shall maintain his/her qualification by attending an NVSL Referee/Starter Clinic, AND an NVSL Stroke & Turn Clinic in the current or previous year.