

# An OFFICIAL Call for Help!

Tired of sitting in the bleachers? Tired of timing? Consider volunteering as a meet official.

## **A variety of positions are available--**

If you like action around the pool deck, becoming a clerk of course, stroke & turn official, starter, or referee may be for you.

For those with a knack towards numbers or computers a variety of positions are available including timing equipment operator, timing judge, and recorder.

Announcers and marshals are increasingly being used at our meets and are important to the smooth and safe conduct of a swim meet.

## **You've got questions, we've got answers--**

For additional information on these positions, please ask any of the officials on deck or at the administrative table. If they can't answer your questions, they will be happy to direct you to someone who can.

We'll provide you with all the information you need to determine which position is right for you. Remember, no experience is necessary as we provide training clinics and on-the-job training.

## **Still not sure?**

Unless it's a championship meet, arrangements can most likely be made for you to spend some time shadowing one or more individuals to learn more about the positions in which you have an interest.



# OFFICIATING by the Numbers

Did you know that—

- A typical meet *session* requires:

Non-certified positions (50-100 volunteers per session):

- 48-96 Timers (A 4 hour session with 2-3 timers/lane/hour, requires 48-72 timers for a 6 lane pool, and 72-96 timers for an 8 lane pool.)
- 1 Chief Timer
- 1-2 Marshals
- 1 Announcer (if used)

Certified positions (12-25 volunteers per session):

- 1-4 Clerks-of-course depending upon level of meet
  - 1-2 Starters
  - 1-2 Referees
  - 6-12 Stroke and Turn officials
  - 1 Timing Equipment Operator
  - 1-2 Timing Judges
  - 1 Recorder
  - 1 Meet Referee (if used)
- On average, each team needs one certified official per 15-20 swimmers for there to be enough officials to staff our meets
  - Unlike some other sports, none of our officials are paid; all of our officials are volunteers

*Saying “yes” when called on to volunteer does make a difference. Ask an official near you for additional information.*



# Top Ten Reasons to Become a Swim Official

1. Best seat in the house
2. Free food
3. Contemporary uniforms
4. Wet socks and shoes
5. No one will ask you to leave the deck
6. You get to ring the bell if your become a starter
7. You'll have an excuse not to be a timer
8. No scrounging for a seat in the stands
9. You're easy to locate when your children need money
10. We need you!!!

Need more reasons to volunteer? We've got them!

Contact any official at the meet for additional information. If they can't answer your questions, we'll find someone that can. Further information can also be obtained on the "officials" sections of:

[www.virginiaswimming.com](http://www.virginiaswimming.com)

and

[www.usa-swimming.org](http://www.usa-swimming.org)

