

Why should I get involved?

- A large number of officials and timers are needed to run a fair meet.
- A chance to build/maintain the quality program your child is involved in.
- Get to wear fashionable patch and shiny whistle
- Obtain current knowledge of the sport your child has chosen.
- A chance to meet future, present and past Olympic athletes.
- An opportunity to be close to the action and out of the bleachers.
- Get to use radios and ring bells
- Outstanding training and support from experienced people.
- Hospitality Suite – “free food/drink”
- Where a parent is involved in the organization, the child is more likely to stay involved.
- Refreshing splashes keep you cool.

What does an Official do?

Officials help make sure that swim meets run smoothly and efficiently. To ensure fairness in a race, meet, or event, officials constantly observe swimmers and note disqualifications. They are dressed in white and positioned around the pool deck. Officials are on deck to help swimmers learn from mistakes and help swimmers improve and excel in the future. They are volunteers who have gone through a series of certifications to be approved as an official on deck.

Information Sources And Internet Links

www.ymcaswimminganddiving.org
YMCA National Swimming and Diving
Program

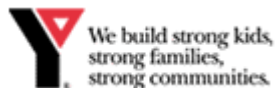
www.swyswim.org
YMCA Swimming – Southwest Ohio

www.fina.org
FINA (the governing body for
international aquatic sports)

www.usaswimming.org
USA Swimming – National swimming

www.ohioswim.org
USA Swimming – Ohio

There is a library location in the Southwest Ohio YMCA website where many informative articles can be found.



Let's get

Official

Answers to your questions on
becoming a
YMCA
Swim Meet Official

How do I get involved?

Clinics are held throughout the year at various locations. These clinics are taught by well experienced individuals with video presentations that give you the material you need in a pleasant atmosphere.

The level 1 clinic will prepare you to judge strokes and turns. This is the bulk of the officials around the pool. You will be responsible for watching the swimmers from either the end or side of the pool and reporting any infractions to the referee. Once you have taken the clinic, you will be asked to take an online test at your convenience. Shadowing multiple officials will help give you a well-rounded knowledge of officiating.

The level 2 clinic is for the level 1 official who desires to step into meet management or starter. This clinic will get into the administrative side of the meet. You will receive advice as to working with the coaches and parents for the benefit of the swimmer as well as learn ways to help the other officials excel at their positions and proper techniques for starting the individual heats. In summary, it will prepare you to manage a fair and equitable meet for all of the athletes.

The YMCA program gives you all of the education and resources you need to feel comfortable and provide a great service to all of the swimmers.



Many Officials are needed to provide a quality program for our kids to do their best.



Officials Reward

Parents and coaches will thank you for your time. The meet volunteers will even lay out a hospitality suite, “free food and drink”, in a gesture of appreciation. You will not typically hear “Thank-You” from any of the swimmers. They will show you their appreciation in many different ways. It may be as simple as a smile. It may be a quick-witted joke and a grin from behind the start block or the side of the pool. Once you begin to feel comfortable as an official, you will become in-tune with the swimmers. This is when you will *feel* the athlete’s true appreciation. It is this feeling that stays with you when you leave, that is truly the Officials’ Reward.

YMCA National Championship Meet
International Swimming Pool
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

