🏁 Step-by-Step Guide to Becoming a USMS Official (if not currently certified by USA Swimming)

✅ ROLE 1: Stroke & Turn Official

🎓 Training

1. Go to the **USA Swimming University website** and register as a non-member (if you are not currently also a USA Swimming member).
2. Take these two free online courses:
    - *Foundations of Officiating*
    - *Stroke & Turn Certification*

🧪 Testing

1. Take and pass the **Stroke & Turn/Timer** test on the USA Swimming University site (USA Swimming will e-mail your results).
2. Take and pass the **USMS Officials Supplemental Exam** (write down your score – it will not be e-mailed).

📝 Certification

1. Email your test results (forward the e-mail from USA Swimming and your score from the USMS Officials Supplemental Exam) to your **Virginia LMSC Officials Chair** and the **USMS Officials Committee**.
2. Once approved, you'll be officially certified and listed on the USMS Officials Roster.

⏳ Certification is valid for **4 years**, ending on December 31 of the 4th year.

▶️ ROLE 2: Starter

✓ Must already be a certified **Stroke & Turn Official**.

🎓 Training

1. Watch the **"Starter Basics"** video provided by USMS.

🧪 Testing

2. Take and pass the **Starter Certification Test** on the USA Swimming University website.

📝 **Certification**

1. Email your test results (forward the e-mail from USA Swimming) to your **Virginia LMSC Officials Chair** and the **USMS Officials Committee**.

✅ Becoming a Starter **automatically renews** your Stroke & Turn certification.

⏳ Certification is valid for **4 years** (same as other roles).

🧑⚖️ **ROLE 3: Referee**

✓ Must be certified as both **Stroke & Turn** and **Starter**.

📋 **Experience Required**

1. Work at least **4 USMS sessions as a Starter**.

🎓 **Training**

2. Study the **USMS Referee Self-Training Guide** (available on the USMS site).

🧪 **Testing**

3. Pass all 3 of these online tests available at **USA Swimming University**:
    - **USA Swimming Referee Test**
    - **USA Swimming Timing Judge Test**
    - **USMS Officials Supplemental Exam**

🧑🏫 **Mentoring**

4. Complete **2 mentored deck sessions** as a Referee at USMS meets.

📝 **Certification**

- Submit your tests and mentoring verification to your **Virginia LMSC Officials Chair**.

📌 **USMS membership is required** for Referee certification.
✅ Referee certification also **renews** your Stroke & Turn and Starter certifications.
⏳ Valid for **4 years**, like other roles.

🔁 Re-Certification Summary

# of Sessions Worked	What You Need to Do to Renew
4 or more	Take Re-certification test + USMS Supplemental Exam
3 or fewer	Repeat the full certification process