

## **So You Want To Become An Official?**

Welcome to this introduction to officiating. Whether you are only slightly interested, or very serious about becoming an official, we hope this information will spark your interest and provide answers to some of your questions.

Many of us who attend swim meets with our children find the time between events boring and difficult. For some, active involvement in these sporting activities is the answer. The urge to take an active part in our child's activities can be quite strong. One way of showing our children that we think their activities are important, is to take an active supporting role in that activity. In swimming there are many jobs a parent, or supporter, may perform. Becoming involved in meet administration, or on deck officiating, are two methods.

While we as officials are closely involved with the races and performances of the athletes, it is very important that we maintain a professional attitude and demeanor. We must not allow ourselves to affect the performance of an athlete, or influence the outcome of an event. While officials are expected to observe the competition, and occasionally make a judgment regarding something observed, we must be honest and impartial. Officiating does not build character, it reflects our character.

So, how does one become an official? The first step is to attend a CSA Stroke & Turn clinic. This clinic presents the technical rules covering competition in the four basic strokes and other information about the role of judges at CSA dual meets. Click [here](#) for the schedule of "Stroke and Turn" clinics or email Gary Flynn at [gary\\_flynn@bellsouth.net](mailto:gary_flynn@bellsouth.net) for more information.

Once you have attended a clinic we strongly suggest that you "apprentice" by standing along side a seasoned CSA official for at least two meets. Ask lots of questions and be patient in the process as it can take some time to feel confident in this role.